

Case Studies

Toddler Group

The Church run a weekly toddler groups for local parents and their children. It is a warm, welcoming group through which parents have formed friendships. In the last year the Church has started an afternoon service which some of these families have started to attend. In recent months a number of childminders have started coming along, driving in from other parts of the city and there is now a capacity issue. There is a small but dedicated team who run the group but they are starting to feel like they are being taken for granted. The last time the group met there were 26 children present 12 of them were looked after by just three adults.

What pastoral issues are there?
How might the team begin to address them?

Doris

A few years ago a wonderful lady moved into the sheltered accommodation in your parish and was delighted to find a new church family. She quickly made friends and got involved in the life and worship of the two churches in the Benefice. In recent months she has started to become less reliable, and didn't turn up at church when she was leading prayers. Last week one of the ladies from the midweek service approached you and expressed concern about her. "I think she is starting to lose her memory" she said, "we have the same conversation twice".

What pastoral issues are there?
How might you begin to address them?

Nemo

One of the older couples in your church spends a lot of time with their son and his family who attend a different church to yours. One of the grandchildren is now asking to be called Nemo and referred to as 'they'. This has caused a breakdown in family relationships. Grandma continues to call them by their birth name. Grandad is trying hard to remember. Mum and Dad have started arguing and the elder brother can't understand what all the fuss is about. The whole family used to eat Sunday lunch together



but now the grandchild is refusing to go. The older couple attend your bible study group and after everyone has left one evening they tell you that they are dreading Christmas.

What pastoral issues are there?

How might you begin to address them?