

“It felt beautiful”

The words *“It felt beautiful”* were spoken by one lady who had received support from the Pastoral Care Project. Her husband who had Alzheimer’s disease was moved into a care home outside the Birmingham Diocese. Spiritual care, being an important part of his life, wasn’t in place in the care home. So the lady contacted the Pastoral Care Project for help. The Project was able to provide information and also contacted the parish near to the care home on her behalf. Subsequently, the Deacon or Eucharistic Ministers from the neighbouring parish would go to the care home every week so both she, and her husband could receive Holy Communion together.

However, there were new concerns as her husband became frailer; as to what might happen as he approached the end of his life. What pastoral care would be available within his faith tradition? How could those last weeks, days and hours of his life be meaningful?

The Pastoral Care Project was able to meet with her, to listen and to guide, and so she was able to make their wishes known to the care home manager so that plans were put in place.

As her husband’s illness advanced and he lost the sense of speaking she said, *“she had no doubt that from the countenance of her husband’s face that he knew the Lord was present each time the deacon came with Holy Communion - it felt beautiful.”*

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