**Report from Acle and District Good Neighbours for Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 26th April 2021**

The regular activities offered by Acle and District Good Neighbours all but ceased over the last twelve months. There have been no monthly Tea and Talk sessions, no trips out for afternoon tea, and no fundraising quizzes. Now that restrictions are gradually being lifted, and our social lives returning to somewhere near what they were, we hope to restart these ‘get togethers’ by June this year.

Many of our volunteers have continued to assist their ‘regulars’, as well as their neighbours, with shopping and have kept in touch, usually by telephone. Transport to medical appointments, etc., normally undertaken by volunteers, has been taken up by family members or the health authorities. Again, we hope to be in a position to reinstate this service by June.

The upkeep of our Dementia Friendly Garden, behind the Methodist Chapel, also suffered during the periods of lockdown. It is by no means a wilderness, but any offers of help to keep it neat and tidy would be most welcome.

We are hoping that the neighbourliness that blossomed during the last 12 months will continue and would like to think that we could add a few new volunteers to our friendly group. If you would like more information, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Acle and District Good Neighbours did diversify last April, starting up the Acle Foodbank with assistance from Acle Methodist Church. The Foodbank has supported nearly 50 families during the last 12 months, and the service is ongoing. The generosity of local people by way of donations has been amazing. We were also able to provide almost 400 gift bags and hampers at Christmas, support Acle families whose homes were flooded last December, and give Easter Eggs to the children of the families who need the Foodbank as well as to the local care home.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, in whatever capacity, for their dedication and support over the last twelve months?

Sally Aldridge

Chairperson