

Terry Waite helps launch Bereavement Care Christmas Appeal

Grief from the loss of a loved one can be a very tough and lonely journey for adults and children alike. During these uncertain times, lockdown restrictions have left bereaved people more isolated and distraught. Our services are needed now, more than ever. We are delighted that Terry Waite (who will be a familiar name to all of you) has recorded a short video message to launch our Christmas Appeal. You can see the video on our web-site <http://www.bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk/appeal/> Please share on your social media and with any of your contacts so that we can spread the word.

Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers

Thank you to all those who joined in with the Bereavement Care Annual General Meeting on "Zoom" for the very first (and what we hope will be the very last) time on 21st October. Although the election of Trustees was achieved, it was not possible to elect officers on the night; and a subsequent meeting of the Trustees took place a few days afterwards. The following appointments were made:

Mrs. Neena Bedi (Chair)
Mrs. Bobbi Riesel (Vice-chair)
Mrs. Jean Seymour (Honorary Secretary)
Mr. Leslie Pappoe (Honorary Treasurer)

The following were also elected to the Board:

Mrs. Almarene Frederick; The Revd. Edward Lewis;
Mr. Jack Lynes; Mrs. Helena Reid and Mr. Richard Segalov.

Postcode Neighbourhood Trust

We are most grateful to have received a grant of **£10,000** from the Postcode Neighbourhood Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery. The grant will be used to pay towards some of the core costs of Bereavement Care and certainly come at a very crucial time.

Awarded funds from



Celebrating 40 years of Bereavement Care

In July 2021, we will be marking 40 years of bereavement support in the local area by celebrating the beginnings of our organisation as Harrow Churches Bereavement Visiting Scheme which was launched in 1981. It is too early to know what social activities will be permitted at that time, and whether we will be able to hold an event indoors or outdoors (or even at all), but it is clearly a landmark date in the charity's history and an opportunity for publicity, recognition and awareness which we hope will lead to additional interest in the work of Bereavement Care, the services we provide in the local community both in caring for bereaved children and adults, and in training those who wish to be better informed.

Individual and Corporate Membership Renewals

Renewal forms for Individual and Corporate Membership are now available on our web-site. We welcome applications from individuals who would like to support the vital work we do. This may be through a one-off annual donation or perhaps through a monthly or quarterly contribution. At the request of one of our long-standing Members, we have produced a Standing Order mandate that can be given to your bank. This avoids over-looking the donation (easily done in this day and age) and ensures that your Membership is always current. We are also very keen to encourage new Corporate Groups to join us. Please contact the Bereavement Care office if you would like to discuss potential new Corporate Members.

Forthcoming Online (Zoom) Training

Due to the ongoing restrictions on indoor gatherings and face-to-face meetings, it is still not possible to run our usual training courses. We have run two very successful online "Introduction to Bereavement Support" Webinar Courses on Zoom, and the next will be on two **Wednesdays** next month, **13th & 20th January 2021** from 10.30am – 12.30pm (both dates required) for new trainees and volunteers. More details available from our web-site. The course covers the absolute "basics" and is **not** a replacement for the Initial Bereavement Training Course, which trainees will be encouraged to attend when it is safe to run.

Sincere Thanks to all our Volunteers

It has been a tough year in many respects and thank goodness it is drawing to a close! However, everyone at Bereavement Care is aware of the selfless commitment of all our volunteers who have persevered throughout this pandemic and continued to offer bereavement support to those who are coping with grief and loss in these extreme circumstances. The support we are so freely giving, is so highly appreciated by all of our clients. It may not be acknowledged as often as it could be – but the Trustees of Bereavement Care wanted you to know especially at this time, how much the work of all our volunteers is so highly valued. Thank you so much!

If you have any contributions for the next issue, please e-mail them to the office to arrive by Friday 26th February. Please feel free to distribute this Newsletter to current and prospective supporters of Bereavement Care.