



PARCHE
Pastoral Action in Residential
Care Homes for the Elderly

**“Celebrate the Festival of Harvest,
when you bring me the first crops of
your harvest.”
Exodus 23:16**

NEWSLETTER

Issue 84 Autumn 2018

Thoughts from the Chair

I am so glad that 'Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever'. Everything else is subject to change: people, health, circumstances, finances and even well-made plans, can all be thrown into chaos unexpectedly. Only God remains the same. His word and His promises, His love and His grace, His mercy and His peace are constant through every situation we face. How amazing that He knows the end from the beginning, and that He always works for good in our lives.

Just recently I had to undergo some cardiac tests. Everything changed and suddenly all the things that seemed so important faded into the background. I realised afresh that actually my relationship with my Heavenly Father, my Saviour Jesus and Holy Spirit, was far more important than anything else. His presence and His peace have been amazing, and I've had several opportunities to speak of Him to Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. Whatever happens in our lives is allowed by God, and we sometimes question 'Why'? Better to say 'What good thing is God going to bring out of this?'

Many residents in our Care Homes are asking 'Why has this happened to me?'. They may be angry, confused, depressed; but we have a message of hope to bring! We must not fail to speak of Jesus, His death and resurrection, so that we may be forgiven and our relationship with God our Father restored. Then we have a sure and certain hope of eternal life. This Gospel can encourage, comfort and bring peace to our friends in Care. Praise God for His goodness.

Buddy Reeve

Hello and Goodbye - All in One!!

It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Andy Melvin as the Director of PARCHE and National Coordinator and we wish him well as he returns to full time Methodist Ministry on the Circuit in the Eastbourne area.

Andy has been with us for 18 months and his energy and ideas have been a great boon to PARCHE as a whole and to the teams. Therefore, although we are sad to see him go from this role, we are also delighted to announce that Andy has become a Trustee of PARCHE and so we will still benefit from his passion for the ministry of PARCHE and its vision that every elderly person in every care home in the UK is reached with the love of Christ through the ministry of a local church.

Gone to Glory!

We are so thankful to God for the life of Ewart Helyar. He has been a faithful supporter of PARCHE since we began in 1997. He has led wonderful services in several Care Homes over the years. He showed great love and compassion to all, and was a man of God's word which he preached with deep understanding.

Some years ago he helped Buddy put together a series of simple Bible Studies about Jesus, His life, His parables, His miracles. These were made into a book of Studies especially for use in our Care Homes. We will certainly miss Ewart but are thankful he is now rejoicing with the Lord, and receiving his reward for a life of faithful service.

Retiring from PARCHE

One of our long time volunteers, Mary Atter, has stepped down as a volunteer from PARCHE having spent 15 years with the St Elisabeth's team. We would like to thank her for her dedication and wish her every joy in the years to come.

UPCOMING PARCHE EVENTS

Please note in your diaries that the **PARCHE AGM** will be held on **Wednesday 7th November** at All Saints Church Hall on Grange Road from 11.30am - All Welcome

Our Final Event for residents in Care Homes / Sheltered Housing this Year is our **Carol Service & Tea**, at St Michaels & All Angels on **Wednesday 12th December** - start time 2.30pm

For 2019 we have our **March Concerts in Care Homes** with **Marilyn Baker** in homes across the town

Then on **Monday 20th May** we have our **Annual Service & Tea** at Victoria Baptist Church - **Marilyn Baker** will once again be our Guest - start time 2.30pm

Followed on the **16th July** with our **Strawberry Tea** at Victoria Baptist Church
*NB our Events are for residents of Eastbourne care homes & sheltered housing.
Team members bringing residents or elderly neighbours/friends are welcome too.*



Strawberry Tea & Harvest Service



Thank you to Victoria Baptist Church where we held our Strawberry Tea event in July and to Christine & team who organised the refreshments as efficiently as ever. It was a huge success and we had around 120 residents and others attend, who much enjoyed the wonderful singing from St Johns Meads Primary School Choir - we hope to book them again for next year!

And in September we had our Harvest Service hosted at All Saints Church by their Mother's Union who provided a wonderful array of cakes after days of home baking!! Indeed one lady said that she was still taking cakes out of the oven as her husband was starting the car to take her to the event. We had about 80 people attend and there was much singing of Harvest Hymns whilst Lauren & John guided us through 3 Biblical gardens containing Apples, Olives & Grapes. The residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



TRAINING

We had our Safeguarding Training on the 7th September -Thank you to those who attended, it was a great evening. The next Safeguarding session will be in February 2019, dates TBC.

The next **Roles & Responsibilities** Training Session is at **All Saints Church Hall on Friday the 16th November @ 6.30PM**. This session is for all those new to PARCHE, but also is great for long term volunteers as a refresher, to share your experience and testimonies to others and to help encourage our new teams and volunteers. Please let us know in the office, if you're able to attend.

Local Update

I am pleased to say that most of our homes have a team visiting them on a regular basis and that Beechwood Grove, our Town's newest Care Home, has been taken on by a team from Emmanuel Church due to their regular home, Southfields, closing down. This is great news, so thank you to Brenda and team.

But if you're aware of another home that doesn't have a PARCHE team then please do get in touch.

We're also always looking for new volunteers to join a team or start a new one.



The commitment is a couple of hours once a month, or if you have a larger team, then it could be only every couple of months.

Thank you to the churches that have been welcoming us for our monthly prayer meetings, we have recently shared a Video Update with Gateway, and been into Victoria Baptist, St Mary's Old Town, St Elisabeth's - they've all been very welcoming and supportive. The next prayer date will be at Emmanuel Church, Greenfield road, on 15th October at 10.30am.

Treasurer's Report

In hand on 1/4/18	£2,310.15
Income from 1/4/18 to 24/8/18	£4,195.85
Total of above as at 24/8/18	£6,506.00
Expenditure 1/4/18 to 24/8/18	£4,534.15
Credit Balance at 24/8/18	£1,971.85

24th August 2018

Comment: We thank God for His provision of our needs.

Since the balance of the local account had dropped to below £600 in August, Buddy and Vaughan transferred £2,000 from the national account to the local account as an interim measure to maintain a high enough working balance in the local account. Up until now the National Account has not contributed towards administrative work done on its behalf and this is now being rectified. The balance in the National Account is now £9,455.

Vaughan Schulze

PARCHE CONTACT DETAILS

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Charity Number 1094445



Prayer Meetings

The next Prayer Meeting for PARCHE will be held at Emmanuel Church, Old Town on Monday 15 October at 10.30am



Winter / Spring Prayer Meetings:

As we all know, Prayer support is key to any ministry since it gives us both the grounding and guidance we need to move forward with Christ at our Centre.

We are looking for Churches to host a prayer meeting for PARCHE in the New Year. If you feel that you could help organise this in your Church then please liaise with Marylou or Lauren in the Office on 01323 438527.