

Church Council Update

The following update reports on the discussion at the February Church Council. The meeting was focused on two key items, youth work and café eden, in particular meeting and talking/praying with some of the leaders from these activities. These were felt to be important enough to warrant postponing much of the usual business and other agenda items to the March meeting:

Youth work – As reported last month, we have had to start advertising for the Youth Pastor appointment again. This has been placed in YouthWorker magazine and is being distributed through other channels. It is on our web site and has been distributed to everyone on the church mailing list. If you have any contacts where suitable candidates may be sourced, please pass them on. We are trying to be more flexible in our approach and will try to interview candidates as soon as possible after applications are received. As before we will try to involve as many people from the church as possible (including the young people) and hence will be seeking your help when we have applicants ready to interview.

Whilst it was very encouraging to hear the number of young people attending Compass/14-17, it is clear that this is causing a significant strain on the key leaders that are currently attending most sessions. The successful recruitment of a Youth Pastor will help but more immediate support is required. Different options for seeking people from outside the church were discussed and are being investigated but in the meantime if you are able to help in any way, please see Deb or Hazel.

Immerse was discussed, in particular the need both to support and to develop the young people from within the church, and also the desire to reach out to the youth from Compass/14-17, particularly those that had come to some of the Youth Alpha sessions. Whilst there is clearly a desire to support this, we do need to recognise that we cannot resource everything and some things may need to wait until we have the Youth Pastor and other resources in place. In the meantime it is planned to hold Immerse sessions in the homes of some church members (Roger & Jean, Bill & Katie, Martin & Beryl, Ken & Helen) and initially they will be looking at the 'Journeys' DVDs. The discipleship classes with Peter are also continuing.

café eden – The Church Council met with the leaders from both café eden sessions and it was hugely encouraging to hear of the growth and success of this to date. We have a small team of very dedicated people and it is something that is very much appreciated by those that come along. It is a great way to encourage people that entering a church isn't such a hard thing to do.

The team has plenty of ideas and are continuing to review and develop the café. Changes that the team is planning to implement to the menu and times of the Tuesday session were discussed and these are being brought in now. There is also a desire to extend the Saturday sessions, as that is now extremely busy but at this point we do not have the manpower to do so. It is hoped that this can be done at some point in the near future but in the meantime if anyone can help in any way (you don't need to be able to do the whole session or to be a chef to be able to help) then the team would appreciate the support. Please let Katie (Saturdays) or Helen N (Tuesdays) know if you can help or would like to discuss this further.

Marriage Course – It was good to hear that we have 6 couples on the course this time, which is the largest number to date.

STOP – Some changes in the leadership of the groups is happening, with Gill and Lyn Small stepping down. Jackie Walker is moving to help lead the Wednesday group and Kelly will be taking on responsibility for Monday with Fiona. A big vote of thanks go to Gill & Lyn for all they have done to support STOP and make it so successful and to Kelly & Jackie for their flexibility to ensure that the sessions can continue. More help is needed, particularly for the Wednesday group (you don't need to have toddlers to be able to help). If this is something you could consider, please see Fiona.

If you have any questions or comments on the above, please let me know or speak to any member of the Church Council. Thanks, Glenn.