



CONTACTING US:

THE E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR EVERGREEN CARE

BEXLEY IS:

info@evergreencarebexley.org.

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT US BY TELEPHONE

Please note new telephone numbers

01322 431765 (mobile) 07442 500569

YOU CAN ALSO WRITE TO

Evergreen Care Bexley, 50 Nuxley Road,
Belvedere, DA17 5JG.

WHAT IS EVERGREEN CARE BEXLEY?

The key aim of Evergreen Care Bexley is to serve the elderly in the borough with support and care services. The project is being 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. It will closely follow the model that is already successfully running in Stamford, Lincolnshire. That charity is called 'The Evergreen Care Trust' (for more information please visit their website at www.evergreencare.org.uk). Key people from that organisation are already providing us with guidance and support for which we are so grateful.

'Maggie Compton, Steering Group member writes...'. Evergreen Care Bexley will we hope very soon be a registered charity. Evergreen Care Bexley will be the operational name for the Charity. The Charity will be registered as Bexley Churches Care Trust.

Following prayerful consideration we decided to apply for registration under a new system known as Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO). This concept was muted many years ago but it has only been since December 2012 that it was possible to apply for registration as a CIO. This type of organisation offers the protection afforded to registered charities operating as Companies Limited by Guarantee but removes the requirement to dual compliance with both Company Law and Charities commission. It has been a new and rewarding experience for me to work my way through this process and I sincerely pray that when I press the submit button God's hand will be upon the application and it will pass through the process without a hitch.

Newsletter No. 2

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

We have now set a date for the official launch of Evergreen Care Bexley. It will be held on

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DANSON LANE,
WELLING, DA16 2BQ.

The event is called 'Bless 'Em All', and will be a musical variety show to celebrate the launch. Carol Bearfoot from Bexleyheath Christian Life Centre church has kindly offered to arrange the whole evening for us and is gathering together friends and artists from her musical circles that are willing to offer their services.

Louise Marsh and Suzi Wheatley from Evergreen Care Trust Stamford will be joining us at the evening and will be giving a short presentation. The Mayor of Bexley will also be present.

At the moment we are in the process of contacting local charities and organisations to invite them and their clients to the celebration. All church leaders and volunteers have also been invited and are warmly welcome to join us at this event. If you have not received an invite please let us know. Please feel free to invite your families, friends and anyone who is interested in the care of our elderly in the borough. Entry to the event is free but **tickets will be required** so we can ascertain numbers. Please contact us with your required number of tickets, either by e-mail or phone.

We would like to thank Adam and Kate Foot for their support for Evergreen Care Bexley and to their church for providing the use of St John's for this event.

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE FESTIVAL.

This Festival is being held in Bexleyheath Broadway on **SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2013**. It is being organised by Churches Together in Bexleyheath to celebrate the life and work of our churches. Evergreen Care Bexley will have a stall at this event. Please visit us to learn more about the organisation.

TRAINING

Our first training sessions took place in June. We were very grateful to Louise and Suzi from Evergreen Care Trust in Stamford who ran the course for us. In view of the number of volunteers coming forward for training two 8 hour courses were run over consecutive weekends with nearly 50 people being trained, all of whom have now received Certificates.

The course covered the following key areas:

Communication; Values, dignity, respect and honour, prejudice and discrimination Confidentiality; Advocacy; Health and Safety; Safeguarding; Loneliness & Isolation: Report writing.

Thank you to those who participated in the training.

Some of the comments on the evaluation forms were as follows:

'A good mix of lecture/interactive group discussion' 'Loads of useful information' 'Thank you for this training programme-very relaxed, informative and helpful' 'I found it very helpful and it has helped me make up my mind to go further' 'Well planned and presented' 'Very focussed and relevant'. 'Everything was fantastic'. 'I found the whole day extremely informative-very well presented and also 'Christ Centred'. 'They covered every aspect without being too wordy or boring; excellent'.

WE ARE PLANNING THE NEXT TRAINING SESSIONS FOR THE AUTUMN. DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

We are very thankful to the nearly 80 people who have so far come forward as potential volunteers for Evergreen. As we stated in the first newsletter we do want the project to be one that is 'owned' by the people of the borough of Bexley. The first area that we will develop is a Befriending service followed by Advocacy and transporting people from hospital etc. We also need volunteers for administration and IT.

Please contact us for more information.

PRAYER

Prayer is vital and Jill Grant our prayer co-ordinator, is developing links with as many churches as possible in the borough. And we extend a very warm welcome to Christine Ives who has joined Jill to help in this area.

Jill has sent the following message.....'If you would like to come to one of our meetings to pray for Evergreen let me know and I will keep you informed with the dates, times and locations of the prayer meetings'.

If you or someone else in your church would like to be a link person please contact Jill on 01322 431765 or info@evergreencarebexley.org.

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

ADVISORY BOARD

In May we held a meeting of people and organisations in the borough who were interested in knowing more about Evergreen Care Bexley.

The people at the meeting felt that an Advisory Board was important for Evergreen and should include representatives from some of the following areas:

A nurse; Carers; Councillors from main political parties

Agencies with whom Evergreen will seek to work in partnership such as Crossroads, Mind, Age UK, DASL (Drug & Alcohol Service for London), Citizens Advice Bureau, Christians Against Poverty.

Welfare Benefits worker; Social Care representative
Social Worker; Someone involved in Safeguarding area; Elderly person/people; Family member or carer; Health and Safety person; Regional representatives; Patient Community Liaison representative; Lead GP for Integrated Services for Older People; Lead GP for Dementia; Bexley Accessible Transport representative
Development of a Resources Bank person

The meeting was very useful in sharing ideas about the development of an Advisory Board and it was agreed to hold another meeting in the autumn, which hopefully will include representatives from the suggested skill/support areas.

WEBSITE

We are currently working on the development of this. We plan for it to be easily accessible and providing relevant and useful information. We hope to launch the website in the next few weeks.