

Church Council Update

The following update reports on the discussion at the April Church Council meeting and the subsequent Youth Pastor interview day on 4th April. If you have any questions or comments on any of this, please let me know or speak to any member of the Church Council. Thanks, Glenn.

Youth work – From around twenty expressions of interest we received four serious applications for the Youth Pastor position, which is a similar ratio to previous advertising campaigns. Of these applicants, not all were fully qualified but the Church Council considered it appropriate that we should be flexible in our approach and consider the option of employment at the trainee level with an appropriate adjustment in the package offered. We therefore invited two candidates to interview on 4th April. Both Candidates made a good impression and had strengths and weaknesses. After much consideration and discussion, it was decided to invite one of the candidates, Lawrance, back for further assessment. This will take the form of two observed practical sessions, one with Immerse and one with Compass. A final decision will then be made. In the meantime we continue to receive further enquiries and will consider further advertising options.

Immerse is continuing to meet in members houses and new material to follow the Journeys DVDs is being investigated. The group are shaping the programme going forward themselves, including a balance of study, prayer and social.

We were very pleased to receive and endorse the recommendation from Sunday Club that Jane Smith become a new Munchers leader. The numbers in this and the other Sunday Club groups can vary greatly and this can mean that leaders sometimes prepare material that is not required. The SC leaders are reviewing how best to respond to this, continuing to deliver this vital ministry whilst making best use of scarce/stretched resources (SC Leaders!). This will be discussed at the next CC with the SC leadership.

Homegroups – We had a good response to the letter sent out in January. A small amount of movement will happen to enable us to start a second group on Wednesday evenings. Those affected are being contacted and prayer chains updated to reflect the changes. It is very positive to see such a large percentage of the church involved in Homegroups, if you are not currently involved but would like to be or if you are not sure which group you will be asked to join, please contact Peter or Beryl.

There will be a cross homegroup Network Course start on the 27th April, again, if you would like to participate this but are not already signed up, please contact Peter or Beryl.

Church Council away afternoon – This is planned for Sunday 19th April, to ensure that we are spending time thinking more broadly than the nuts & bolts discussions that the regular CC meetings allow. This time the themes we will be considering are around how we move from welcoming into the building and serving the community to helping them to meet Jesus and make their own commitments. We will also be thinking about the Church community and how we integrate new members. If you would like to input anything to this discussion please talk to any member of the Church Council.

Church Weekend – We have booked the Frontier Centre near Northampton again for this year's Church weekend on the 13th -15th November. Please put this in your diary and make it a priority. Further details will be available after Easter.