

## **Church Council Update**

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

**Youth Work** – We had a visit from Neil and Jill Rowe, chair of the Church of England Deanery Synod to discuss the possibility of them supporting our Youth Work through the ‘Intentionally sharing life fund’. They also spent some time observing at the Compass Café and it was good to see that they could join us for the monthly Sunday evening service too.

**Worship** – Overall the feedback regarding the Sunday evening services has been positive and hence these will continue on a monthly basis. The Worship group is organising training for both Preachers, via a CWR course, and Worship Leaders, where we are trying to organise some training for a number of people at Peachcroft but bringing in external experts. It was agreed that the Church should pay for the training for all members invited to attend the courses.

**Outreach** – The Alpha course and alternatives were discussed, as it is clear that in its current form, Alpha is not fulfilling the need at Peachcroft. A less formal/structured approach using ‘Christianity Explored’ based on Mark's gospel is being considered. Further input and discussion with the whole Church is required to try to understand what would be most appropriate for Peachcroft. This will be included at the Church meeting.

**Church Weekend** – After the success of last years church weekend there is a desire to hold a similar time away together. Clearly there is a considerable investment in effort as well as finance to do this. One issue with the Frontier Centre near Northampton is the need to commit to minimum numbers to secure the exclusive use of the wings and main room. As our numbers sit between one and two wings, this has a significant impact and the weekend ran at a considerable loss last year. We are keen to explore all options and locations, including individual days away rather than whole weekends. If you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know.

**Community Survey** – One of the key points we were interested to find out from this was to understand what people would be interested in regarding exploring faith but in this case the results were inconclusive. Messy Church was the highest scoring item in this area and the first event was a great success. From the survey in general, whilst there were not sufficient responses (32) for this to be statistically significant sample, more than 80% of the respondents indicated that they would be interested in or they thought that there was a need for the following:

- Courses to help with parenting of young children
- Courses to help with parenting of teenagers
- Drug awareness seminars for parents
- Drug awareness seminars for teenagers
- Family fun days
- Concerts/performing arts

The good news is that at least it is in line with our expectation and these are the things that we thought it would be good to do more of, **when time and resources allowed**.

**LEP Review** – The report is still being finalised, whilst an insight into the content will be provided at the Church meeting, the formal report will follow.

**Church meeting** – This will be after church on Sunday 28th February, followed by a bring and share lunch. After coffee we will reconvene in the main hall at around 11.45am for the meeting, which will finish by 1.00pm at the latest. We intend to cover a number of topics including the Building Project tithe, Outreach & Alpha and the LEP Review plus a time for open discussion if there are things that members would like to raise. Please make the effort to attend if you can and to support the lunch together afterwards.