

Barcombe PCC

Priorities for the Next Five Years

Over the last few months the PCC have been considering the four main themes identified in the PCC away day and seeking to understand God's purpose in our lives as a church and as individuals.

The four main themes are:

- (i) Sharing our Faith (discussed on 18th Nov 2010)**
- (ii) Faith for Younger People (discussed on Feb 17th 2011)**
- (iii) Faith in Action (discussed on March 24th 2011)**
- (iv) Increasing our Faith (to be considered in May 2011)**

Over the next few weeks we will share the main ideas for each theme with the Church and seek feedback and comments from house groups and church members.

A summary document will be placed in the Link and on the Web Site.

If you have any comments or questions please contact James or Peter or any member of the PCC or discuss in your house group

Theme (iii) Faith in Action

The PCC considered a range of ideas from the away day. Three themes emerged during the discussion and form the basis of the vision for greater involvement and support in the local community. The vision was also to break down barriers of loneliness and enable people to come together for a wide range of activities and social events. Overall the aim is for the church to serve the community and increase opportunities for sharing our faith. The themes were:

1. The concept of a programme of events, activities and support for church members and the local community. Examples include existing and new activities which cluster into a number of categories:
 - Social events – church fair/ barn dance/music sessions, etc.
 - Support activities – counselling/parenting/debt and financial advice
 - Health related - care afternoon/
 - Physical activities – Pilates/gym session/keep fit etc.
 - Regular activities – coffee/ weekly lunch etc.
 - Spiritual support – prayer corner in St Francis /drop in sessions

The programme would also allow for other people to book the space in St.Francis as at present.

2. To establish a planning group to co-ordinate and publicise the programme. The group would seek to ensure that the programme met needs and did not conflict with other activities or services in the village.
3. To investigate whether St Francis could be adapted and developed as a hub for a range of activities in the village. This will consider:
 - How the building can be configured to offer flexible spaces for a range of activities
 - How best to provide catering facilities for coffee and lunch sessions
 - Heating and insulation
 - Management and oversight.

Clearly some activities would be better suited to other locations such as the village hall and the Conker Room. In addition some support would be an outreach into people's homes and other organisations in the community.

The investigation will also consider whether it would be better to use other facilities rather than St Francis and find an alternative use for the building or site.

Peter Frost April 2011