



*Prayer/News*

*No 56 Christmas 2014*



## *Christmas Greetings to Friends of Koinonia*



Many warm greetings come to you, Friends of Koinonia, at this Christmas time. What a blessing to have this opportunity to focus and remember the birth of our promised Saviour, to share truth from the Word giving a reason for the season. The increased pace of life and the empty traditions can, if we are not careful, distance us from appreciating the great truths of the Incarnation and of the promised Messiah who came to save His people from their sin. Yes, we as believers are given a great opportunity at this time of the year to exult the One "who became flesh and dwelt among us."

We again give thanks to our great and gracious God for His faithfulness to us in providing so many needs within the Home. This year has been somewhat of a challenge financially but the Lord has provided. With a gift given especially for the extension of the dining room into the sun lounge, the wall has been replaced with folding doors and more space is now available whenever it is needed. We have also been able to redecorate the lounge, the colour being chosen by the residents. The areas now needing to be addressed are



extending the laundry, the addition of a sluice and for us to keep in mind that very soon we will need to replace the lift in Jamieson, which has caused many headaches over the past year.

Since our last Prayer/News we have been happy to welcome to Koinonia Jean Caldicott, Sheila Allen and the return of Yvonne Harris and Daisy Marsh. Grace Rolph, Josephine Jackson, Irene Kitto, Bobby Farr and Doris Race came in for respice care.

Joan Perigoe, Joan Foxen, Ruth Pounds and Sybil Webb have been called Home and are remembered with love and affection and are missed by us.

Congratulations go to Lea on the birth of her son and we are happy that she has rejoined the housekeeping team, as her family are able to help in the caring of her baby. We are very happy too to welcome Les as our maintenance man/gardener. At the moment he is very busy decorating the dining room during the evenings thus causing little disruption to mealtimes. Michael has joined Leela in the kitchen where they are both cooking many delicious meals for us. We too have said goodbye to Rayner Snelling who has retired after ten years as one of the housekeepers, and we wish her every blessing in this new phase of her life.





During the past six months we have enjoyed many tried and tested outings. In April we returned to Littlehampton where we had lunch at the Look & Sea Centre. In May we visited the Arundel Wetland Centre and were able this time to see many of the different species of ducklings. A downpour of rain though sent us scurrying back to the restaurant for a cream tea. In June we had a mystery tour followed by tea at the Marine Gardens here in Worthing. In July we returned to Chichester Cathedral where, after a lovely lunch in the Dresden Room, we were all able to visit and enjoy the sunshine, warmth and beauty of the Bishops Garden. In August we joined the canal boat for a trip on the Wey and Arun Canal and enjoyed a picnic lunch aboard the Wiggonholt. In September we had our first visit to the Old Barn Garden Centre. We now look forward to our Christmas Coffee Morning to be held at the end of November and our visit to Haskins Garden Centre amidst Christmas decorations and Christmas gifts.



On October 11<sup>th</sup> we held our Annual Thanksgiving Service at Rugby Road Evangelical Church and our sincere thanks are extended to the Church for the use of their building and facilities. We were delighted to welcome Rev. Dr. Tony Sargent who was Pastor at Worthing Tabernacle and involved in the setting up of Koinonia in its very early days. He spoke on Psalm 23 and, although a familiar psalm, he challenged us in our highs and lows of walking faithfully with the Lord to the very end of our life here on earth. Tony also shared his experiences of meeting and ministering to both elderly folk and children during his visits to India.

In September the residents with several Friends gathered together in the dining room and in the garden of Koinonia for a fish and chip supper. Although it was the middle of September the evening was still warm and it was good to be outside knowing that soon the wet and dark days would be upon us! Why had we come together? Koinonia wanted to say a special thank you to those Friends who so faithfully and regularly come and serve our Home. To those who lead the epilogues - to those who undertake serving morning coffee each day - to those too, who are able to



accompany the residents on their trips out during the summer time and also to hospital and doctor's appointments. We were encouraged and challenged by the Word that was brought to us by Philip Hudson at the end of the evening. How good it is that we are able to meet together as members of the family of God, to enjoy fellowship and have His Word opened up to us.

Yes, many of Koinonia's Friends are very actively involved in the life of the Home and are very much appreciated for the tasks they undertake. Our desire as Trustees is to build and develop the interest and involvement of those Friends who support us, and also for those who are less familiar with our work. Therefore, we would encourage you to get in touch with us if you feel you are able to contribute in any way to life within the Home.

Many of our residents are unable to join with their own church fellowships and we recognize as believers not only the importance of food for our souls but the gathering together to worship and praise the Living God. His Word tells us "Encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today'" so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." With this in mind each evening after the meal the residents gather to hear from God's Word, to enjoy singing and sharing Bible verses together. They are able to pray for situations around the world, here at home and also for the needs of the Koinonia family. It is good to share concerns, fears and joys and to know the love of God for us. One of those who regularly lead this time together is Rev. Richard Brunton and his wife



Elaine, who, on the piano, accompanies the singing. Richard has been coming to the Home for over ten years. As a young man,



and soon after his conversion, Richard was given opportunities to lead services in Residential Homes in the Norfolk area. In appreciation of this time that would prove to be a good training ground for future years, Richard was happy to join the team who lead epilogues. Through members of Lancing Tabernacle who were residents in Koinonia, came an interest and a desire to pray for the work of Living Hope, which was founded by Richard twenty years ago. To this day some of the residents still receive the Monthly Prayer Requests and the work is prayed for at the Residents' Prayer Meeting. Richard is also able to share something of his work when he visits Koinonia and to keep alive, particularly for those residents who have worked on the mission field, a heart for world mission. We have a team of approximately twenty-three people who so faithfully lead our epilogues and encourage the residents in their love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

## *Prayer Matters*

- *Praise God for another year in the life of Koinonia and for the way in which He has provided and blessed the Home.*
- *Praise and thank God for our Manager, Phyllis, as she leads the work and for all the staff in their love, care and concern for the residents and for the many ways in which they serve beyond the call of duty.*
- *Pray for each resident that they might know the presence and peace of the Lord. That they may draw near to Him and know His love in abundance in spite of many frailties.*
- *Pray for the continued interest of our local churches and for the need for more volunteers for the Friends Group.*
- *Pray that the Home will always be a place where the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ is known and loved. Much wisdom is needed in these days when government bodies make many demands upon us.*

*Koinonia Christian Care is a charity, which was set up by Evangelical Churches in Sussex linked to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) to provide accommodation for elderly Christians principally in the Sussex area. For further information telephone the Manager on **01903 237764** or write to: **Koinonia Christian Care, 4 Winchester Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4DJ** or see our web site: **[www.koinoniacare.org](http://www.koinoniacare.org)***

*Registered Charity No. 1135423.*