

## **WESTBURY PARK UNITED PARISH GROWTH PLAN**

*A Christian community where all are valued and have a sense of belonging that is dedicated to growth in the Spirit, worship, learning, supporting, and nurturing people and groups and that makes a difference to the wider community.*

**Through the following objectives we aim to be:**

### **A Unified Community**

*Improving efficiency to create sound structures underpinning our wider mission:*

- To be achieved by streamlining our forms of governance around the EPC and a small number of fully integrated committees while also reviewing the effective use of our joint church plant and finances in order to maximize their full potential.

**ACTION: To achieve a unified structure by September 2008**

### **A Worshipping Community**

*Growing together in worship that thins the veil between earth and heaven:*

- To build on the solid foundations of the traditional choral, formal and informal liturgies that both churches offer while continuing to embrace new styles and technologies in worship in order that we might create sacred space for all people at all stages in their faith journey.
- To explore mid-week patterns of worship applicable to contemporary lifestyles.
- We are looking at flexibility in our worship, in terms not only of style but also of time and place so that it relates to the needs of different generations and is also effective for both the committed and the seeker.

**ACTION: To unite our worshipping congregations**

### **A Learning Community**

*Helping people work out what faith means in their daily lives*

- To revisit ventures involving small groups which aim to nurture and equip the faithful to better share the Gospel with their neighbours.
- To introduce contextually relevant and challenging opportunities for exploring the 'big questions' in life to the wider community through such events as film and faith evenings, and to provide a public forum for debate. We wish to both equip those within our faith community for the task of sharing the Gospel and to provide a challenge and stimulus for others to enrich their lives through Christ.

**ACTION: To relaunch with wider appeal small groups.**

### **A Caring and Serving Community**

*Growing in informed engagement with the issues which face society and putting the Gospel into practice in our relationships with all of God's creation:*

- To foster an informed and prophetic role in public debate (e.g. in the political, social, educational and cultural spheres) as well as continuing to work closely with Westbury Park Primary School.
- To continue to address local needs by supporting the Thursday Community Day Centre and identifying and tackling other local problems.

- To consolidate our support for Christian Aid, CMS, Amaudo and our Methodist Mission Partners through the way we live as much as the way we give, for example by consistently promoting the sale and use of fairly traded goods as a Fairtrade Church.
  - Becoming an outward focused community following the example of the Incarnation by immersing ourselves in the work of the world.
- ACTION: To ensure continued support for existing community services**

### **A Loving Community**

*Promoting a sense of belonging, where all people are valued and welcomed:*

- By championing equality and challenging prejudice and injustice, leading by the example of making all our facilities and literature accessible to all.
- Providing support for young families, both as a safe space for them to bring their children and as somewhere to explore their own needs.
- To support care assisted people living in the community
- Being a community which is both inclusive in our welcome but also sensitive to the needs and aspirations of others.

**ACTION: To combine all aspects of Pastoral Work**