

## NOTES ON THE PASTORAL VISITORS' TRAINING EVENING

Which personal qualities should Pastoral Visitors have?

- Good listening skills
- An awareness of their limitations
- Patience/time
- Faith
- Caring and the ability to empathise
- Encouraging
- Supportive
- Committed to their vocation
- Friendly and approachable
- Unshockable
- Prayerful
- Practical
- Willing to visit people
- Willing to keep in touch with people and follow-up visits if needed

Which are the three most important aspects of your role as a Pastoral Visitor?

1 (most important)

- Friendly
- Caring (2)
- Showing people that they are not forgotten i.e. those that are housebound
- Visiting
- Being aware of the other person's needs
- Listening (3)
- Pray before visiting
- Empathy
- "Being there" for people if they need you
- Keeping in touch (3)
- Commitment

2

- Listening (2)
- Following up visits
- Welcome visitors to church
- Making time to listen and show that you care
- Always hopefully and cheerfully
- Patience
- Supportive (6)
- Have a sense of humour
- Privacy of conversation
- Being positive about most things in life
- Try to be positive and upbeat

3

- Approachable (2)
- Sharing
- Keeping in touch with people who have moved away
- Follow-up
- Commitment
- Getting more out of visits than you give
- Keeping in touch (2)
- Having listened to give whatever support you can
- Patience/time
- Involving God
- Visiting
- Praying where it is appropriate
- Prayerful
- Privilege of sharing in another person's life
- A visitor should be a friend

What have been the joys of being a Pastoral Visitor?

- We gain by visiting
- Making someone smile
- Feeling of usefulness
- Privilege of sharing
- Humorous situations
- New friendships
- Mutual benefits
- Conversations
- Cups of tea!
- Fellowship in visiting
- Meeting people with whom you might not normally have contact
- Getting close to people
- Getting hugs after visits
- People being pleased to see you
- Supporting older people

What difficulties and frustrations have you encountered as a Pastoral Visitor?

- Staying detached
- Racism
- Hearing difficulties
- Recurring bitterness
- Not being sure of what the role entails
- Difficult situations such as bereavements
- Not having enough time
- Not being able to answer people's questions in certain circumstances

What support have you received from your church?

- Grapevine
- Pastoral meetings (2)
- Mutual support from congregation
- Courses
- Contact the minister or someone with expertise
- Going with someone else on a visit
- Sharing about practical issues and prayers

What further support, if any, would you like to receive from your church or the circuit?

- Speak to minister
- Speak to other people who know them better
- Growing into the role by going with another visitor on a visit
- Support through more pastoral meetings
- More people to be able and willing to help with visiting and 'phoning people