

Connections

One of the aspects of church life at BPC which has concerned me for sometime springs from the numbers of our congregation who, like me, travel some way to church for services and other events.

Our congregation is a fellowship whose members are not just drawn from within the parish but are scattered over a wide area. Some members live as far away as Sidcup, Orpington, Keston, Hayes, West Wickham, Beckenham and Catford.

We are all connected in some way by those who live nearest to us, whether we live in the parish or elsewhere. From a pastoral point of view these distances pose some interesting challenges. The pastoral care team has been considering these issues for sometime, wondering how best to enable people to have a greater sense of belonging to their local community groups. So it is planned to establish 'Connections.'

Small groups of people living close to each other will form groups of 4-8 people. Any one who does not wish to be included in their local group must let Julia Wickham, Parish Administrator, know as soon as possible.

All that is asked of you is to be able to recognise those in your group and if one member is away for say 2-3 weeks or whose normal pattern of attendance seems to have changed to let Michael Camp or Rhoda Mackenzie know in complete confidence so that we can follow up and offer suitable support if required.

However, if at anytime you are aware that someone is going through a difficult time let Michael or Rhoda know as soon as possible. Do not wait for them to be away from church.

The group members will be responsible for one another. No one will have sole leadership or special responsibilities within the group. We recognise that members of our congregation are busy people and do not wish to burden anyone in particular but we also recognise that we need to be pastorally vigilant.

'Connections' will provide an opportunity to introduce new people to someone who lives near them.

We hope that 'Connections' groups will witness to the Body of Christ in a caring and gentle way and that friendship and fellowship will enable Christ's love and strength to grow and develop within our church family.

Rhoda Mackenzie
Chair, Pastoral Care Team

YPG Camping Weekend

Friday 1st September (any time after 12 noon) to Sunday 3rd September (after 12 noon)

Camp site: Yew Tree Park, Stone Street, Petham, Nr Canterbury

website. <http://www.yewtreepark.com>

Supply your own food, except for Saturday evening when we are having a barbecue

Those without tents could contact Matt, Sue or Neil as we have "spare" tents.

Cost: £15 each for 2 nights camping (BBQ food included) (20p coins needed for showers)