

December 2017

Sml
St. Mary's Longfleet Poole

REACH MINISTRIES

Here at SML we have a wide range of REACH ministries. These are just some of the initiatives from the Autumn term.

Soup Run

We are responsible for 2 or 3 Sunday evenings a month. We meet under the flyover at the back of the station. Our objective is to demonstrate God's love in a simple, direct and unconditional way to some of those in most need in our community. As well as some food and a hot drink, we find that just as importantly, many of our guests come for a chat and some human contact.

At this time we have two specific prayer requests. As the nights get longer and cooler, we will be asking for gifts of equipment and clothes that we can distribute. Secondly, we are asking for prayer for The Borough of Poole - that they would have compassion and understanding when implementing the new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

SMILE Connect

This is a community group and support network for lone parent families, which through hard work is a place of acceptance, love and fun.

To find out more about SMILE Connect please feel free to talk to Alix Digby who heads up this initiative.



Flu Jab Clinic Café

This autumn we teamed up to support the Adam Practice, as they gave out flu shots to those in need, with a complimentary café in SML's Church Centre. Nobody expects free tea and coffee and delicious home-made cake when they go to the doctors so it was great to see the smiles on faces when we told them, and wonderful to hear the buzz as people chatted with our volunteers. Does it make a difference for the Kingdom? You bet! As well as being part of our calling to just offer hospitality freely, it helps people to bridge the gap between everyday life and church.

Community Lunch

A wonderful team headed up by Kate Hay runs this once a month in the centre. It is primarily for those who are vulnerable, isolated, elderly or in need of support, and we provide them with a cooked lunch. An important part is getting alongside those who come, chatting, listening to them and generally showing warmth and kindness. Our chef, Neale, a member of SML, cooks a fantastic lunch and the team work really hard in setting up, clearing away and chatting to the guests. We particularly welcome those who do not come to SML, as we long to show the love of Jesus in a very practical way. We have seen over the months that friendships have grown and that it has become a highlight for many. We hope that it offers an oasis in their week which is full of God's love, generosity and kindness.



Poole Food Bank

Here at Poole Foodbank we are really encouraged by the generosity of our local community following harvest celebrations. Our store rooms are replenished and we are in a really good position to support those who are struggling.

We would really value prayer for opportunities to share our faith with those who come to the foodbank. Also it would be great would be great for SML to pray for our volunteers that they will continue to find strength and stamina to support this great work.



The Café @ SML

There are many regulars at the café; church members who enjoy meeting friends for a chat, young mums with their pushchairs who arrive after the 'Sunshines' toddler group, staff from the local doctors surgery, carers from local nursing homes bringing residents for an outing to a 'safe place', passers by from the local community or visitors to the hospital. We hope to meet each person with sensitivity to their needs, whether company, a quiet space, someone to share a problem or pray with, or just a re-fuelling break during a busy day. We aim to create a place where all feel welcome - and where God's love can be experienced in a practical way. Through building relationships over a period of time, opportunities are created to invite them to other church activities - or signpost them on for particular support.

MARS

During the summer, Ruth (ably assisted by Greg!) has been reviewing and updating the material we use to present our workshops which aim to empower the students with key skills to build fulfilling, long term relationships. This Autumn term we have been running our workshops on "Choice and Commitment" and "Love is" with Year 11 students, and the feedback we received from them, as well as from the schools is highly encouraging. However all this would not be possible without the support of our local churches who supply us with volunteer small group leaders, administrators, those who pray regularly for our work as well as giving financially. Thank you SML!



Want to get involved?

There are currently vacancies on the following teams in SML's REACH ministries:

Area of outreach:	Time & Day:	Location:
Mission & Outreach Prayers	Thursday 1pm—2pm	Church
The Café @ SML	Thursday 10am—12pm	Church
The Alpha Course	Wednesday evenings starting January (10 weeks)	Church Centre
SMILE	Various	Various
MARS	Various	Various
Poole Town Pastors (men especially required)	Weekends	Poole Town

For more information in how you can get involved in these or other areas of serving at SML, please talk to Miriam Elliott, Paul Eaton, or Mark Hay