

Leadership Team Latest News

This section of our web pages provides an update on our recent meetings and the topics we are currently working on.

Our next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday 13th March 2018 when we meet to review prepare for the LEP AGM. A report of that meeting will be added shortly after that date.

If you have any comments or questions, please drop an email to Alan Gwynn at opsmanager@thru-christ.org.uk or speak to any member of the [Leadership Team](#). Thank you!

January 2018 meeting

At this meeting, we welcomed Revd Anna Harwood back to the team following her appointment as Vicar. As well as our usual review of our strands, we took the opportunity to present the findings of the MAP review meeting to Anna and also to think about the possible future shape of the Leadership Team. We agreed that the time was right to expand the team to include St Nicholas' Hurst.

With that in mind, we will hold one further meeting of the team in its present form in order to prepare for the AGM in April. We will then hold a meeting in July with representatives from Hurst at which we hope to agree the future shape of the team. The team will then meet in its expanded form from September onwards.

October 2017 meeting

The Leadership Team held an extra meeting on Saturday 7th October. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of our Mission Action Plan at the halfway point of its first 5 years. In doing this, we took a step back from tracking individual objectives within the plan to look at the wider aims we had set ourselves at the start of the process 2½ years ago.

Starting from our Vision that we are *Loved by Christ and Challenged to Grow*, our Mission Action Plan focuses on four areas for growth.

- Grow in our personal discipleship
- Grow in our corporate discipleship
- Grow in our effectiveness as instruments of the kingdom in our communities
- Grow as congregations

Under each of these headings in the plan, we set out some Aims about the sort of Christian community we want to be if we are to grow in these areas. In our review process, we focused on these Aims, thinking about what progress we have made against each of them, and where God might be leading us next.

Three main themes emerged from our discussion:

- We need to make more of what we have to offer in our different styles of worship and to work on making people feel welcome in our services and activities.

- We need to encourage one another to think carefully about what Sacrificial Service & Giving means for each one of us and to develop a heart for mission in our response to the wider world. (This was one of the five key gospel values we identified back in 2012.)
- We need to do better at reaching out to individuals, particularly those in our congregations and community who may be lonely or vulnerable.

We will reflect on these themes at our next meeting in January and use them to guide our thinking in the months ahead.

September 2017 meeting

Highlights from the review of our strands were:

- Excellent Chattabox week, with 41 children and 20 adults taking part.
- Preparations in hand for Fun Run and Quiet Day.
- Pastoral Team preparing for Commemoration Service on 29th October.
- Nick & Debs Procter to oversee Discipleship Groups, with Kevin & Jo Cowley stepping up to lead Nick & Debs' group.
- Orange sheet, giving update on Mission Action Plan, published in July.

We also took note of the Bishop of Oxford's letter to parishes: "Called to be Christ-like: contemplative, compassionate and courageous". This will be the subject of further study.

We held a brief discussion in preparation for our next meeting on Saturday 7th October when we plan to review progress with our Mission Action Plan. We are now at the half-way point of the initial 5 year period of the plan.

May 2017 meeting

At our May meeting, we reflected on recent progress in each of our strands and looked forward to some forthcoming events.

In the area of Outreach, our Good Friday and Easter services had been good occasions and we now looked forward to our participation in the Donkey Derby. For the Prayer strand, preparations were well advanced for the Novena, when we would be using the Archbishops' "Thy Kingdom Come" material. Planning was also in hand for another Quiet Day, to take place on Saturday 23rd September.

The Quiz Evening and Christian Aid Barn Dance had been successful and enjoyable occasions. We now looked forward to the URC Anniversary Lunch on 9th July. The next highlight in our work with children and young people will be the annual Chattabox holiday club at the end of August. Prayer journeys continue to be successfully led in our local primary schools.

In our review of the Mission Action Plan, we noted that we were now approaching the half-way point of our initial 5 year period. We are therefore planning to take some time to review our progress to date and to reflect on where God may be leading us over the next 2-3 years. Look out for a further report on this in due course.