



Welcome to our fresh new look logo!

A lot has changed since May's update ... thank you all for your prayers during this time.

**Joan Writes...**

Early last year Nigel and I felt we should step back from being joint Wardens into being Deputy Wardens; we should pray for a sabbatical period, and also make the necessary steps to being a true job share position (I think many people are not aware that this is what we were appointed for when we started at Whitchester in May 2012). We were not sure how all this could come about, but God is very able to sort out such practicalities! The Directors were very much in agreement. When we recruited for Deputy Wardens in May we recognised in Simon and Amanda their potential not only be Deputy Wardens but also Wardens.

The end result is that during the next few months we are doing a handover of wardens' duties to Simon and Amanda; we have received some funding towards the provision of another two staff at Whitchester and are in the process of recruiting with the start date in January (advert below); and from January, Nigel and I will be taking 3 months 'sabbatical'.

**STOP PRESS!!**

**Whitchester Christian Centre  
Hawick, Scottish Borders  
Vacancies for Deputy Wardens**

*Closing date 22nd October 2018*

Whitchester is a Retreat House whose vision is to enable people to meet with God through hospitality, both as individuals and as groups, by providing a welcoming space to meet with God and receive refreshment and restoration. We are looking for two Deputy Wardens to live on-site and be part of a small team. You will contribute towards the running of the House in providing for the practical needs of the guests.



You also need to be willing to listen and pray with people, lead worship and talk about the Christian faith.

*For further details see the attached documents and you are welcome to contact us by email:*

[enquiries@whitchester.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@whitchester.org.uk) or telephone: 01450 377477. Please also see our website: [www.whitchester.org.uk](http://www.whitchester.org.uk)

After a lengthy process of x-rays and scans, it has become clear Nigel needs a partial knee replacement. Please pray for both the operation and for reduced pain during the wait for it.

**Publicity and Rachel**

As we wrote in the last newsletter we are **very grateful** for Rachel's input during her stay with us through May and June.

We are now at last having updated room information packs printed, along with leaflets etc, all with the new logo!

**Refurbishing the drive... & other work**

Since July our visitors (and staff!) have appreciated the newly tarmac-ed drive—no more potholes on the drive or outside the front entrance. So, many thanks to a generous donor who enabled this. At the same time we were able to tarmac the ramp to the front door; which makes access much easier for wheelchair users.

With the remains of the donation we have ordered some new windows for rooms at the top of the house and the office... hopefully they will be installed soon.

We are still planning to put in a lift, however, with staffing shortages, the building control application is still pending. Prayers please for a smooth application process!

Over the next few months we need to begin planning and obtaining funding for the replacement of the top half of the conservatory.

## Simon and Amanda Write...

Simon and I joined Whitchester as Deputy Wardens at the end of May, along with our faithful feline friend, Tigger.

Here's our brief biography, as set out in the new information booklet.

Simon and Amanda married in December 1990 and spent their first 5 years together in Uganda where Simon was employed by the Busoga Trust, heading up a project providing clean water sources in rural areas. They returned to England in 1996 and Simon re-trained as a primary school teacher. In August 2000, the family moved to the Isle of Man where they stayed for 16 years; Simon teaching and Amanda working as a secretary in HR.

Their son, Barny, completed his popular music degree at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and is now a qualified drummer! If you're into 'alternative indie' as a music genre, check out his band, Diving Station – they are on Spotify and release their 2nd EP in early December! Hester, their daughter, has just commenced her final year training to be a Children's Nurse at Queen's University in Belfast and when she 'flew the nest', the parents decided to do likewise and set off on life's next adventure!



Following a year as interns at Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, where they completed Listening and Prayer Ministry training, they joined Whitchester at the end of May 2018. They are accompanied by their cat, Tigger, a very sociable ginger tom. They are both gifted in pastoral care and hospitality, with Simon strong in teaching and particularly enjoying studying scripture, and Amanda keen to practice her listening skills and undertake further training in counselling.

Our first few months have flown by in a whirl of learning while on the run and meeting lots and lots of groups and guests. We are loving our beautiful surroundings and the opportunities a ministry such as Whitchester's brings. Look out for our article in the Retreat Association handbook 2019 ([www.retreats.org.uk](http://www.retreats.org.uk))

- available to pre-order now! It didn't take us long to realise that we very much need additional staff with whom to share the load - do please hold this need and the current recruitment process in your prayers.

## Volunteers

In addition to recruiting further staff, we are very grateful for the cheery helpfulness, support, and time of Helen, who comes and spends Tuesdays with us, putting her hand to whatever is required that day!

Helen first came across Whitchester on a Church Away Day a number of years ago, and then attended a ministry weekend where she experienced what Whitchester offers first-hand; her highlights were the freedom to come and go and be yourself, the comfort and cosiness. Helen heard about our Open Days through an e-mail and started coming along. One day, she volunteered to assist with serving the lunch... the rest, as they say, is history!

When asked why she decided to commit to giving one day a week to Whitchester, Helen had a number of observations: the work "*distracts me from thinking about my own problems*"; "*gives me an opportunity to give back some of the skills and experience I've acquired over the years - with experience in a café, chamber-maiding and gardening*"; whilst having the "*freedom to give what I can and stop when I've done enough!*"

Helen enjoys: "*the not knowing - and the variety - it can be light; it can be exhausting!*"; "*the satisfaction of having accomplished something that needed to be done*" and "*not being under any compulsion*" to do anything - because it's voluntary.

I asked Helen what she would say to anyone considering volunteering - these are her responses: "*You have to want to do it*"; "*It's good to give something back*"; "*Be prepared for hard work, but a huge amount of satisfaction and appreciation is verbalised by the staff*"; "*It's on your own terms—and even if you are limited in what you can offer, everything is appreciated*".

