

The Parochial (Parish) Church Council meets every two months, and below is a report on the most interesting bits from our recent meeting. If you have views on anything we discuss, or on what we should discuss, please speak to any of the PCC members. Anyone who is on the church electoral roll can stand for election to the PCC, which happens at the annual church meeting every April.

PCC Meeting 15th July 2010

Bible reading and Prayer: Steve read James 1:19-21 and reminded us of the themes of James. We should humbly listen to God, speak wisely, not fall into anger and be godly individuals.

Outreach: We looked back to the Life and Passion for Life missions, praising God for the events, for lots of people inviting friends and for churches working together. Events coming soon include an inter-church outreach event with Henry Olonga (a Christian former Zimbabwean cricketer), and potentially an art exhibition event.

The outreach committee are considering various questions, and we are urged to pray for the church and our outreach. When should we be inviting people in to events and when should we go out to the community? How do we affirm individuals gifted for outreach? Should we be door-knocking and if so, what can we give people? When should we do 'taster' events and when should we have more teaching of the good news?

Church growth: We look to grow as a church, but reminded each other that growth in God's kingdom is not always the same as growth in numbers. We want to teach and help each other at Christ Church to mature in Jesus. We do also have a busy morning service - we noted that it is busiest for the 15 minutes before children and helpers go downstairs, and considered possibilities for freeing up 15 minutes of space so newcomers can join the church without feeling it is already full. We thought about pros and cons of changing where children sit, or having some people downstairs for the beginning of the service with a video link - more ideas welcome!

We are looking ahead to a large development of houses on the former Cambridge Regional College site, and potential initiatives or church plant in the future. We have seen many times at Christ Church that God has put something on the hearts of a small number of people, who have together made it happen. Please pray for God's guidance.

Staff team: The staff team is currently in a time of change, both in terms of the make-up of the team and the circumstances of individuals. Dave and Katrina are finishing and two new volunteers, Scott and Ben, will join the team. Steve will be teaching Pastoral Counselling on Wednesday mornings at Oak Hill Theological College in the autumn term, and is planning ahead for a potential short sabbatical May-June 2011.

Wednesday Forum: After five years this group will stop meeting in its current form in the autumn. We are very grateful for the ministry of Peter and Evelyn Snelson and Colin and Joan Lown who have led it throughout that time. A new monthly group, Lunch Plus, led by Pam Hinton and Andy Cranston will meet every third Wednesday in the month. It is hoped that some from the new Exercise Plus group will stay on over lunch joining others from the old Wednesday Forum group.

Preaching/teaching programme: Over 2010-11 we plan to learn from Ezekiel, Mark and Galatians in sermons and small group studies. We will also use a Gospel in Life discipleship programme in our small groups. In many cases the sermons at Sunday morning and evening services will be the same, to allow small groups to follow on from sermons in their discussions. The 4pm service will become twice monthly, and in the other weeks we will start a Going Deeper discipleship course at 4pm.

Finances: the church finances are in a good position, following the response to the Gift Day last year and then further increases in giving to the church this year. We thank God for this money and the generosity of people giving. There is still higher expenditure than income forecast for 2010-11, by around £8,500. We looked ahead to what to present at the Gift Day this autumn.

Anna Bickerstaffe