

Church of the Good Shepherd

PROPOSED GROWTH PLAN

Agreed at the DCC on 12th October 2009

BACKGROUND

The DCC asked the Focus group to formulate a growth Plan using the responses and comments arising from the growth Strategy review meeting on 13th May 2009.

RECAP

Early in 2006, the church produced a growth Strategy

In brief, the basic strategy was that we want to be/continue to be a church which is:

- Clearly energised by faith in Christ, with a deep, attractive, nourishing integrity
- Encompassing all ages
- Caring with an on-going welcome and a concern for the wider community

To achieve this we recognised that amongst other things we needed to:

- Build on existing opportunities with for example, hall users
- Recognise the importance and widen the scope of the Pastoral Committee
- Recognise the importance of the buildings and grounds in terms of welcome and use

Since then it was recognised that if this was to be effective then:

- We need to integrate the growth strategy into existing structures
- We need to measure all of church life by the strategy
- We need to engage with the community rather than expect them to come to us

STRATEGY REVIEW

At the meeting the basic strategy was accepted but was suggested that it needed filling out.

We are a Eucharist centred church in our worship through the word and sacrament. (*This has been affirmed with the main Sunday service being a communion, including All-Age Communion and the policy of Communion before Confirmation*)

The product we advertise must be the one experienced. In all our advertising and selling of ourselves we must make sure that is what people experience when they come into contact with the church community, be it on a Sunday or other times.

PROPOSED GROWTH PLAN – 2010/2011

Continue to recognise the ongoing importance of

- Building on existing opportunities with e.g. hall users
- Widening the scope of the Pastoral Committee
- The buildings and grounds in term of welcome and use.

Buildings

It is proposed that we carry out a feasibility study following the suggestion by Mike Stanley regarding the re-ordering of the church so that it could be more available for community use.

The implications and practicalities would have to be carefully thought through – perhaps the best way forward being forming a small group say 3. It was suggested that the advice of D.A.C. should be sought at an early stage to gain from their experience of how this has been done by other parishes – visiting some of these parishes. It would be important that the group has a clear understanding of why we wish to do this.

The study will probably take a time (aim for early 2011) and in the meantime we should be alert to make our building friendly and accessible for services.

Services

Aim to participate in Back to Church Sunday in 2010

Seek to explore ways of having informal/different services to attract newcomers.

Outreach

Explore how we can be more pro-active in our advertising including the importance of telling people and inviting them to events.

Continue to encourage and enable our personal witness –we should be more free in speaking about our faith.

We recognise that the appointment of the new rector may have an influence on these plans.