

Queensferry Church Community Group/Queensferry Care in the Community Report February 2014

Since these are two distinct although connected organisations I have decided to give a report on each on separately. This month I shall be focussing on Queensferry Church Community group.

History. This group was formed as the result of an away day where the function of the Kirk Session and its committees was examined. Queensferry Parish Church has set out to be community facing but the Session did not have a Committee that specifically dealt with Community issues. It was decided that there should be a Committee where requests and ideas concerning the community could be discussed. The members would make decisions about how to be both active and pro-active. It would assist groups, organisations and individuals either when invited; or a need arose that fell within the Committee's remit . The group reports back to the Session and it has an alliance with the newly formed Communication group, which handles all publicity in paper form and on the web.

Current projects

At the last meeting it was proposed:-

1. That assistance would be offered to the Food Bank at the Priory Church both by volunteering and by supplying food. Members of the group went to an open morning at the Priory. A Food Bank Organiser from Edinburgh explained about the project and the help that was required, i.e. people to man the Foodbank and offers of food. 4 people have signed up to date.

2. The Council have approached the Church about an initiative where those who cannot afford new carpets will have one room re-carpeted. Their reason for contact was to ask for volunteers to uplift the old carpet and move furniture. This was in the situation where the person(s) in the house were unable to do so and had no immediate family to help.

3. It was proposed that members of the Committee consider a scheme which would supply 3 meals to a person or family where a sudden event caused problems with the usual household routine e.g. bereavement. It is probable that this goes on in a neighbourly way already but there was evidence from congregation members that it would help some individuals or family. It was considered that a meal on three days would tide people over until they were able to resume their usual pattern.

4. Ferry Fair The group looked at the 2013 Fair and talked about how to improve what was done last year. Included inviting other church bodies to be represented e.g. Dalmeny Church people and clubs. Looked at improving the handout-too heavy and a bit wordy.

5 Liaising with Communication group on improving the website www.qpc.co.uk

5. Christians against Poverty. One Committee member has taken an active interest in the development of this project. It offers practical help to people struggling with debt including:- How to repay a loan, how to organise a plan. Scottish people have been trained but verbal evidence shows that there seems to be a great need even in Queensferry. The project operates 1 day a week, in a local room with local publicity. Decided that the Committee member explore how to move forward in Queensferry with those working in Edinburgh.