

Pastoral Team in Seven Towers

Over the last year or so we've been exploring different aspects of our Benefice Vision in Seven Towers Benefice. One of the areas in that was called 'belonging and sharing' – looking out for each other, sharing the ups and downs of life with those in our church or our community; supporting others when times are difficult – what those of us in church leadership might call 'pastoral work.' As church leaders Suzanne and I can't always get to visit people and keep an eye on them as often as we would like to – we have 7 villages to look after! And just as Jesus shared his ministry with his disciples, so we are called to share parish ministry with those who belong to our churches.

At our various events about the Benefice Vision we asked for people to let us know what areas they might like to be involved in, and a small group of people came forward to say that they would like to be involved in 'belonging and sharing' – pastoral work. We have met a couple of times and this is what we did:

- We talked about what we felt pastoral work actually *was*!
- We looked at the way Jesus modelled pastoral work, and thought about what we could learn from that.
- We looked at what was already going on in the villages – which was quite a lot! Very encouraging!
- We looked ahead to see what might happen in the future.

We have also spent a morning learning about listening, with Rev Katy Morgan, and in the summer we're going to attend a day looking at different aspects of bereavement, at St John's, Churchdown and Innsworth. We're keen to learn from those who have experience, as we seek to walk alongside people in their journey through life, and to share Jesus' love with them by showing them we care, and we're there.

Our lovely team is quite small, and we would welcome other people to our team, so if you think you might be interested in having a chat and exploring this a bit further, please do phone or email me and I'd love to see you.

With love and prayers
Rev Philippa



'Share each others burdens...' Galatians chapter 6 verse 2