



## Comments from Rev'd Katrina Hutchins

For this report I have asked Revd Katrina Hutchins who is the Vicar of the United Benefice of Mears Ashby, Harwick and Sywell with Overstone, with whom we have been working in partnership since the start of the project, to give some feedback on how the work and partnership have evolved. The ecumenical partnership that we have formed with the Anglican Church continues to remain strong. Together we have been a Christian presence on the new housing estates in Overstone, encouraging neighbourliness building community and fostering a sense of belonging. Here are some reflections from Katrina:

“In Luke 10, Jesus says that 'the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' With seven new housing developments and two more on the cards, the harvest is very plentiful and the workers few. Mel has been a true answer to our prayers in the local Anglican church. Together, we have been able to do so much more than would have been possible on our own as Sywell & Overstone Church, and she has added an ecumenical presence within this part of my benefice. It has been a real blessing to be able to work with Mel on building a fruitful relationship with our new care home, offering summer Games on the Green sessions on Overstone Gate during the school holidays, organising Carols on the Green with residents on the Overstone Gate, and supporting the Walking Group. All of these have been very well received by the communities. It is wonderful to be able to pray with Mel (and Paul from Sywell & Overstone Church) each month and explore how we might offer spiritual opportunities for those seeking a deeper meaning in life. We want to make Christ known in these communities. He is already there, so we need to listen for his nudges and joining in with what he is doing in people's lives. This is our next great adventure!”

It really has been a great blessing working, learning and growing with Katrina and Paul; there have been various challenges but with each challenge we have been able to grow in experience, understanding and courage. It is with this courage that we hope to embark on a new voyage of developing a discipleship group. In January we plan to invite people to join a small group which will explore spirituality and faith. As we have no premises, we are praying that a family on the estate will open their home to us; if no home is offered and we have residents who would like to explore faith, we will approach the new school requesting the use of one of their spaces. We

ask that you pray with us regarding this next adventure; we have made connections and built relationship, and now we are praying that a worshipping community will emerge from the work that has been done.

The **Walking Group** continues to meet bi-weekly on a Saturday morning bringing people together from two housing estates. It has played an integral part in connecting people together, where life stories have been shared and relationships built. In January we will celebrate our second birthday!

**Overstone Care Home House** celebrated their second birthday in November. Katrina and I were privileged to join in with the festivities and we have the continual privilege of being a part of their community, serving and befriending staff, residents, and family members

Our **Summer Activities** now seem like a distant memory along with the warmer days! Over the six-week holiday we set up our Messy Play Gazebo for crafts and faith-based activities. Games and activities were spread across the green space, and each week families met to play and have conversations. It was wonderful!

**Personal Ministry** takes place via home visits, conversation and prayer via WhatsApp, walking and talking or meeting for coffee. Being more intentional about sharing testimony is something that is pressing on my heart. The power of a testimony to encourage someone else to reflect on their own lives and situations should never be underestimated.

**Visiting** St Andrews, Harpole, Kingsthorpe and Great Billing to lead worship or even to be interviewed has been enjoyable and a great blessing. These have been opportunities to worship with churches in the Northampton Circuit and to share the story of Overstone, encouraging others to be involved in

mission and sharing their testimony with the people that they meet.

The new secondary school **Northampton School** opened its doors on the first week of September. We welcomed them into the community with a box of luxury biscuits for the staff, and another box will be delivered for Christmas. Connections have been made and we hope to build a strong relationship with the school and have a presence there.

In October I graduated from Birmingham Newman University achieving a **Master's Degree in Chaplaincy!** I would like to thank the district for your support in making further studies possible. Without any doubt, my studies has deepened my understanding and equipped me with tools which has enhanced the ministry that we are able to bring to Overstone.

Please pray with us for these **Future Hopes:**

- In January we will be dropping flyers and posting information on Facebook about our desire to start a small group exploring spirituality and faith. Please pray for open hearts and receptibility from the community. Please also pray that a home will be offered as a place to meet.
- We also pray that we will be able to serve the school in the New Year. The building of relationships has already begun, we pray that we can be a Christian presence in the school.
- Please pray with us as we continue to be a Christian presence in Overstone.



Steven and Caroline – Walking Group Leaders  
(Steven – Vice Chair of Overstone Parish Council)



Saturday morning walks



Summer activities



Revd Katrina Hutchins – United Benefice of Mears Ashby, Hardwick, and Sywell with Overstone.

Lizzie Bebe Mills – Walking Group Leader, Member of the Steering Group and a complete **STAR!**

God bless you

Mel Brown - Overstone Pioneer Community Chaplain.