

Mitey Treat for Walsall Widows



New Testament Church of God, Chuckery Road, Walsall was transformed into a therapy centre of a different kind on March 31 when members of the Bilston District Singles Adults Ministries (SAM) put on the first 'Widow's Mite' treat for widows. And judging from the beaming faces of the 12 widows who attended it was a mighty treat indeed!

The Widow's Mite was organised to pamper the widows for the afternoon. The participants, who came from several churches in Walsall and Birmingham, were given the opportunity to indulge in a range of treatments, including body massages and manicures. The SAM group also prepared a three-course meal for them and to complete the package they arranged transportation for them to and from the event.

"Oh, it has been just wonderful!" said Gloria Lee, as she basked in the pain-free ease following her full body massage. "I wasn't keen on coming," she said. "My children made me come and I came out of curiosity. I've never had anything like this done before. I had so much tension in my shoulders but now it's all gone. When I came in here I couldn't move my knee joints properly but now they are so free." Gloria swung her knee back and forth with ease and a huge smile spread across her face. "I've enjoyed what I've had so far," she went on, "and I'm looking forward to the rest. I would definitely come again."

Brenda Chin from the **NTCG** Church at Castle Vale also thoroughly enjoyed the treatments she received. "I really appreciate it," she said. "It's good that we can have this done in Church and it's a challenge to some of the older women who might think it's a sin to pamper themselves."

All the women gave the Widow's Mite glowing reviews.

"It's been lovely," said Sybil Grant, flexing her toes, after her foot massage.

Rosa Jarman showed Sybil her manicured nails and the two giggled together like school girls.

"I've enjoyed it. I would come again," said Milly Minto.

"I've enjoyed it really well," said Dorel Pantan. "Everything is nice. I would come to this again."

"And hats off to the cooks!" added **Gloria Lee**

Organisers of the Widow's Mite, Melanie and Marlene Kerr from the Chuckery Road Church, said the idea came from the widows themselves. "Two widows were at one of the

SAM planning meetings a few months ago,” said Melanie. “We decided to have a widow’s group within SAM and I found myself in that group although I am not a widow. When I asked the widows what would they like to see happen for the widows in such a group they said they would like to be pampered, to have things like their nails done, to have a facial and to do things like go to the gym. The SAM co-ordinator asked each of the sub-groups in SAM to put on an event during the first quarter of 2007 and we started planning straight away for this special day for the widows. **The idea to name it ‘Widow’s Mite’ seemed the most natural and appropriate thing to call it.**”

Trained nurse, Evadney Grey, who is now studying massage therapy, was on hand to administer the body massages. “So many of these ladies have spent their lives being devoted to other people,” Evadney said, “and it’s nice to be able to give something back to them. I’m glad they enjoyed it and I enjoyed doing it too.”

Ellie Baggott, a **holistic** therapist, who did light foot massages for the widows, agreed. “I didn’t know fully what this event was about, she said, “but I think it’s a wonderful idea to thank the ladies in this way for their contributions.”

“I am relieved that it went well and without any major mishaps,” said Melanie. “But most important of all, I am glad that the ladies enjoyed it. Through putting it on, we just wanted them to know that they are not forgotten. They are now all calling for more events of this nature in the future. Although we planned this as a one-off event, I think that SAM needs to take it fully on-board. And once word gets out, it’s going to be big!

“I know from the feedback that the ladies who came have been blessed by the event, but the volunteers who assisted and I have been equally blessed through giving in this way. We thank God for the opportunity to minister to his people.”

by Joy Roxborough, NTCG, Chuckery Rd, Walsall.