

# REACH

## AT GILLINGHAM PIER

## KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR

by Terry Whittaker

So there it was, Summer holidays have been and gone and Autumn feeling like it is knocking on our door. Building work continues at pace in the Pier area; there are two new blocks where the core is completed with windows going in and the apartments at Chatham Waters now being sold off-plan, with the foundation work underway.

While residency increases there is still little sign of the retail shopfronts being leased outside of the immediate Dockside area and, as a consequence, the opportunities for creating community or even meeting people remain limited.

Many of you will know that the GP surgery at the Sunlight centre is under consultation for closure. This is the only GP practice within viable walking distance of the Pier site and is a lifeline, quite literally, for many of the residents. Please pray for the right outcome here - our worry was that the centre would be swamped by the development, instead it appears at real risk of being closed!

We arranged for the students of a small private music school to come to Prospect Place and perform their end of year 'revue'. It was a wonderful affair with parents and friends of the young students enjoying the event alongside some of the residents. Thanks to Elisabeth Sadler for supporting us in this way and for the bravery of her students, some of whom appeared to be smaller than the instruments they were playing! We look forward to future events.

We have now completed the renovation of the garden at Prospect Place and, together with some of the residents, have transformed an overgrown and unkempt garden into a place where they are now comfortable spending time. The work was done in two stages, firstly



## The Reach Team

Tim & Tricia Barrow  
 Rev Liz Chapman  
 Sheena Davidson  
 Stuart & Caz Read, Finn & Lily  
 Deano & Helen Standing  
 Terry & Jo Whittaker, Charley,  
 Rory & Conor

## Our Services

1st Sunday: Premier Inn 14.30  
 3rd Sunday: Prospect Place 14.30  
 1st Friday: Prospect Place 14.30  
 with St Luke's

"But in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect".

1 Peter 3:15 ESV



## Please Pray

- For safety for Tim and Tricia Barrow as they travel the Middle-East engaging and inviting mission; that their trip will be fruitful.
- For wisdom on how to make best use of the minibus.
- For our one-to-one time with residents; these are always times of value, so pray that we have the mouth, ears and heart of Christ.
- For the possible start-up of a 'dining club' as a way to foster community and reach more people; pray that we may know whether this is a good option.
- We understand that one of the 'new builds' may incorporate a mother and toddler club; pray for how we should respond / support.
- For a way for the team to meet regularly, study the Bible and pray together; for wisdom on how best to achieve this.
- For the practicalities of a regular Bible study group with the residents at Prospect Place; for discernment on how we can make this viable and valuable.
- For the right way to 'ramp up' our visibility in the area, in particular as we consider being 'on the streets' in a coordinated way from mid-October to Christmas on a Saturday morning; may we know the mind of Christ in this regard.
- For finalisation of our social media presence, its management and content.
- For each and every resident of the Reach location, that they may come to know the reality of Jesus and the Hope that transforms all.

## Contact Us

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the clearance of weeds, cutting back of plants and shrubs and the strimming and weed-killing of the raised grass area. Bedding plants were also planted in pots and in the beds. It was a hard day of manual effort but the transformation was great. The second stage of the work involved the placement of 4 tonnes of shingle in the raised bed to replace the 'grass' area. Thanks go to the brave and skilled driver from MBS who was prepared to lift the four 1 tonne bags up to the first floor terrace, clearing a glass screen in the process, under the nervous direction of yours truly, the amateur banksman! The team on the day were amazing and between us, and with help from Jethro one of the residents, we had the shingle in place in less than three hours. The residents are grateful and have witnessed, in very practical terms, the potential of a like-minded team of people.

Our 'shingle spectacular' followed on from our first quiz night. Thanks to the hard work of Deano & Conor, our quiz-masters, we had an excellent evening with the residents, family and friends. Sara in the café produced a fine chilli at half-time and first prize was won by 'The Wooden Dogs' - congratulations to Steve, Ernie and John.

Services continue in the same pattern but there are two things to be particularly thankful for. The first is that we have moved from the Cargo Bar to the Premier Inn. The arrival of the football season makes the utilisation of this student sports bar a little untenable on a Sunday afternoon. To our extreme gratitude the Premier Inn have become amazing hosts. They make us welcome, let us move their furniture, serve us drinks and even turn down the ever present music for the duration of our time with them. Please do hold them in your prayers and join us in our thanks. The other notable matter is that attendance at the Prospect Place service is increasing each time we are there. We have those with faith, those with a different faith and those with no faith and it feels like authentic church. We are grateful too to St Luke's who remain committed to Prospect Place and host a Communion service there on the first Friday of each month at 14.30.

The final piece of news is that we have secured access to a wheelchair friendly minibus, which we can drive or which can be supplied with a driver, at relatively little cost. We thank God for this provision and are now working to try and shape how best to use this resource.

We are very grateful for your support and recognise that prayer is at the very heart of Reach at Gillingham Pier. Please feel free to pass this on to anyone that you feel would be interested. We are conscious that we are servants and that the plan rests in the hands of Jesus. The more of us seeking and hearing that plan, the better equipped we are to serve.