



Churches Together in West Wight

Care Homes Ministry – Christmas 2013.

At Southampton Methodist District's Synod in Autumn 2013, a speaker from Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) shocked everyone by saying that some residents in UK care homes do not receive even one Christmas Card. We were urged to consider writing an extra Christmas card for an older person in residential care.

One of our Island Circuit Stewards was able through her work to collate a list of all the residential homes on the Isle of Wight. Each of the 24 member churches of the IoW Circuit agreed to participate in the scheme and so they were all allocated homes in their vicinity, given the number of residents and asked to write cards and deliver them to the home.

Churches Together in West Wight decided to work ecumenically on this project. The 11 member churches from 5 denominations are already linked with one or more local Care Homes and cards were delivered to each of them just before Christmas, often presenting them to residents at the annual Carol Service which is organised by them in that home. The feedback has been so positive and encouraging that it has already been agreed to repeat this again next year.

At Ryde Methodist Church, members also knitted blankets and made other gifts to take into their allocated Care Homes together with their Christmas Cards.

All Circuit Churches have responded positively about being part of this project.

DD.

18/01/14

