

Elders and pastoral care – transcript of video

Speaker 1

Well prayer is the most important thing in pastoral care. We can't do it without God's help and support. And that's why we do it. And when we go to people's houses, we also go to people who can't get to church and just need prayer and a chat. A prayer is the most important part because we need God to listen to our prayers and He always does. And to answer our prayers.

Speaker 2

Prayer is really important in pastoral care. Sometimes it's a prompt to get someone to talk about something that's happening in their lives. If you ask is there anything I can pray for you for? Or if you just simply say at the end of the conversation, "Well, I'll keep you in my prayers", even if they've not mentioned anything, they might then feel like they can say something that they want you to include. It's also just such a lovely way to remind someone that they're cared for.

Speaker 3

Prayer help us to nurture our faith and keep our hopes alive. And encourages fellowship. Since COVID 19 broke out we had to adapt between WhatsApp Group and Zoom, where folks can share prayers requests. We also offer practical support - home visit, provide cooked meals, especially for people coming out of hospital.

Speaker 4

Prayer has a huge, huge part in pastoral care, as an Elder. As an Elder, you have responsibilities towards the congregation to provide that pastoral care and that pastoral element and, of course, during COVID things changed. You were no longer

seeing people regularly face to face so it became extremely important that we kept those relationships strong by reaching out to them, by thinking of them, by praying for them.

But a lot of the times you had to fall back to prayer, prayer about what you were doing, were you doing the right thing were you giving enough support? Because none of us had really been trained for pandemic support. It was a lot of learning on the job, and when you're doing something like that, all you can do is pray.

Speaker 5

Not everyone feels comfortable with pastoral visiting. Indeed we all had to learn how to learn people up to do pastoral care during COVID. And for some this was easier than for others. I think prayer is something that we can do and we can encourage the congregation to do as well, or pray for the wellbeing of each other.