

ST MARTIN'S VISION DAY**9 January 2011****WHAT NEXT?**

The planning team of David Cowan, Clair Fisher, Sue Jamieson, Val Ogden, Clare Truman and Chris Watts have debriefed the day and offer this response to the church. Sue, Val and Chris met and compiled the response with David, Clare and Clair's blessing who were unable to attend the meeting.

How do we think the day went?

- Numbers were excellent – between 60 -70
- Possibly the leadership talked too much and groups could have had longer talk time?
- A strong sense of identity and belonging to one particular denomination came over from some
- In general people mixed and talked across denominational boundaries, but some opted for safety
- The logistics around the questionnaires in advance could have been better handled
- The day delivered pretty well what the Wardens and Stewards had in mind
- Circuit and Diocesan leadership are impressed that St Martin's had the faith to hold a Vision Day in a time of uncertainty

What has happened since?

The initial feedback was uploaded to Church and Centre websites and made available in paper form on the Church and Centre notice boards. The invitation for anyone to respond to it via any of the planning team was made but only anecdotal/casual responses have been forthcoming. The General Questionnaire feedback (18 returns) was collated and is attached.

Three of the planning team met on 12/02/2011 with the blessing of the other three members, and the team recommends that the best way forward is to order the initial feedback into grouped topics and tasks, request the existing St Martin's Task Groups to discuss the topics at their next meeting, and to begin identifying related tasks as they are able, and as they judge appropriate. A 'like' or a 'dislike' does not of itself constitute a helpful mission strategy! Task groups need to pray for wise discernment and the Holy Spirit's guidance as they look at the totality of opinion. Some topics appear in more than one group because there is inevitably overlap and these are marked *. A significant amount of feedback was given on the topic of worship services and styles. The planning group therefore recommends that a new task group be formed, called perhaps: WORSHIP, PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY?

The group commends the excellent work already done in task groups, at the same time recognising that some may need an injection of new life, particularly PROJECTS. However, the model of four active task groups, working across both congregations, meeting regularly, focussing on and praying for the topics/tasks suggested, identifying and recommending actions to PCC, MCC & JCC and actually getting things done, is an attractive model for moving forward in mission. This strategy, if approved, then needs the maximum promotion and publicity throughout our congregations, so that information is fully shared and task groups are grown, developed, supported and affirmed.

The planning team is not intending to meet again, believing that its work is done. But members look forward to being active in the task groups for ongoing implementation.

Relevant to all Task Groups are the following

Feedback – Best Bits

Pastoral: We care for everyone. People who are not ‘religious’ find solace with us. Wonderful support in times of trouble and sadness. Excellent gatherings like today – and especially on the occasions when we have beautiful food – thank you. Fellowship. Warmth & love amongst the members. Warm welcome on arrival at Church. Church fellowship – housegroups, lunches, events. Feels like a village church – so involved in the community. Supportive nature of St. Martin’s people. Pastoral Care is brilliant. Friendliness and outreach of the Christian Centre is unique and serves a much needed purpose in the Town.

Services: The services are traditional. I love the music – Martin’s playing is so glorious. I love the choir. An outstanding Choir. I like it when Sunday club comes in. Music. Children orientated services.

Housegroups : Housegroups – fellowship and fun. The beginnings of housegroups. Homegroups help us to get to know people.

Other points: Lights in the Lady Chapel.

Can you identify growth areas at St. Martin’s at the moment, what is making them successful? Children and Youth 15 Sunday Club 40 Youth. Home Groups 5+ 20 max. Growing in love. Commitment: Small numbers. Mutual acceptance. Knowledge of the bible – lay people more involved. Faith & Spirituality – more involvement. New Initiatives are positive. Unpaid clergy & ministry. Interregnum is good. PAs and pastoral visiting. Housegroups. Developments in the Centre Quiet Garden. Messy Church. Youth Group. Christian Centre – brings a lots of income and is at the heart of St. Martin’s as many use the Christian Centre as a place to find help.

Who is on the fringe of our church and how can we serve them? Schools. Baptism Parties. Funerals. Messy Church. Youth Groups. Uniformed Organisations. Visitors to the Christian Centre. Volunteers in the Christian Centre. We can serve them by being good neighbours.

Who do we identify as ‘our communities’ and what do we identify as their needs? Community – Town Church, Civic, Local Council Meetings. Wandering Church yard Community. Homeless & Travellers. Concerts. Schools. Difference in geography of both churches affects pastoral needs. Can use both Methodist and Anglican practices in supporting our networks. Friday Market. St. Martin’s Shopping Centre. Working Community of Dorking.

What can we do to play our part in meeting those needs? Identify community needs by looking at ourselves and our own needs.

Where are we shrinking and why? Room from more loving and less personal criticism. We're shrinking because the church is all about the old times. Course work stops many young people going to church as its one the two days they get to catch up and I think the fact that they are put under a lot of pressure at school many people just need those two days; also they use Sundays to sleep because of the early morning the next day, and many people just don't believe any more. Media effects – Christianity seen as negative. Maybe not shrinking, but not growing.

Relevant particularly to PCC/MCC/JCC

What sort of person makes a good minister? Strong leader who can hold things together. Strong preacher and charismatic personality can attract new members. Is there really an advantage in 'a young family man with children'. .. Is there any evidence that they will attract more youngsters. Plan for the congregation you wish you had!

When you think about St. Martin's church, the Christian Centre... What should the make up of our leadership team be and why? A team contains different personalities, different strengths. They need to be able to communicate and be mutually supportive. They need a leader for each congregation, plus a shared management team (church). More sharing in the management of the church and DCC. If we reshape our patterns of worship, will we need to reshape our leadership team? Centre leader with Pastoral responsibilities for the Centre. ... Could be a minister who sees Centre as part of their responsibility.

Relevant particularly to DCC management

Best thing at the Christian Centre is the meals... Keep that! Lights not to be on at night. Include preparation time in booking. Ability to lock (if unlocked). Improve entrance (including door – is too heavy). Moveable display space for groups.

The tables on the following pages direct the rest of the feedback to Task Groups

GROWING OUR CHURCH	COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	PROJECTS	WORSHIP, PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY
*Too few people doing too much work	*Too few people doing too much work	Not enough people helping to keep the church clean and tidy	Should be more pulpit swaps
Skills audit of all members eg. gardening, babysitting, fundraising for the church, cleaning	Attend each other's services voluntarily	The bogey green carpet	Attend each other's services voluntarily
Schools project 'tidying our church'	Clear lines of communication needed so we know who to talk to about what	The heating in the Lady Chapel	People who take your hand at The Peace but don't look at you, or who are already looking for the next handshake
Encourage schools to have wider involvement	Local visitors assume that others should pay for the upkeep of the church...The 'others' = us!	Can't find the entrance; need signs from High Street and Car Park	The lack of courtesy of people who chat during the anthem
New ways to engage visitors	New ways to engage visitors	The gates give a feeling of 'keep out'	0930 overrunning so interferes with Methodists
More for children	Co-ordinate the display material – heritage events	Entrance needs a total revamp	I used to enjoy morning prayer very much. I find communion too often takes place.
* Should we be about a spiritual boost on* Sunday or mission in Dorking? That determines how the service should be	* Should we be about a spiritual boost on Sunday or mission in Dorking? That determines how the service should be	There are no boards displaying hymns in the Lady Chapel	*Should we be about a spiritual boost on Sunday or mission in Dorking? That determines how the service should be

GROWING OUR CHURCH	COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	PROJECTS	WORSHIP PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY
*In fellowship we work well together – not so often in worship – some fellowship should therefore involve more worship – eg. Passover meal, Harvest Supper with worship	*In fellowship we work well together – not so often in worship – some fellowship should therefore involve more worship – eg. Passover meal, Harvest Supper with worship	Lack of flexibility of the building – but unambitious to change it	*In fellowship we work well together – not so often in worship – some fellowship should therefore involve more worship – eg. Passover meal, Harvest Supper with worship
*Need to grow in confidence to bring people in	*Need to grow in confidence to bring people in	Teams with rotating responsibilities and leader for quarterly cleaning	Old hymns in a language which is hard for newcomers and youngsters to understand.
Need for support/mentoring/training practice without fear of criticism	At a certain church they have postcards which they give out every time someone helps someone eg. A gift from St Martin's	More visible collecting box for funds	Not enough familiar hymn tunes
A Farmers' Market in the churchyard?	What do outsiders want? Difficult to find out	Pew leaders – split cleaning down into chunks	Hymns and tunes you cannot sing to properly
A presence in the church is needed for people to talk to – the personal touch	1:2:1 discussions to raise awareness of what church can provide	Need to formalise the job – volunteer contracts?	Not enough carols that are well known at Christmas when we have so many visitors
*Publicity about our services in schools	Social responsibility and outreach – shared committee to research how the church can help with problems in the town	Can younger people sweep up leaves etc?	No boards displaying hymns in the Lady Chapel
Use our affiliation to uniformed groups to get them more involved	Forms of worship can bring people in eg. crib service	A Farmer's market in the churchyard?	Forms of worship can bring people in eg. crib service

	COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	PROJECTS	WORSHIP PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY
	Can there be a visitors' book?	Improvements that need space – cleaning, flowers, storage space	Unknown tunes which are difficult to pick up
	*Publicity about our services in schools	Coffee bar in the church	Listening to anthems which I can't follow the words so I can't join in (silently!) in the worship aspect
	What can be done to make us more professional on fundraising?	West door – steps and ramps	Holy Communion every week
	Attend each other's services voluntarily	Chairs in some parts eg side aisles	People offer to read/sidesmen not used
	Better communication between congregations	Signs on High St and car park	Not using the pulpit for sermons
	Can there be Sponsorship of...'with credit in the magazine	St Martin's sign 'open on Sundays'	Not always had this pattern of service. Holy Communion can put some people off coming to Church – does not have to be every week
	Something in the porch (Christian Centre) to advertise special services	Update and relocate history book	Take labels off the services: 9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Morning Worship
		People feel they don't know the Crypt/building	Communion services are very flexible
		Importance of the Lady Chapel – what about growing congregation fitting in?	Could swap to communion once a month
			Communion is what Sunday service should be

GROWING OUR CHURCH	COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	PROJECTS	WORSHIP, PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY
		Heating in the Church	Change the times
		Glass doors Narthex/Lobby area	A robed choir not at every service
			Include some tradition in the All-Together services to get children used to it
			Less formality in the Lady Chapel so it can be explained as communion is taken
			Communion should be after Matins
			As a regular I'd like one hymn I at least know a bit
			A really good well known hymn to end with