

## Anna Chaplaincy and Care Home Ministry in 2021

Anna Chaplaincy is an ecumenical, parish-based chaplaincy to older people. It is named after the faithful older woman, Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's Gospel (*Luke 2: 22-39*). Anna Chaplaincy values and respects the elderly. When Elizabeth was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain at Canterbury Cathedral in September 2019 she said: "Proverbs tells us, 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, defend the rights of the poor and needy' (*Proverbs 31: 8-9*). Residents in Care Homes cannot always 'speak for themselves': we should help those who are former church-goers to have their rights to spiritual care and Church Services, so those needy people are reminded that Jesus loves them."

In 2021 Elizabeth has continued leading individual Telephone Services for residents at *The Poplars* and room-bound residents at *Lukestone*. Elizabeth led Skype Services for *Abbeyrose* twice a month and Skype Services at *Lukestone* 2 or 3 times a month. Elizabeth leads Telephone Services for house-bound members of the congregation with no Internet. It is lovely to see the residents when leading Skype Services. *Abbeyrose* residents gather in the Lounge for the YouTube Mass from St Michael & All Angels' on Thursdays and Sundays. Eleanor kept in contact with Mont Calm and delivered DVDs to them before resuming Services in October.

Anna Chaplaincy is an ecumenical, parish-based chaplaincy to older people. Care Home Ministry continues in the Maidstone Deanery through the Anglican Churches and the Methodist, Baptist, URC and Roman Catholic Churches. We have 2 new Anna Chaplains in Maidstone Deanery in 2021: Irene Shepherd from Tonbridge Road Methodist Church and Sue Yeo from St Martin's. They have completed an online Anna Chaplaincy Course led by Julia Burton-Jones on Zoom. Erika Catchpole from St Nicholas' Allington has been on a Zoom Course for Anna Friends about Messy Vintage, which she looks forward to taking into Care Homes after the Covid crisis. Sue, Irene and Erika have been having monthly Zoom Meetings with Elizabeth about Care Home Ministry. Peter Ashford, Jackie Saunders and Janette from the North Downs Deanery now join us at those meetings. Peter and Janette were commissioned as Anna Friends and Jackie has been commissioned as an Anna Chaplain.

Peter Ashford and his team made a wonderful DVD Lent Service with Reflections for Lent which was delivered to the Maidstone Care Homes who are not receiving Telephone or Internet Services. Sue Yeo made a DVD for Mothering Sunday and springtime which was delivered to 23 Care Homes in March. Peter Ashford and his team made an Easter DVD; Sue made an Eastertide DVD; Peter made a DVD for Ascension & Pentecost; while Sue made a DVD Service about Hope for August. Peter made a DVD for July with the theme of Sea Sunday. Peter and Sue made Harvest DVDs for September and October. Peter made a Remembrance and a Christmas DVD. These Services remind the residents in Care Homes about the rhythm of the Church Year and reassure them that Jesus loves them and Jesus is with them. Elizabeth has co-ordinated the delivery of Services for Care Homes on DVD. They are a way that all the Maidstone Care Homes receive regular spiritual care.

Some Maidstone Care Homes have been glad to have Services led in their Lounges once more. Eleanor went back into *Mont Calm* in October. Elizabeth went in to *Abbeyrose*, *Lukestone* and *The Poplars* to lead Christmas Services in December.



Thank you to the Mothers' Union who knitted twiddlemuffs that have been greatly appreciated at *Lukestone*, *Mont Calm* and *The Poplars* and they knitted holding crosses that were given to Care Home residents at Christmas 2021. Elizabeth gave Talks about Anna Chaplaincy to the Bearsted Ladies' Lunch and the Mothers' Unions at St Michael & All Angels' and St Nicholas' Allington.

Elizabeth Bryson, Anna Chaplain

