

Chester Retreat & Farewell – Nov 07



Front Row l to r:

Judy Steel, Ruth Rees, Winnie Smart, Diane Taylor.

Middle Row l to r:

Charles & Margaret Christopher, Valmai Williams.,
Jenny Dean, Freda Cheetham, Jean McGealy,
Penny Livingstone

Back Row l to r:

Bev Meadows, Isabel Wodrow Ron Stanyard, Clare Fitzpatrick,
Barbara Chambers

It was with much joy that we met together again in November at Chester Retreat House. We welcomed 3 new carers to our number, one of whom was the new wife of our very own Charles (Christopher).



Charles has blessed us in so many ways over the past couple of years. He has both sight and hearing impairments but this has only given him the gift of clearer spiritual insights that he has been able to freely impart to us. We had great pleasure in providing him and his new

wife Margaret with a little 'wedding celebration' on the Friday evening.

We shared another wonderful weekend of sharing, prayer, laughter and fellowship – all within God's presence. The blessing of the Holy Spirit filled our special time of prayer and our morning worship service on Sunday.

But we also shared sadness, too, knowing that our times at Chester Retreat House were coming to an end. Our times there were so very special, times when we could draw away from our lives of busyness and caring, to be nurtured and cared for by each other and especially by Valerie Fisher, the warden and Janet and the other staff.

I am sure there are many other people and groups who will feel the loss of this place of peace.

The following poem was written by one of our carers, who has been coming since the beginning and summed up the feeling of us all. In fact we all signed it and presented it to the Dean of Chester Cathedral! We had a polite response back but unfortunately no 'rethink'. All good things must come to an end they say but with one ending can come a new beginning and so on Fellowship Details page you will find details of another upcoming retreat in the north!

HAVEN

The Chester Retreat House is a haven to me.
Like a port in the storm, its my safe place to be,

When the world does its worst, its walls are secure

Like a child I could rest, but not any-more.
Caring is stressful, as all carers know

But the Chester Retreat House was a place we could go.

We were nurtured and cared for by Val and her crew.

We've share, laughed and cried and sung a bit too.

This may seem a very small part to your much bigger plan

But we'd value a re-think if only you can.

Jean McGealy

Carers Christian Fellowship Retreat
at The Chester Retreat House
16-18 November 2007.