

Caldwell Parish Church

Future Focus Session 3 (25/11/2017) Facilitator's Report

Introduction

A total of 8 people as well as the Minister attended the session which was held in the church from 12:30 until 3:00pm.

Dreams for the future

After much looking back and also looking at present issues, it was at last, time to look forward! The timelines (from the first session) were placed back on the tables and without initial discussion; everyone was invited to write on individual post-it notes their hopes, visions and dreams for 2017/18 (and beyond). People were able to write as many as they wished and stick them down on their respective timelines. Afterwards, there was a time for discussion at their tables and each group "clustered" the post-it notes, according to common themes, such as outreach, worship, desires for more young people in the congregation, etc. There were however, occasional clusters of just one or two post-it notes, but all were to be treated equally.

Once this exercise was completed, each group was asked to look at the clusters and agree on three priority dreams and then to write these on the ends of the lining paper sheets, under the written heading of "Hopes, Vision and Dreams".

The groups' dreams were as follows:

Group 1

1. We want to build on established links with children and reach out to young people in the community
2. To build and extend our activities through innovative ways of communication, visits, activity and inter-group work
3. We want to promote inclusive and vibrant worship that explores different methods of communication, choral, multi-media and written options

Although for the time being, only the top 3 dreams will be focused on, it should be noted that each group came up with a number of other dreams, which have been recorded below for future reference.

Church seen as welcoming and inclusive within the community

Concerted effort to get to know the new villagers in the Mure park and make them feel welcome

Cradle roll gathering

Follow up baptisms by inviting parents to bring young ones along to church/crèche/Sunday club

Fully established minister and "team" supported by inter-generational initiative

Follow up on lapsed members – invite them with a specific take in mind to help them feel involved/needed/cared about

Increased number of elders to help energise activities in the church

Individual and group talents harnessed to better serve and promote church

Outreach within the community

Transcript of sermon to be made available to membership and others interested

Better use of church facilities

Stepping out towards the dreams

The same six groups were then invited to agree and outline the very first two steps they would take towards each of their dreams. Please see results below.

Group 1 – 1. “We want to build on established links with children and reach out to young people in the community”

1. Invite and include Primary school children to take part in church related activities and extend Cradle Roll
2. Inter-generational worker – Re-Application to employ such a person to help implement goals

2. “To build and extend our activities through innovative ways of communication, visits, activity and inter-group work”

1. Using “Christingle” service in conjunction with community council “Christmas tree and lights” to provide a service for the whole community followed by tea and mince pies

3. “We want to promote inclusive and vibrant worship that explores different methods of communication, choral, multi-media and written options”

1. Review success of using congregation to read scripture and build on this to include evening worship – introducing young people to jobs within the church e.g. Beadle, sound technician, etc.
2. Invitation to members to participate

What next?

There was a short time for questions and any further comments. Robbie then intimated that in due course, he would complete and send his third and final report, and encouraged the group to keep momentum with this project and to communicate clearly with the congregation all that has been identified through this process, setting a further date to meet and discuss how best to move things forward.

Robbie Morrison Facilitator