

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP INTERVIEW 0346F

Kendal Flood Project interview

Jean Radley born 1940
Interviewed September 2016

346f / Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp.1-2

Jean has been involved with St Georges' Church, Kendal for over 20 years. She is ordained and has been looking after the church for the past few years.

She notes the church has always wished to be a blessing to the local community.

When the flood hit, St Georges' was like an island in the water.

Services were cancelled on the Sunday (6 Dec) and she held a Thanksgiving service in someone's home.

The church was unusable but the function room and kitchen were able to be used.

She suggested they provide hot drinks, soup and sandwiches, and this began immediately after the flood. It quickly grew to eight hours a day, seven days a week.

Run by volunteers from St Georges', other churches and non church people.

Sometimes over 200 through the door in a day. Had help from local business, insurance company and the Lions. They kept open when the electricity failed.

They always had two pastoral carers on duty.

Track 2, pp.2-4

Cheryl from Romneys Pub has provided soup almost from the beginning to now.

The church has done a good job and people have been welcomed – churchgoers or not. There are no discussions with people about their faith.

They still wish to be a blessing to the community. Currently lunch three times a week.

The helpers have worked well together in two teams of four.

Now they are considering change – to a weekly 'Community Afternoon'. Still working the details out, but it will involve the community much more.

She found it difficult at the beginning – but it has all worked well.

Track 3, pp.44-5

Looking back over the months she feels the church has been the blessing they had hoped it could be. God has enabled them and they hope this will continue.

People have felt safe and comfortable in the church.

The free Summer 'Queen's Party' was held for over 200 people. Music, games and food.

She feels the people coming for lunch now come for different reasons – they find it a place where they can provide support to each other.