

# REPORT OF PCC AWAY DAY

MAY 2008

*Please note – these notes are not minutes of the away day. What they do offer is a summary of some of the main discussion points that were raised.*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

The importance of **prayer** in all that we do was highlighted. Prayer, as a theme, must undergird every aspect of our church. A deepening of corporate and personal prayer is the only way to ensure that our church fellowship continues to be grounded upon God. As a PCC, we must lead by example.

- We will continue to encourage all church members to maintain personal prayer and Bible reading.
- A general resolve was expressed to make greater use of prayer before services. In St. Peter's Church, we will develop and encourage the use of the SW corner as a Prayer Corner – using it for prayer before the 10am service, for prayer ministry after the service, and making it available as a prayer corner whenever the church is open.
- All those involved in any aspect of the worship are encouraged to participate in prayer before the 10am service.
- St. Leonard's will hold a time of prayer at 9.45am every Sunday.
- We also encourage the members of the Prayer Ministry team to pray with children's/youth leaders, and others, before the service.

## EIGHT MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

### **Passionate Spirituality:**

We must not neglect prayer and worship at PCC meetings.

Deepen our commitment to a personal relationship with God.

Encourage all members in their personal prayer and Bible reading.

More 'hot spot' sharing within our worship – not necessarily pre-planned, but spontaneous as well. Tell personal stories about God and how He is affecting us. Use the gifts we have.

***Need for a hand-held radio mike to use at St. Peter's.***

### **Empowering leadership:**

The importance of team work. Encouraging new leaders; using the gifts of the whole body. Prayerfully seek out people with leadership potential and train and encourage them.

Equip other people to lead through sharing leadership responsibilities.

More sharing the leadership of services – try to avoid having the same person leading a service and preaching.

Children's Work – we need more leaders for our children's work – we need to prayerfully consider the possibility of a paid Children's and Families' Worker.

Love the leadership – affirm and encourage those in leadership positions.

### **Loving Relationships**

'A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love, one for another.'

The Church – the **family** of God. We must care for one another as a family.

Active Love: how can we keep love at the centre of our relationships within the church?

What does the church offer to the very rich? A sense of belonging and family.

We must be true to ourselves and true to one another, before God.

Do not allow trouble and relationship breakdown to fester.

## **Gift-orientated ministry**

We need to use the gifts that we have already. Must constantly pray and discern what gifts we have, and use everybody's gifts.

Look for what God is doing, and work with Him. He calls us to plant seeds, and to allow them to grow – we can't plant trees – they won't grow!

Use the laity – perhaps have less 'dog collars' visible in the leading of worship. A need for more lay ministry in our public worship.

## **Need-orientated Evangelism**

How can we serve the needs of our community?

We must get alongside people to find out the needs of our community, then use the results in our evangelism. Need to 'be where people are'.

More social activities which will reach out to people – opportunities to meet together. Start and end with prayer.

What can we do to help the elderly?

Baptism visiting

## **Holistic Small groups** (House groups, and other groups.)

Loving and caring groups, reaching out to others, so that new groups emerge.

A wide range of groups, in order that all members feel that they belong.

How can we make house groups more attractive for more members to join?

Perhaps hold a Home Groups Supper.

## **Inspiring Worship Services**

The centrality of worship – important to be together. (Acts 2:42ff)

Worship is the family of the church at prayer together.

Has the time come to look at Sunday mornings in St. Peter's? Perhaps an 8am, 9.30am, 11am structure.

A growing number of young families – how do we cater for them?

We need to allow time for God to speak to His people – space for the Holy Spirit to act.

We encourage PCC and other members to 'move around' a bit between services, and thus meet other people and be aware of their worship needs.

Room to touch the 'messy edges' of the church – 'a church without a fringe is a cult' – and look for new ways of being church in the community.

- ***A subgroup will meet to discuss the format of Sunday mornings.***
- ***The re-timing of the Celebration to a Thursday evening seems to have been well-received. We will seek to build on this. It has been suggested that we re-name this event 'Re'viver', and use it as an occasion to encourage all house groups to meet together.***
- ***The vicar will write a paper on the issue of pews and the use of the church for worship and other events.***

## **Functional Structures**

A need for effective Committees. \Teaching and leading groups.

- ***PCC meetings will begin with a time of worship, and an individual will be charged with the task of leading a short period of worship at each meeting.***
- ***Members are requested to be punctual for meetings, and those wanting coffee are asked to seated at the appointed time for the start of the meeting.***
- ***When at all possible, reports from committees should be tabled before the meeting, and circulated with the minutes. Chairman of committees should normally only need to answer questions, and bring to the PCC items that need a decision, thus freeing up more time at PCC for future planning and strategic thinking.***