**What is ‘Two’s Company’?**

‘Two’s Company’ is a telephone befriending programme being run through churches across the UK to respond in a relevant way to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people are more isolated now than ever, and this approach provides a way for local people to stay in touch by telephone on a regular basis.

**Who is it for?**

Two’s Company is aimed at those most vulnerable to the effects of social isolation due to age, location, health or other factors in the area of Lobley Hill, Sunniside, Marley Hill and Byermoor

**How does it work?**

Volunteers from local churches form a team of telephone befrienders. Referrals for phone calls are made to the Coordinator, and they then match a telephone befriender with someone requesting a phone call, called a ‘Link Friend’. The Link Friend will receive a phone call from their befriender at least once a week for 4 months or more, providing much needed companionship during this difficult time. We expect this process to benefit both those involved in the regular calls.

**Who can get involved?**

Volunteers have been vetted and checked through previous roles in their local church. It would particularly suit those who have a warm, friendly and empathetic character and can relate to people of different ages and backgrounds.

**How does this project work in partnership with other agencies?**

Local Two’s Company projects will work together with other groups, such as Good Neighbour schemes, Local Authorities and groups that have started in the area to respond to Covid-19. This will broaden the impact that they are able to make in the local community.

**I’d like to get involved. What do I do now?**

The best way to get involved is to contact the Church overseeing the initiative in your area. The phone number is below.

**I would like to request a regular call – what do I do?**

To refer yourself or someone you know, please call the Coordinator, for a friendly discussion.

**Coordinator:** Linda

**Telephone:**

0191 4220445 (Church office)

Tues, Wed, Friday 9.30am-3.30pm

**Church Address:**

Hillside All Saints Church

Rowanwood Gardens

Lobley Hill

Gateshead NE11 ODP

**Two’s Company can help people make a difference during this time of crisis.**

Are you concerned about the impact Covid-19 is having on socially isolated people in your community?

Perhaps you, or someone you know needs some support.

This project has been set up in partnership with Linking Lives UK which is a national Christian befriending charity that, since 2012, has established befriending projects in over 30 communities across the country, working through the local church to combat loneliness and social isolation. **www.linkinglives.uk**