



October 2020 Update for Church Partners

We continue to be grateful for all your support and prayers on our behalf. The past few months have not been easy for any of us and the Covid restrictions have meant that our activities in our Garthway premises were suspended until the middle of October (apart from Hambleton Foodshare). Later in the Summer we were able to arrange some limited meetings with the ready and generous help of the Secret Garden.

However, we have now developed a way of working within the guidelines which means that our RenewWellbeing sessions in Garthway were able to recommence in mid- October . By planning shorter, but more frequent, sessions we are once again able to offer a welcome and support to our visitors.

We have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Government's Community Fund for the support of charities as they find ways through the impact of the pandemic. This will help us to meet expenses such as the rent. Our application included a 6 month pilot project for the employment of a Development Co-ordinator to support the work and map the role of a co-ordinator in the longer term. We are delighted to have been able to appoint Jo Swain to this short-term post and are grateful for the knowledge and commitment she brings to it. Jo is now the first point of contact for The Living Rooms and can be contacted at jswain@thelivingrooms.org.uk. Mob. 07483 426 920.

This Autumn we launched **The Friends of the Living Rooms** in response to a number of requests for a way in which to offer regular (and hopefully Gift-Aided) financial support. We shall always be reliant to a large degree on grant aid but a regular income stream is extremely important. It helps

stabilise our finances, it is a way in which well-wishers not able to volunteer can give tangible support and it demonstrates to potential funders that there is local support. Leaflets have been made available to all churches as a pdf document and in some cases the printed version as well. . Printed copies of the leaflet can be found at Garthway or on request from Jo Swain. Your support in this way would be greatly appreciated.

Please continue to hold us all in your prayers and do contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Ian Johnson

On behalf of the Trustees.