

Ryde Methodist Church

Our project is called 'Open Arms' which is a drop in for anyone in need, i.e. homeless, lonely, elderly, single parents, those on very low income who would like a hot meal cup of tea/coffee, a chat and a listening ear. It is free and is run ecumenically with 30 volunteers from across the denominations. We began on Palm Sunday 2011 and it runs from 5-8pm Sunday evenings at the present and we hope we will be able to run it every night and for a longer period. We now have a client base of 30 humans and 4 dogs who regularly turn up on a Sunday and they are really beginning to trust us and open up to us. In February we will be opening our doors from Monday to Saturday 7-8am for breakfast. Also we will be starting 'The Meeting Place' on Friday mornings from 9.30am till 12 for people with special needs because the council have closed the local care centre and the carers are taking them up and down the High St and popping into a cafe if they can afford it. We have been so blessed by the generosity of so many people and not just those attending church. A local farmers' market are supplying us with vegetables along with a local fruit and veg shop. Andy the owner of the shop donated a 40lb Turkey for this years Christmas dinner which was a great success and fun was had by all. Presents were donated by an anonymous gentleman from a local church. A local pub has now offered to supply homemade soup every Sunday because they have felt moved by what we are doing. These projects have really brought the local churches and the community closer together. There is a real sense of unity amongst all the volunteers who now make up six teams. God is really blessing these projects and also each of the volunteers who feel that they are getting more of what we are doing than the clients.

Shalom

Rev Marie

