

Church Council Update – The following update reports on the January Church Council meeting. If you have any questions regarding this, please speak to Peter or any member of the Church Council.

café eden – The Church Council met with the leaders of **café eden** (Katie, Helen & Helen) to get an update on how/where the café is going and what the current concerns or needs are.

The original vision of providing a relaxed, friendly environment where everyone feels welcomed remains and is being fulfilled thanks to a dedicated team of people and particularly due to the number of young people from the church that are regularly serving there. The café is going from strength to strength, both on Tuesday and Saturday and is proving very popular/busy, bringing many people into the church and providing a genuine service for the community.

A number of points were discussed around specific areas of the café but the area of most concern is around just how stretched the current team of helpers are. It has been recognised that in order to further fulfil our vision we need to have someone out at the front of the café all of the time. Two of the most significant factors putting pressure on the team and volunteers are the difficulties of filling the rotas and the length of the time commitment required when setting up, running the café and then clearing down again at the end. The team is keen to look at ways of reducing these burdens and is considering the option of breaking the rotas down so that individuals can come along for a shorter periods to focus on one particular aspect, for example for an hour at the start to set up or an hour at the end to do clear down. If you would be interested or able to help in some way, I am sure that the leaders would be very keen to hear from you. I would certainly recommend that a **café eden** panini in exchange for a bit of clearing up is well worthwhile 😊

A brief update from the **café eden** leaders providing some more detail on this will be circulated shortly. Please support this if you can, as it is a thriving and important part of our service and outreach into the community. Particular thanks go to Katie, Helen & Helen for the huge time and effort they have put into establishing and running the current café.

LEP Review – This is in the process of compiling the final report, which is expected by the next CC meeting and in time to provide an update at the Church meeting in February.

Building Fund – The latest update indicated that amazingly the new building is now paid for! This is at least five years ahead of our original expectations and puts us in a fantastic and privileged position. When raising money for the building, as a church we did agree that we would continue to raise funds in order to give a tithe to other projects, to build up the church in other locations. We need to start working on this now and it would be helpful to think about what projects we might support in order to focus our efforts. There will be an update on this and an opportunity to contribute ideas at the Church meeting in February, so please think prayerfully about what sort of projects or even what specific projects we should be raising money for.

Church meeting – As mentioned above and in the previous CC report, we are planning to hold a Church meeting in February. This is booked in for Sunday 28th February following the morning Service. We will allow time to collect coffee and will then have a short meeting which will be followed by a bring and share lunch. We don't hold many Church meetings, so I would strongly encourage you to attend. As well as being a platform for sharing information, it provides an opportunity for input and discussion as a fellowship.

Likely topics for the meeting are:

- All age worship/welcoming people
- Building Tithe (what it is/what we should do with it)
- Outreach/Alpha/Community Survey feedback
- LEP Review feedback (summary)
- Any other issues people would like to discuss

Please put this in your diary and make every effort to attend. If anyone would like to volunteer to coordinate the bring and share lunch, that would be very much appreciated.

Prayer before Sunday Services – We would just like to remind everyone that a small group meets each Sunday morning at 9.30am in the office for a short time of prayer. This finishes by 9.45am in order to be ready to greet folk coming for worship. Anybody that would like to join them would be very welcome.