

1 term into her new role working for us, Joanna Hill writes:

My role as **Discipleship Co-ordinator** means that I have the privilege of being involved in the lives of many of you in varying ways and I thank God for you and for the work He is doing in all our lives. My role is three-fold.

 I have been offering individuals who may be feeling particularly anxious or troubled, the opportunity to talk privately to someone trained and experienced in listening and in pastoral Christian encouragement. This has involved meeting one to one either in person where safely possible or, as has been the case more recently over lockdown, via zoom or over the phone. Meetings either take place as a one off or over a fixed period.

 I have been training others in one-to-one discipling through running courses. Examples of courses run have looked at specific areas of grief, illness, conflict and busyness through the lens of Scripture. More recently a 6-month Dynamics of Biblical Change course run in conjunction with BCUK has equipped 8 individuals to better understand how Christ's past, present and future grace speaks to our hearts and changes the way we live our daily lives that we might love and serve others more effectively. The course acknowledges that the way we care for others well is determined by how we understand God, ourselves, other people, life's pressures, and the process of change itself.

- In the autumn, a Growth Group started which aims to teach a primary concept or skill in a way that allows participants to become more proficient at using that skill or concept to speak winsomely into the lives of others. This term we are looking at the topic of anxiety to discover more about how the God of Peace comes close to us in these times and how this might change the way we speak to friends or family that we know who are experiencing anxiety. Do join us!

 Finally, in line with the vision of the church, I am working to enable and resource a culture of one-to-one discipling in our church. Last term's Growth Group looked at Why it is important for us to be Bible Sharers and How we can be doing this better? As a result, some new one-to-one's have started up.

If you would like to be reading the Bible with someone and are not sure how to go about it or wonder where to start looking for resources, please do get in touch (joannahill@barnston.info).

We have a bookstall based at Christ Church Barnston so do make use of our loan system for the books there. If I can help in any specific way or you would like to talk generally about resources you might find helpful, I would love to hear from you!

Every blessing to you for the New Year ahead, I pray you know the comfort, strength, provision and presence of Jesus Himself with you.

Joanna