

Church Council Update

The following update reports on the discussion at the September Church Council meeting and the Church Meeting on 14th September. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know or speak to any member of the Church Council. Thanks, Glenn.

We were very pleased to welcome Peter Bennett and thanks go out to all of those that help with the induction service on 6th September which was very well attended.

Youth work – The main focus of the CC meeting was youth work, particularly with respect to the appointment process and also a discussion with the leadership team from Compass Café.

Appointment Process- The Youth Leader appointment was reviewed and since the CC meeting it has been ratified by both the Joint Council and the Church Meeting. The following just covers the key points presented at the Church Meeting, a copy of the full presentation is available

- **Where were we in Feb** - Proposal to employ part time youth worker
- **What happened next** – Plenty of interest but no applicants. Agreed not to proceed with joint approach with Didcot Baptist Church. Church Council to review in July
- **July CC Review** – Delay brings opportunity i.e. Peter Bennett able to be more directly involved, updated / improved finance position, challenged to go further. Church still expressing desire to move forward quickly but summer holidays looming.
- **New proposal drawn up** - Peachcroft only appointment. Increase number of hours – up to full time. Change job title – Youth Pastor. Decided to progress advert at risk to avoid significant delays
- **Action since July** - JC Sub Group agreed at risk advert strategy. Advert placed in September YouthWork magazine - Closing date 30th September. Approved by full JC in September. Pursuing other grants / funding.
- **Finances** – Year 1 covered by designated giving, Vale grant & reduction in Ministry costs. Potential for support from All Saints. Three year forecast developed which shows a viable plan based on conservative assumptions.
- **Building project** – Financial position much healthier than original plan / forecast. If existing pledges are fulfilled, will have covered all project costs and can pay off loans!
- **Outcome from Church meeting** – Agreed the following proposal “*That the church agrees to pursue the appointment of a full time Youth Pastor.*”
- **What next** - Church Council / sub-group working on the detail of the process. Still hoping for offer / support for accommodation?
- **Compass/Immerse** – Please consider helping at Compass. Youth Alpha Launch Event at Peachcroft on Sunday 28th September. Youth For Christ Schools Week John Mason School, 22 – 26 September

We now have a provision date for interviews of Saturday 18th October. There will be an opportunity for a number of people from the Church to meet the candidates informally during the visits. If you would like to be involved in this process please let me know asap.

Compass Café – This continues to be difficult to resource. The police continue to be supportive but unfortunately due to personnel changes are unable to make the level of commitment hoped for (they are still trying to resolve this). More help & volunteers would be much appreciated. Even if you are not comfortable doing the up front bits there are other ways to help, e.g. with setup or in the kitchen. If you are able to help, please see any of the existing Compass leaders.

Immerse – We were sorry to see Amy leave in July but very grateful to Claire Naylor for taking up the baton. We will need more help to support this activity in future, either up front or just as a helper to be present as a second adult. If you are able to help in this was, please speak to Claire.

Church Weekend – This is coming up soon, i.e. 14th-16th November and we have a good number signed up already (63?). If you are coming, please can you make sure that you let Noreen have your payments asap. This will be a great time to grow together as a family and to get to know Peter & Chris Bennett better. If you haven't already signed up I would strongly recommend that you do. Please see Noreen asap. We are very pleased that Ros Steel is going to be leading us, as we look at “What is the Church”.

Alpha – Preparations are continuing for Alpha, with a course due to start on 29th September. If this is something that you would like to help with please let Fiona know but most importantly please invite people along.

Worship – Beryl has done a great job organising the rota for the autumn term and coordinating with the circuit. Now that Peter is with us we should get more input and influence on the preaching rota, so hope to see an increase in the allocation of him to Peachcroft. Peter's first service will be the 21st September.

AGM – The AGM has been set as the evening of Sunday 19th of October at 8:00pm. Please put this into your diary and make every effort to attend. Please also prayerfully consider if you are being called to serve on the Church Council, Joint Council or any of the other bodies that we elect representatives to at the AGM. A list will appear at the back of the church in good time for you to sign up.