Who is Deacon Helen?

It’s over a year since I became Chaplain to Nutgrove Methodist Primary School and what a year it’s been.

I started my work whilst all teaching was being done through Teams or Zoom, which made it hard to get to know everyone, and hard for you all to get to know me. What a relief that we’ve passed through that awful time to something a little easier.

The children now know me as I’m in school each week, but I’m aware that I’m still a stranger to most of the parents / carers. Let me do something to change that!

I am married to Tim, have three children, five stepchildren, five grandchildren, a dog called Ziva (which means ‘God’s radiance’) and a cat called Meatloaf. The latter is so called because he was rescued and looked like a cat out of hell!

After 8 years as a children and youth worker, I trained, and was ordained, as a minister with the Methodist church. My role is threefold: within the community of St Helens; Chaplain at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School; and working with the charity Papyrus UK in seeking to reduce suicide amongst young people. A very varied remit!

When I was 15 my life changed as I experienced a personal, real, connection with God. I am passionate about the difference Jesus has made in my life and would love everyone to experience the love and acceptance of the God I know.

This God has a sense of humour. I didn’t have a happy time at school, so never thought I would be working within one. This is now my second time as a school chaplain, the first being at a secondary school in Cornwall.

My role within Nutgrove Methodist Primary school is to support staff, students and parents in whatever ways I can. I lead worship in school each week and help with a number of lessons throughout the year across the year groups. I encourage prayer in many forms and will soon be setting up a Prayer Room within school to run for a week, helping the children and staff to explore prayer in new ways.

If ever you would like prayer for something, then send a simple request to

**Text4Prayer** 07452 958 955

There’s no need for lots of details, though a little guidance will help – e.g. ‘please pray for K’ or ‘please pray for my family’ or ‘please pray for our financial situation’. No request is too big or too small.

Text4Prayer is a dedicated texting line, which is looked after by trained volunteers within our churches. Texts are anonymous and will be responded to within a few hours, though the phone is not checked during the night. Your prayer request will then be shared anonymously across the local Methodist churches for more prayer. It costs your standard texting rate.