

MEETING POINT - Statement sent to the PCC before the launch of Meeting Point on November 18th 2004

Isaiah 46: 3 & 4...I have upheld you since you were conceived, and have carried you since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you.

MISSION

To love and value the retired community of St. Mary's so people come close to God and closer to each other.

VISION

I see teams of retired people, many of whom may be quite elderly, who will be invited to take responsibility – to be part of the team – to fix things themselves – to discuss what they would like to do – to share their experiences of their walk through life. This will improve the self image/value of elderly people and those around them in their place in the community.

I see a layer of people – many in their 70's and 80's who are brought out of their loneliness – who have a friend (via Meeting Point) to whom they can telephone or meet for tea etc.

I see many people attending a mid-week service at St. Mary's and finding fellowship and a close relationship with God as a result of the love of others present there.

I see people who attend St. Mary's inviting their friends into Meeting Point for outings etc. and then the numbers will swell until we decide we should have more than one service per month.

GOALS

1. To start with one service per month at St. Mary's – Third Thursday – at 11.15a.m.

Followed by soup and sandwiches and chat. Names of those present and telephone numbers would be taken after the service.

2. To start a TELECARE TEAM made up of elderly, switched on people who would have about 4 – 6 people to whom they would telephone once per fortnight (or more if they so wished) to see if they were OK and to make friends etc. This team would report back to GI initially and any pastoral needs would be attended to by the

3. PASTORAL TEAM OF VISITORS – also drawn from older people but who are mobile and drive. They would be asked to visit when necessary and would therefore take some responsibility for those who they came to know better in consequence.

Wherever and whenever possible the gospel would be communicated in word and deed.