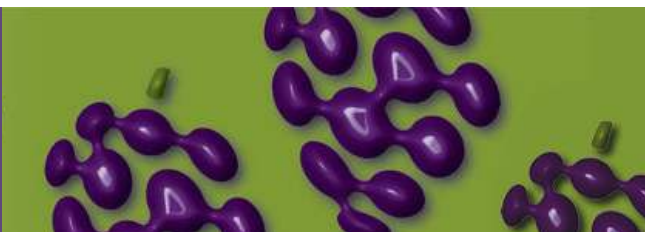


## Helping our Churches to Grow



### Four Sessions and a Party

Our first parish-wide initiative, launched at the Special Meeting in June, is a short course aimed at helping us to help our churches to grow. We each have a part to play in helping our churches to thrive and this course is one way that we hope many people from all three churches will come together to think, to pray, to talk, to plan and ... at the end of the course ... to Celebrate at a Party!

---

#### What is the purpose of this course?

Primarily we hope that the course will be fun, that those who join a group will enjoy meeting with people from the church they go to and with people from the other churches in the parish. However, the course is also designed to help us understand how to develop a plan so that we can assess where we are as a church, to ask where God might be calling us, and to work out how we get from where we are to where we believe God might be calling us.

#### What sort of course is it?

It's based around small groups, which will meet across the parish and throughout the week. The material is designed so that everyone and anyone can participate at what level you feel comfortable. The course is based around some passages from the bible and the material encourages members to share their thoughts and feelings in a way that is intended to be engaging and fun.

#### When are the small groups meeting?

There will be groups meeting at these times:

Tuesday afternoon in Upper Warren Avenue  
Wednesday morning in St Peters Church  
Thursday morning in St Johns Church

Tuesday evening in Mayfield Drive  
Wednesday evening in Hemdean Road  
Thursday evening in Hewett Close

#### Will my small group be just for members of my church?

Not really. Some may end up like that, but we are asking people to select the time that is best for them rather than to join the group for 'their church'. At the final party (Wed 20 Oct) we will be doing some thinking in church groups.

#### Who'll be leading the groups?

A variety of people. Some of the groups will be led by clergy and some by lay people.

#### Is it just the small groups?

No. There's also a series of themes for Sunday and midweek worship which will form the basis of the sermons from mid-September to mid-October. The course encourages us to introduce the theme for the week so that we can engage as many people as possible and talk with one another about the issues not just in our small groups, but also over coffee after church and even whilst waiting in the school playground, working out at the gym or in the supermarket checkout queue!

## What's this about a Party?

The final event is a party on Wednesday 20 October in St Johns Church. Much food and drink will be provided as we celebrate what we have learnt. We'll meet in church groups so that we can share across the small groups and seek to say: what your church needs to do; what your church wants to do; and what your church plans to do. The evening will end with a simple Eucharist at which we will ask the Church Leadership Teams to take this forward.

---

## Four Sessions and a Party ... the themes and the sessions

Theme 1	Sunday 19 September	Vision in the Wilderness
Session 1	week starting Mon 20 Sep	Vision in the Wilderness
Theme 2	Sunday 26 September	Becoming a Mission Shaped Church
Session 2	week starting Mon 27 Sep	Becoming a Mission Shaped Church
Theme 3	Sunday 3 October	A Mission Strategy
Session 3	week starting Mon 4 Oct	A Mission Strategy
Theme 4	Sunday 10 October	A Culture of Invitation
Session 4	week starting Mon 11 Oct	Presence to Persuasion
Finally	Wednesday 20 October	Mission Shaped Party

---

## Four Sessions and a Party ... how to join a group

You can ring Caroline in the office (947 1703) or email her ([office@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:office@ctmparish.org.uk)) or give this slip to the clergy or wardens in your church. If you contact Caroline direct please let her know:

Your Name:

Your Phone Number:

Which groups could you join:

Tuesday afternoon

Wednesday evening

Tuesday evening

Thursday morning

Wednesday morning

Thursday evening

***If you have further questions please contact Dan (947 9505 or [dan@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:dan@ctmparish.org.uk))***