

Church Council Update

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

Youth work – Sadly the Youth Pastor job offer that I reported we had made in the December update was declined. Whilst the candidate had seriously considered it, they felt that they were being led to a different church. We must therefore continue the search. We have one outstanding candidate from the previous campaign that we are pursuing and inviting back for second interview but in parallel we intend to re-advertise the post.

It was very encouraging to hear that Compass/14-17 had received a visit from the Police Inspector and they are now working with the Vineyard Church to try to get a similar project off the ground in South Abingdon. This is a testament to the tremendous work and effort put in by all of the volunteers that support Compass/14-17 (many thanks to all of you).

Immerse will be looking at some challenging issues following on from Youth Alpha and will continue to be open to youth from inside and outside the church. A discipleship course is also being planned for members of Immerse wanting to explore the possibility of baptism or confirmation.

Marion Haynes will be taking over responsibility for the Sunday Club leadership, from the next meeting on 20th January. The Church Council would like to express thanks to Kelly for the work she has done in this role to date.

Homegroups – The feedback from the homegroup leaders meeting in December was discussed. Some groups are already quite large and there are people that have joined the church recently who haven't yet but may wish to join homegroups. It is planned to write to all church members and regular attendees, asking if they would like to belong to a small group and when would best suit them. It is not intended to significantly change existing groups but circumstances may have changed so members may prefer a different day now. We would strongly encourage everyone to part of a small group if possible, in any case please respond to the letter and let us know what you would like.

Marriage Course – The third course is starting next week. This is a great course and is beneficial for couples at any stage of life. It is not too late to sign up for it, so if you are interested please see Jean or Roger

Membership - We are planning a special service in the near future, as we have at least one person to be welcomed into membership of the church. If anyone else is interested in membership please let Peter know.

Worship – Feedback from the Christmas Services has been very positive but please let us know if you have any input on this.

Treasurer's Report - Iain reported that generally we are ahead of plan (mostly due to being behind plan with the Youth Pastor appointment), although utilities bills are the exception. Heating has been problematic but it is believed that the erratic problems have now been resolved. In addition the time that the heat is on for in the morning has been increased to ensure it is warm enough for daytime activities. It would helpful if the glass doors could be kept shut when the main hall is not being used.