

MAIDSTONE CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP



Autumn Newsletter 2017

The group has now been running for nine months and we are grateful for the growth and blessing that we have seen. There were 20 at our last meeting and over 30 different people have come since we started (not including speakers). There are others that are unable to attend the meetings but who are on our prayer radar.

Andrew and Ann have done presentations about the group in several local churches – Allington Baptist, The Life Church, Holy Cross Bearsted (the Healing Team) as well as reporting back one Sunday morning to our meeting place church, Linton Road Congregational. There has been considerable interest and encouragement in every place. Cancer is, of course, endemic and hardly anyone has not been affected by it in some way. The statistics are quite scary – 822 people a day are diagnosed in this country, and it is expected that one in two of those born after 1960 will get cancer at some point.

It has been good to welcome several visiting speakers – John MacDiarmid (Poole Christian Fellowship), Peter Goodchild (The Vine Church, Cranbrook) and the Rev Peter Levell (Chaplain, Loseley Christian Cancer Help Centre). Looking ahead we are holding a thanksgiving service to celebrate our first anniversary on Wednesday 31 January 2018 at Linton Road. The speaker will be Clive Jones, formerly the pastor at Staplehurst Free Church. It will be an evening meeting (7.30pm) and open to everyone. Plan to be there!

Maybe we need to dispel the myth that a cancer group must be dour and depressing. One person, visiting for the first time, said it was 'like walking in to a tea party'! A couple of other comments: 'MCCSG is a place where you'll find support and care in times of great turmoil in our lives'; 'I was searching for Christian Fellowship when my daughter introduced me to this lovely group. I have been blessed every time I have come... their love is infectious and I want to be a blessing to them'. Although we are dealing with some serious situations our aim is to lift one another up through our faith in Christ. Your prayerful interest is greatly valued, and do encourage those living with cancer or bereaved through it to get in touch.

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