

Anna Chaplaincy Report

Introduction and Continued Gratitude

I would like to begin with a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who have continued to come out and support this ministry even when the British summer decided to turn up with rather more enthusiasm than we were expecting!

The recent hot weather has certainly reminded us to bring plenty of water, but it has also reminded me of the generosity and commitment of those who continue to give their time and presence. I am deeply grateful for every volunteer who has joined us, particularly during these warmer days, and for the Circuit's continued prayers, encouragement, and support.

Messy Vintage and Coffee Gatherings

I am pleased to share that Messy Vintage and our Coffee Gatherings are now well established within the care homes and have become a familiar and valued part of residents' routines.

It has been particularly encouraging to see family members joining some of our sessions. Their participation has added another meaningful dimension to these gatherings and has helped strengthen the sense of community around residents. The feedback has been very positive. One family member even shared that they would look to arrange one of their visits around the Messy Vintage sessions a lovely indication that these gatherings are becoming something residents and families genuinely value.

These regular opportunities continue to create space for worship, conversation, reminiscence, laughter, and simply being together. Through this consistency, relationships with residents and staff continue to deepen, allowing Anna Chaplaincy to offer not only planned activities but also an ongoing ministry of presence and companionship.

Developing Memory Fellowship

As we continue to develop Anna Chaplaincy, we are currently exploring the development of a **Memory Fellowship**, alongside Messy Vintage and Coffee Gatherings.

The intention is to create another gentle and accessible space where people living with memory loss, together with their families and carers, can experience fellowship, conversation, worship, and spiritual support.

This is an exciting area of development, and I would particularly value the Circuit's prayers as we discern how this might take shape and how it can best serve our local community.

Harvest Songs of Praise

We also have an exciting opportunity coming up with our **Harvest Songs of Praise** sessions.

These will be joyful gatherings centred around familiar hymns, singing, thanksgiving, and fellowship, with a collection being taken for the local Food Bank.

I would love to encourage the Circuit to get involved where possible. Whether through volunteering, helping with the singing, attending a session, or simply praying for these gatherings, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Get Involved

If you would like to find out more about Anna Chaplaincy, volunteer at Messy Vintage or Coffee Gatherings, support the Harvest Songs of Praise, or simply have a conversation about getting involved, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Telephone: 07836 394364

Email: colchestermethodist.ac@gmail.com

Whether you are able to offer your time, your prayers, or simply your encouragement, every contribution is greatly valued.

Prayer Points

As we continue this work, I would particularly value your prayers for:

- **Pray for me** - for wisdom, strength, and sensitivity as I continue to walk alongside residents, families, and staff.
- **Pray for the Memory Fellowship** - for guidance as we develop this new initiative and for the right people and resources to come together.
- **Pray for our local care homes** - for residents, families, and staff, particularly those experiencing loneliness, memory loss, illness, or approaching the end of life.

Conclusion

Once again, I am deeply grateful for the Circuit's prayers, encouragement, and continued support. What may sometimes appear to be a simple gathering, a cup of coffee, a familiar hymn, or a conversation can become a significant moment of connection and grace.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make this ministry possible through prayer, volunteering, encouragement, and presence. Together, we are creating spaces where people can feel seen, remembered, valued, and supported, and where there remains room for faith, hope, and joy.