



Evergreen Leaves

"But blessed are those who trust in the LORD ... they are like trees planted along a riverbank ... their leaves stay green and they never stop producing fruit." - Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)



NEWSLETTER OF EVERGREEN CARE BEXLEY



EVERGREEN CARE BEXLEY

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Charity No. 1154595

Evergreen Care Bexley Achieves Registered Charity Status

Evergreen Care Bexley is the trading name of the Bexley Churches Care Trust which has been granted registered charity status by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registration number is 1154595.

Your Community Needs You!!

The key aim of Evergreen Care Bexley is to serve the elderly in the borough with support and care services. The project has been set up as a registered charity.

The project is committed to a Christian ethos and its services will be delivered following the examples and teachings of Jesus.

There are many different opportunities for you to volunteer to suit your time commitments and abilities. - if you are interested in finding out more do contact us.

OUR VOLUNTEERS – AN UPDATE

There are 94 volunteers on the books covering various areas of help which is needed for such a project – befriending, prayer, transport, administration, etc. – and a further training course which took place in October means that more volunteers will be ready for the next steps in the process – interviews, DBS and reference checks. Following the first training course in June this year nearly 20 volunteers have almost completed this part of the process so it will not be too long before we are actively sending people out to befriend isolated older people in our community. In the meantime, if you are aware of anyone who would benefit from our befriending service or would just like some help or advice, please let us know.

OFFICE

With the help of a wonderful group of volunteers, we have been able to open the office on a few days of the week, (but as from the beginning of January envisage that the office will be manned each day from 10am-12.30 pm.) and we would like to thank them for their hard work and ongoing support. If you think you could help with the administration, why not give us a call.

TRAINING COURSES

We are hoping to hold four induction training courses throughout 2014. on dates to be arranged as and when new volunteers need them. Further specialist training will also be arranged throughout the year so please watch out for further updates

WEBSITE

Have you visited our website yet? Please take the time to have a browse. Here you can find out a little bit more about Evergreen Care Bexley, Our aims and Mission, our befriending service and links to some of the recent newspaper stories regarding our older generation. Very soon, you will also be able to donate through our site, and if you are an online shopper, some online shopping sites that will raise funds for us also. Watch out for our updates and stories about Evergreen!

www.evergreencarebexley.org

FRIEND OF EVERGREEN

Why not become a valued Friend of Evergreen and assist us in improving the quality of life experience of our senior and vulnerable neighbours. Your financial support is essential and your partnership in this way is a vital contribution in making a difference. For a minimum annual subscription

of £12 each Friend will receive a welcome pack which includes a lapel pin and car sticker. Each quarter you will receive a newsletter to update you on the work of Evergreen. Friends will also be invited to all Evergreen social events. For more information and to receive a Friends of Evergreen application form, please give us a call or email us.

GIVE SOMEONE A SPECIAL GIFT AT CHRISTMAS.



Give them peace of mind. The kind of peace that comes from knowing you have put your affairs in order.

Make a Will!

Make it through
Maggie Compton @ Apex
Law LLP.

For every Will written you will also be making a gift to Evergreen.

Maggie will donate half her usual fee for a Standard Will to Evergreen.

Call or email Maggie
01322 441442 -
If not available ask to speak to
Hayley

Maggie@apexlaw.co.uk



EVERGREEN CARE BEXLEY LAUNCH



Over 250 people, including the Mayor of Bexley, attended the launch of Evergreen Care Bexley at St John's CofE Church in Welling on Saturday evening 28th September, welcomed by the founders, Peter and Diane Kot. Amongst them were many of the people who have already volunteered for this befriending project for isolated older people in the borough of Bexley. An evening of entertainment in song, dance and poetry by local talent



also had a serious side as the founder of the Evergreen Care initiative, Louise Marsh, explained the vision behind the project and the desperate need that led to its development. She explained that the UK was in the grip of a demographic crisis as increasing numbers of older people are putting a strain on services designed to help them. The Evergreen Care project aims to meet the need by mobilising trained volunteers to act as befrienders initially, with other services added as the project becomes established in a local area.

Peter and Diane wish to thank all those who attended and all those who have supported this new project with a donation and by becoming a Friend of Evergreen.



EVERGREEN CARE BEXLEY AT BEXLEYHEATH SHOPPING CENTRE

Evergreen Care joined a host of other Christian organisations based in the borough of Bexley on Saturday, 21st September for an exciting day of outreach to the local community. There was a great atmosphere as hundreds of people passed through the various displays or sat and listened to Christian bands. Information about the Evergreen Care service was available at the stand and leaflets and tickets to the launch on the 28th were distributed. It was obvious from the many older folk who stopped to chat (including a 94-year old!) that there is a real need for this service in the Bexley area.

HOW CHURCHES IN THE BOROUGH CAN GET INVOLVED

There are important ways that churches in the borough can get involved with Evergreen. One way is to invite us to come and share the vision, benefits and opportunities that Evergreen provides. We are so keen that Evergreen develops for the borough and with churches all over the borough being involved. It would also be useful for churches to offer a small, medium or large meeting space for meetings and other events. We would like to thank the churches who have already offered and given help in providing meeting space and welcomed us to their Fellowships to share our vision.

PRAYER

Jill Grant and Christine Ives have been heading up the prayer support for Evergreen Bexley. Over the last few months links have been made with churches across the borough and they have been able to join in prayer with them. They would like to say thank you to the churches visited so far. It has been an honour and a privilege to share prayer times with them. There has been a real feeling of unity in praying for such a worthy venture. It has been exciting to hear what God has done so far in the work of Evergreen. Future prayer meetings to be announced.

Another wonderful development is that we now have prayer links with Evergreen Stamford and Evergreen Sleaford, so we'll be able to share and pray for each other. If you would like to know any more about getting involved in praying for Evergreen, please ring the Evergreen Care Bexley office.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS

from Pete and Diane

With many, many thanks to you for the part you are playing in this exciting project.



Evergreen Care Bexley is committed to serving the older and vulnerable people in the local community, by developing and sustaining useful, appropriate and excellent services to support and honour them.