

Notes from a meeting held on Monday 8th March 2010

Present: Beryl, Denzil, Leah, Lara, Stephen

Apologies: Pearl

1. Prayer/Awareness Walk

We have scheduled two awareness prayer walks for the Summer. Sunday 1st August and Tuesday 24th August. Times, details etc to be discussed at the next meeting but possibly combining the walk and prayer with tea/food. One of the walks will be themed (possibly around creation or local business) and the other will be scriptural – reflecting on a verse of scripture at each stopping place.

It was also agreed to leaflet some local roads with leaflets about Holy Week and Easter services.

2. Godly Play (Party for the Recently Baptised)

The December event had gone really well. Since then we have had conversations with the Parish Resources officer at Church House about the possibility of a parish mission fund grant towards resources and materials etc. We have also spoken to Junior Church leaders in order to involve them and the children from Junior Church. The next invite (for which invitations have already been sent) is on Sunday 28th March 2010. We will ask parents if July is ok for the next event.

3. Party for the Recently Married

Although numbers hadn't been as we had hoped we did have a great evening and the feedback and comments from those who came was particularly useful. They are keen in being a part of the openmind worship events which the Worship & Faith group are in the process of thinking about. It was suggested that if the event was repeated then the invitation could include a quote from someone who came last time saying how they had enjoyed it.

4. Youth Group

This is on hold for the time being as we are concentrating on the other parts of our nurture programme. But in autumn we will revisit the idea. Some work has been done on a database of names. We need to discuss more about format, age groups and frequency etc.

5. Baptism Programme

It was suggested that on the anniversary of baptism a card could be sent from the church to the family. We shall do this for those baptised during 2009. From next year this will get easier as the anniversaries will all be on the 'set' Sundays on this year's baptisms.

6. Wedding Programme

We are now following the Church of England's project about wedding preparation and follow-up. This too includes an anniversary card for couples after their first year.

7. Pastoral Care

As part of our review of this group's remit we started to look at the issue of pastoral care and visiting. A useful discussion centred on the difficulty and sensitivity of knowing who hadn't been in church for a while and whether or not they should be visited etc. Sometimes people fall away, sometimes people

leave, and whilst the clergy or other members may know, not everybody is aware. It was felt that a postcard simply saying that we were thinking of, or praying for that person could be sent by the clergy if necessary. At the next meeting we shall look in more details about issues of pastoral visiting and pastoral care of the sick.

8. After Church...

A comment had been made that it was surprising that such a social and friendly church had few people staying for coffee after the service. Suggestions include: opening the doors wider between the church and hall, one of the clergy standing in the hall, tables and chairs to be set up to encourage people to sit in the hall with coffee and that the coffee should be encouraged during the notices.

Next Meetings: Monday 10th May 2010 at 11am
Monday 12th July 2010 at 11am
Monday 13th September at 11am
Monday 8th November at 11am