

Church Council Update – The following update reports on the CC discussion in November. If you have any questions regarding this, please speak to Peter or any member of the Church Council (Roger Davidson, Beryl Tillin, Iain Carvel, Jo Wiggins, John Norris, Bill David, Glenn Smallcombe)

Youth Work – Lawrance updated us on the exciting plans for the youth concert on 21st November involving Oxford Young Steps, Immerse and Compass/14-2-17 members. Please support this event by coming on the night if you can but also remember to pray for the preparations. Offers of practical help would also be much appreciated.

AGM & Church Council – Feedback had been received this it was too rushed in trying to get through the AGM business and give sufficient time to an important subject such as the Environment and Sustainability. We will cut down the amount we try to do at future meetings and it is likely that we will have another Church meeting early in the New Year to allow more time for discussion as a whole church. The environmental sub group is collating the feedback from the AGM and this will be reviewed at the next CC meeting. Following the AGM we still have two vacancies on the Church Council and one on the Joint Council. If you were unable to make the AGM but would be interested in serving on one of these bodies, please let us know.

Sunday evening services – Feedback on the initial Sunday evening services has been positive and it was noted how blessed we had been recently with all of the new musicians joining us.

LEP Review – This is continuing and is expected to report back in December or early next calendar year.

CC Strategy reviews – Every six months the CC members spend half a day together for more strategic thinking, which is often difficult to give sufficient time and focus to during the regular monthly meetings. The next one of these will take place on Sunday 29th November. The subject for this session is, ‘Thinking about our Vision first - are our current ministries fulfilling this?’. This will probably lead onto other areas such as priority, load on individuals, ownership as a whole church and how we move people from initial contact to exploring the faith. If you would like to provide any input to these discussions, please talk to any member of the CC. We are also planning to put in place a more structured rolling programme to ensure that the CC meets with leaders from all of our key ministries regularly throughout the year.

Pastoral Care – Prayer at the front after Sunday services seems to be working well. The pastoral care training course has been valuable and about a dozen have attended. Many from the pastoral team have been reading ‘Grace outpouring’ by Roy Godwin and this is highly recommended reading for all in the church. If you have any questions regarding pastoral care, please talk to Roger or Jean Davidson.

Messy church – We are planning to trial this jointly with and at All Saints, starting in February/March and initially to run it every two months. If you would like to be involved with the organisation of this, please speak to Beryl or Marion.