Projects Team Update: September 2025

* **Hospital Bags**- branches are still putting these together and distributing them to a number of institutions, although we are not always clear on exact details. Our focus has been primarily on the Newcastle Health Trust, specifically The RVI and The Freeman. We felt that not all staff were aware of these packs. Posters have been designed and will be distributed to raise awareness and there are plans to have a stall for a day staffed by MU in each venue to raise awareness further.
* **People’s Kitchen Christmas Bags**- plan to do 150 (although People’s Kitchen have indicated 180 in their last email) bags with:
* Gloves
* Hat
* Sweets
* Christmas Card
* £5 Greggs Voucher

No toiletries or clothes in the bags- however, if branches have collected these already, then we can take them as donations to the project team work.

Details have been sent out to members already but key diary dates are:

**Saturday 22nd November** 10 am Packing day at Holy Nativity, organised by AB. Branches will not need to pack bags beforehand so this session will be an opportunity for members, branch leaders, trustees and anyone keen to help, to put everything together.

**Friday 28th November** Church House Coffee Morning with distribution of Journals, Bag blessing and Midday prayer. LB is the point of contact for this.

* **Gifts of Love for Parents of Nursery/School Starters** Over 180 bags have been given out this month across the diocese with some new branches joining the project this year. The hope is to extend the project further next year.

**Upcoming Projects/ Events**

* 1st Internet are planning a fund-raising Music Afternoon on Saturday 11th October to raise money for their work with Harbour refuges in North Tyneside and Northumberland. Please come!

In North Tyneside this project funds a “big shop” four times a year providing toiletries, nappies, clothing, handbags, whatever is needed. Plus, Easter eggs, Advent Calendars, a bike storage shed and of course the sensory room.

They will also be putting together Christmas food parcels for **both** Northumberland and North Tyneside with all the ingredients for a Christmas feast for each family or individual.

Although 1st Internet lead on this, they have been supported by a number of branches and individuals to ensure that this work can continue.

* Age Concern Information Day. It is hoped to run this in the spring but we will need funding from diocese to pay for room hire.
* Crafts-please encourage members to bring completed craftwork to council- there will be more material and wool available for them to take away as well.