

## **Volunteer Training in The Bishop's Chapel – Handout**

### **Discuss in 2's or 3's:**

What is it that you like about stewarding in the Chapel? What do you find difficult? What do you want people to take away from their visit to the Chapel? **Feedback.....**

*"I like the sense of history, that others have prayed in here before me. I like listening to the stories of visitors from all over the world. I don't like the cold! I hope people take away a sense of welcome and a personal experience of God's presence."*

### **Services**

The Bishop's private Chapel is not a museum piece; it is a place of prayer. It's still used day by day for worship by the Bishops and staff here. (Feel free to tidy up if it looks too lived in!)

- The two Bishops and the Palace Pastor say Morning Prayer here during the week.
- Staff Holy Communion on Thursday mornings;
- Tuesday at Noon, a short informal service of prayer and readings. Everyone welcome.
- Bishop's staff Holy Communion monthly. Diocesan Staff Licensing services. Ordination oaths.
- Christmas services for Palace and Diocesan staff, Volunteers and Members
- Occasional special services eg Allotment and Community Garden Harvest Festival, Ash Wednesday, Mothers Union Celebrations, School services and more .....
- Baptism for a member of the Bishop's household or a resident.

Visitors see the Undercroft set up for a wedding reception and often ask whether the couple is getting married in the Chapel. We do have a licence for weddings but in order to be married here you have to be a member of one of the households who live here, or have some very intimate connection with the place. So essentially, if visitors ask, it is not possible to be married here. People can be referred to their own parish clergy for advice on wedding issues. Sometimes informal prayers are said in the Entrance Hall for a newly married couple, or indeed for those celebrating a wedding anniversary.

### **Bits and Pieces**

At the back you will find a working organ, prayer cards, booklets to aid exploration of the Christian faith, seasonal explanations, candles for visitors to light, Visitors' book to sign, Guide book to The Chapel (£1), sewn cross pockets holding a prayer, cards to place on the cross holding prayers to read out on a Tuesday. Feel free to tidy things, water the flowers or sweep out leaves. The Chapel Fund is used for buying booklets, candles, flowers, wafers etc. so donations are always appreciated. However, if someone wants to light a candle or take a booklet etc. and cannot donate, that is fine. Do not chase people for donations! Money goes into the slot on the candle stand.

### **Engaging with visitors**

The trick is enough but not too much! Please don't ignore visitors- saying 'hello' or asking where someone is from, or whether this is a first visit, is often enough to get a feel of whether they want to talk or not. They may just want a quiet few minutes. Equally, if someone does chat for a while, do then give space to explore without overwhelming them with information. They need a chance to experience the space for themselves.

**Thank you** so much for just being there to welcome and help.      Revd Anne Roberts March 2017