

Koinonia

Christian Care



Loving Care for
Elderly Christians

1977-2017
40
YEARS
service



Prayer/News No. 61 June 2018



2017 was a significant year in the life of Koinonia as in September we were able to celebrate the Home's 40th birthday. On the 10th September 1977 Number 4 Winchester Road was officially opened offering accommodation

to 11 residents. Today with five houses and accommodation for thirty-nine residents, Koinonia can rejoice in the goodness and faithfulness of God upon the work of the Home. On Friday 8th September last year over eighty people including residents gathered together for a supper and a time of celebration and fellowship. It was good to conclude the evening by reminding ourselves of how the Lord has led, provided and blessed the work over the years. We do thank all those who came quite a distance to be with us on that occasion.

This special evening was quickly followed by our Annual Thanksgiving Service again centring on 40 years in the life of Koinonia. Our Speaker was Rev. Dennis Read who spoke from Colossians 3 taking his theme *"And be thankful"*. Dennis reminded us that although gratitude or thankfulness was the theme of last year's message it was a message that was good to reconfirm.

Today thankfulness is not often on people's lips and so easily this can affect Christians. We can often compare ourselves with others thus making us a self-absorbed people and not a thankful people. Thankfulness should be a natural part of our lives as we focus on the One in whom we have forgiveness and an everlasting security. How is thankfulness expressed – it is expressed practically for it is about what we are and what we do. As we focus on the Lord Jesus Christ we should be a thankful people. As we were celebrating 40 years Hayden Tout, a former treasurer of Koinonia shared with us many reminiscences from the past. Phyllis, as manager, brought the Home Report and John as deputy shared some of his experiences. Alan brought the financial report and also introduced us to the new initiative 'Faith in Later Life', a website providing easy access to many different resources covering all aspects of later living. It was good to conclude the afternoon by sharing in fellowship over a cup of tea and cake. A very encouraging afternoon where in unison, we could praise and thank our gracious God for another year in the life of Koinonia. Our thanks go to Rugby Road Evangelical Church for again hosting our Thanksgiving Service.



The work on our buildings has continued over this past year. Much time has been spent on the roof and re-pointing. Decorating has continued in different bedrooms and substantial work has taken place in the lounge where a cupboard has been built, a fireplace discovered, new furnishings purchased making the room a very warm and welcoming place for the residents. Major work took place in extending the office in combining two rooms and a toilet, making more space for our administrator and senior staff.



are very much looking forward to the next 'special' meal!

Over several of the last Prayer/News editions we have taken the opportunity to share the thoughts, testimony and what Koinonia has meant to several of those with strong connections to the Home. This has included two of our residents, our manager, deputy manager, one of the team who take our epilogues, our Chaplain and a trustee. In this edition we are very grateful to Elisabeth Smyth for sharing what it has meant to her having her parents coming to live at Koinonia for the past four years. Elisabeth writes:

"It is a wonderful gift to have parents who live to a good old age – but that gift comes with certain challenges.

How do you navigate those times when it becomes obvious to you, but not to them, that your parents' worthy desire for independent living is actually verging on the dangerous? How do you prepare for those conversations that risk sounding critical, judgemental and belittling to the very people who guided and protected you through the difficult early years of life? How do you persuade those, who have loved you unconditionally from your first days, that it is your love for them that drives your concern to ensure their final days are spent in a safe and loving environment?

Having Mum and Dad live with one of us was not a feasible option and trying to 'keep an eye' on them when we didn't live close by was both difficult



As well as celebrating Christmas we celebrated the Royal Wedding by several gathering together to watch the service and later all residents having a celebratory tea. We also had a Chinese evening when on our menu Michael our chef had prepared Chinese food. This consisted of spring rolls, pork ribs, chicken, satay sauce, with salad as starters followed by sweet and sour chicken, pork meat balls and fried rice followed by fresh fruit salad. Such a variety - even the table decorations were of a Chinese theme plus a choice of using chopsticks! Ruth one of our residents, wanted very much to express thanks and appreciation to all the staff and in particular Michael for such a different and enjoyable evening. She with several others,

and worrying. Mum's dementia and Dad's physical frailty meant their needs were different and we realised it would be difficult to find a suitable care home where they could be together. Besides which, Dad had always said he was "not going into one of those places"!

We knew of Koinonia, but we also understood it could not cater for those with dementia and that there was usually a waiting list. However, when the situation became critical, God's sovereignty and perfect timing overruled. Mum and Dad agreed to us contacting Koinonia to see if a week's respite would be possible. A phone call to Phyllis revealed that, not only had nine new rooms just become available through the acquisition of Jeanette Gwynne House, but also that Phyllis had recently registered Koinonia for dementia residents. Suddenly the future looked a lot brighter!

In February 2014 Mum and Dad went into Koinonia for a week's respite in a brand new bright and airy room. That one-week became four years!

We saw the improvement in Mum and Dad's wellbeing almost immediately as their physical, mental and spiritual needs were met. They both gained weight; Mum was much happier, less confused and agitated – even her eczema disappeared; Dad's whole demeanour changed from constant anxiety to being much more settled. Unable to get to church, they viewed Koinonia as their new

church family, especially appreciating Phillip and Margaret Hudson's regular visits.

As family, we became more grateful for the ministry of Koinonia every time we visited. Always welcomed as part of the Home's family, we always came away assured that Mum and Dad were not just safe but were loved. What a privilege recently, during their final weeks, to witness that love so clearly as everyone went to great lengths to keep Mum and Dad together in the same room while the Lord took them both to their ultimate, and final, Home.

We will always be immensely thankful for everyone associated with Koinonia. Over those four years you laughed with us, celebrated with us (especially at Mum and Dad's 70th wedding anniversary) and, more recently, you wept with us. That is a true family – thank you!

This spring it has been so encouraging to see the garden being used by the residents who have been making the most of the warm, sunny days we have recently had. We are very grateful to the Kendall family for work in the garden and the donation they made towards a new shed in memory of Eric.

May we continue to be a thankful people as we look back on the goodness of God to us here at Koinonia.



Dates for your diary:

Annual Thanksgiving Service

This is to be held at West Worthing Evangelical Church, Rugby Road, on Saturday 20th October 2018 at 3.p.m. where the speaker will be:

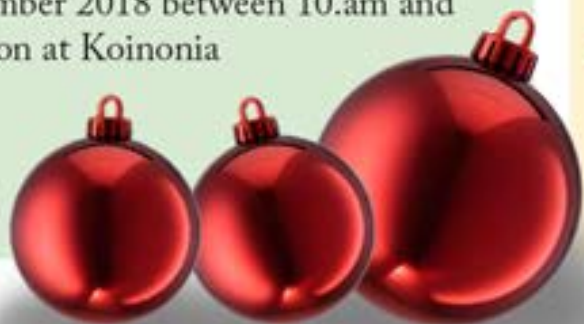
Pastor David Barnes

Angmering Baptist Church



Christmas Coffee Morning

This is to be held on Saturday 10th November 2018 between 10.am and 12 noon at Koinonia



Prayer Matters

- Give thanks to God for His faithfulness and provision in enabling the work of Koinonia to continue for another year. Pray that wisdom and guidance will be given to the trustees as they seek God's help in meeting the needs of Koinonia in an ever-changing world.
- Praise and thank God for our management team and for each and every member of staff who so ably care and provide for the residents. Pray for strength and skills for the many differing tasks they have to undertake particularly in light of ever-increasing legislation.
- Praise God for each and every resident thanking Him for their continued walk of faith praying that they may remain steadfast in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for the blessing residents receive from the daily epilogues and thank Him for those who so faithfully come in and lead these times with the residents.
- Pray that support from both Churches and Friends of Koinonia would grow.