

Coffee shop is a success



Carole Johnson (seated) with (behind, l to r) her daughter Helen, grand-daughter Kiera, husband Barry and son-in-law Steve

IT started life 10 years ago as an idea put forward by regular worshipper Carole Johnson.

She thought it would be good to launch a coffee shop at the parish hall in Blendworth to allow people to meet for drinks and a chat.

It was an initiative launched as part of the diocesan-wide Kairos process initiated by Bishop Kenneth.

Carole, from Holy Trinity Church, had remembered a previous coffee morning, and thought it should be reinstated. It still meets from 9.30am-11.30am each Thursday, with between 20 and 50 visitors attending.

Churchwarden Richard Bradshaw said: "Originally it was intended to be a weekly event for the whole community, with drinks, biscuits and the chance to chat.

"Since then it has evolved and now includes the sale of good quality

home-made cards, and also the chance to play on one of the two table tennis tables there.

"More recently, the local police have started a drop-in surgery at the coffee shop, and join them about once a month, if they are free.

"Other events have been held for charity as and when required, and the total raised for the church and for charities has exceeded £10,000. This is a fantastic achievement, given that the original intention was for a non-profit making coffee shop.

"It has been managed by Carole, who runs a roster for behind-the-counter helpers, and has held raffles on special occasions. She is now standing down from her duties to enjoy retirement with her family.

"The congregation would like to thank Carole for all her work and also to the many others who have made it a continuing success."

Faithful couple pass on library

THEY have served others faithfully for 26 years - now it's time for someone else to take over.

Cedric and Margaret Moppett were led by God to start a travelling Christian library service in the Portsmouth area. Now they are praying that God will inspire someone else to take up the reins.

The couple, from Church of the Good Shepherd in Crookhorn, have been running the Good News Travelling Library for around 26 years but advancing years and health problems mean they have to think about the future.

The library currently visits three areas on a monthly basis: Cosham, Southsea and Titchfield. It lends Christian

books, CDs and DVDs to individuals and churches, and sells Christian greetings cards.

Cedric, who turns 80 this month, said: "We have enjoyed running the library over the years and seeing it develop so that many local people have had access to Christian books, but it has now become increasingly difficult for us to provide a wide service.

"We would like someone or a couple to come alongside us with a view to taking it on in due course. If they wanted to see how it actually worked, they would be very welcome to come along to a visit and see exactly what is involved."

Cedric and Margaret were led to set up the service after opening and running their own Christian bookshop in the shopping centre in Ely on



Cedric and Margaret Moppett with the travelling library

behalf of their church there.

While working with the Church Army, they became aware of a network of travelling libraries operating out of Stamford in Lincolnshire. From Ely, they visited to see how it worked and later received what they can only describe as a vision from God to establish something similar on the south coast of England.

"It was quite amazing," Cedric said. "We had no vehicle, no resources - nothing. We just came with this vision that this was what God wanted. But the Lord provided us with all that we needed and opened all the doors.

"Our friends and contacts

gave us enough books to get started, and people were very kind as we got the library underway. They literally pressed money into our hands so we could develop the library with books and resources.

"Our first vehicle was loaned to us by the Stamford group, and when we got our own, we gave the original back to them to start another library in the Lake District. The way that this has all happened has been so amazing and we felt sure that we were in the centre of God's will."

If you are interested in finding out more about what is involved, please call Margaret and Cedric on 023-9225 7291.

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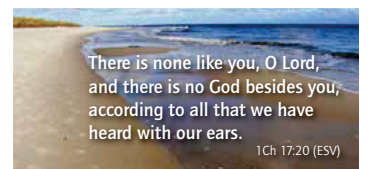
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There is none like you, O Lord,
and there is no God besides you,
according to all that we have
heard with our ears.

1Ch 17:20 (ESV)