

**Holy Trinity Parish Church
Westbury-on-Trym**

Growth Plan 2009

At our PCC meeting in January 2008 we reflected on the Diocesan Growth Programme and considered the areas in which we felt that we had made progress, those aspects that are currently a "work in progress", and those where we felt that we had fallen short or need to direct more thought and prayer. The outcome of that reflection was the preparation of a Growth Plan for 2008. In January 2009 the PCC reviewed the outcome of the 08 Growth Plan and reflected on how we could move forward in the coming year. The Vision and Strategy Group reflected on this in February 2009, and generated various ideals to incorporate into our 2009 Growth Plan.

Partnership

- Our link with **Westbury-on-Trym Methodists** has developed considerably and is becoming very fruitful. Joint council meetings are held, and congregations of both churches support each others social events. This was very much in evidence at the May Community Fair this year. A joint Lent course was held this year.
- We continue our link with **the Emmanuel Church Plant** which now meets at Red Maids School in Westbury. Members from Emmanuel have given reports on their church group to recent PCC meetings.
- The link between **Westbury Church Primary School** and our congregation has grown in depth with the children becoming more involved in the church, holding musical events in the church and inviting the congregation to their school services.
- We also continue to play a part in **Churches Together in the Westbury Area**;
- We continue to maintain links with the local community, including the **Westbury on Trym Society**.

Influence

- Through our church **school** we have huge opportunities to develop our work with young people. A few children from the school are currently undergoing training to become servers in church. This is a way in which families who may not attend church regularly, if at all, often become committed members of the congregation.
- We are involved and engaged in the **local community**, for example the Westbury on Trym Society, the local ATC and other uniformed organisations. The May 09 Community Fair was a great success.
- As a church family we need to consider the **ecological issues** that concern us - sustainability, recycling etc. This is an area in which we have only made minor efforts so far (green bins, paper & cardboard recycling, energy efficient light bulbs).

Plans for Growth:

Continue to progress in link.

Develop surgery café idea with Methodists

Ask advice from Emmanuel regarding their success in keeping young people on board

2009 – major music and drama production planned.

Fair to be held in 2010 along same lines

Wardens to engage in Diocesan policy

- We have a well-supported **Traidcraft** stall each week after the main Sunday Eucharist.

2009 Bereavement visitors update session May 09 & in Autumn

Numbers

- We have made positive **connections with local people and families** who are not regular churchgoers in a variety of ways; through Baptism preparation and follow up, through pastoral visiting, by encouraging young people to become servers in the church, supporting our church choir, and encouraging the re-formation of a boys choir. The Pastoral Committee have established a group of Bereavement Visitors, and now hold twice-yearly training sessions led by Peter Ellmore.
- **Music** is a strength in our church, and is often way in which people from the wider community are first introduced to Westbury Church, through joining choirs or attending musical events.
- **Worship** We have developed our third Sunday 10am service to become more family-orientated (now called the Emmaus Service). We are developing Sunday Evening worship, and include Worship & Praise services and Memorial services alternating with evensong on a 2-monthly basis.
- **Prayer** – a prayer group is to be set up, meeting once or twice a month. This will be an open prayer session, to pray for the community, the churches, the world and for direction. To involve Methodists and Emmanuel once off the ground.
- Since **renovating an area at the back of the church**, we now have a larger area for socialising after services. This work has also given us a "buggy-friendly" area, which has prompted favourable comments from young families. We are very aware of the need to make young families feel welcomed and relaxed when they are in church.
- Our teams of sidespeople understand the need to be **welcoming**, and receive yearly updates and training.

Revisit Baptism visitors group, this needs work

Consider "café style" events

Trinity Sunday 09 event aimed at families of those baptised 07-09

Lyn to set up, could be picked up by House Groups having the theme of prayer after Lent.

Wardens arrange yearly

Consider new house group following Christianity Explored Away Day May 09

V&S to engage with Diocesan Vision

Commitment

- This is an area in which we are trying to move forward through encouraging a stronger commitment to our *House Groups*, through *stewardship building* (time, talents and money) and through *training opportunities*, quiet days, Lay Readers training and PCC away days. A new House Group has been set up following Confirmation this year.
- Part of the restructuring of the PCC has resulted in the formation of a **Vision and Strategy Group** whose specific remit is to take an all-embracing view of our church life and, through prayer and example, guide members of the church congregation and PCC in their future activities.

Stewardship plans confirmed for June & July

- The 2009 financial budget recently presented to PCC included a forecast increase in our share payment. However, this area still needs prayer and effort to achieve increased commitment of the whole congregation.

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