

Church Council Update - The following update reports on the discussion at the November Church Council meeting. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know or speak to any member of the Church Council. Thanks, Glenn.

Youth work – The appointment process is ongoing and has progressed considerably since the Church Council meeting last week. To date we have interviewed three candidates of which one is still under serious consideration and we intend to meet with him again shortly. We also had an application from a potential candidate currently living in South Africa and we now have a date for his visit to the UK, so we are hoping to interview him on Saturday 22nd November. Please let me know if you would like to be involved in this process.

We have an urgent need to arrange accommodation for the candidate and his wife during their visit to Abingdon (21st & 22nd November), please could you let me know a.s.a.p. if you are able to help by providing this or even if you would just be able to entertain them for a meal on one of the evenings.

Peter reported on a visit to the Vale grant committee that was considering a further application for extending their support for our youth outreach work. Whilst needing to do some further work it is looking likely that they will underwrite a further £3,000 this year (we do need to get the appointment sorted though to get any of the money). In addition, All Saints are making a generous commitment to supporting this work with a further £3,000 per year (subject to review).

Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities – We reviewed the feedback from the AGM, it was felt that whilst it was a good exercise, the time allocated at the AGM was insufficient to do the subjects justice. There wasn't really any identification of things to stop doing but plenty of things that we would like to start. It was noticeable that all groups focused on the activities in which the particular value they were looking at was dominant, rather than looking at all activities and saying how well that value was evident across all of them. For example the worship group thought about services, rather than how being at Compass or working in the kitchen could be considered a form of worship. Community Action was raised by several groups, particularly the need to have someone to own and drive it. If you feel a passion for this and would like to take on the organisation, please let us know. The CC will be reviewing this in more detail at a longer session on 23rd and any input before then would be welcome,

Finance – Iain reported that due to the delay in appointment of the Youth Worker and the reduction in ministry costs, the finances were looking healthy at the moment. The potential for a photocopier in the office was discussed but running costs need to be understood.

Policy – Alcohol It was agreed that we should set a time to review the alcohol policy as we had made a significant change when coming back into the building. It was agreed to do this in the New Year (i.e. after it had been in operation for 2 years).

Commercial Activities The need for a policy regarding private commercial activities was also discussed. It was agreed that these should be treated in a similar fashion to alcohol, in that permission should be sought from the Church Council prior to any such activities taking place. Iain will provide a form for those seeking permission to complete and the Church Council would of course take account of particular user groups input. It was also agreed that private commercial advertising would not be permitted on the church notice boards.