

# HOLY TRINITY CLAYGATE

## THE NEXT CHAPTER

### INTRODUCTION

This booklet sets out the results of the vision process so far and explains the agreed priorities for the years ahead.

### CHURCH VISION MEETING

On 22 April at the Church Vision Meeting I shared my reflections on the following areas:

#### Church Vision Meeting

##### Key areas:

- 1. *Where we are as Holy Trinity Claygate***
  - I suggested we have too much to be thankful for, have tremendous opportunities ahead of us, but have no grounds for complacency.
- 2. *What priorities the Bible gives to the local church***
  - Using Acts 2:41-47, but drawing on wider scriptural themes, I suggested that the Bible sees the church as the place where:
    - people come to faith
    - people grow in faith
    - people build a loving community of faith
- 3. *The questions we need to be asking in the future***
  - I suggested a number of ways we might look to the future and invited feedback:
    - How can we create more space for growth at HTC?
    - How can we help people grow as disciples of Jesus?
    - How can we better model a community of faith?

I want to thank everybody who came to that meeting and contributed through the small discussion groups. I read all the feedback very carefully and prepared a full summary of it for the Leadership Day Away on 19 May. (Copies of the feedback are available at the back of church).

# LEADERSHIP DAY AWAY

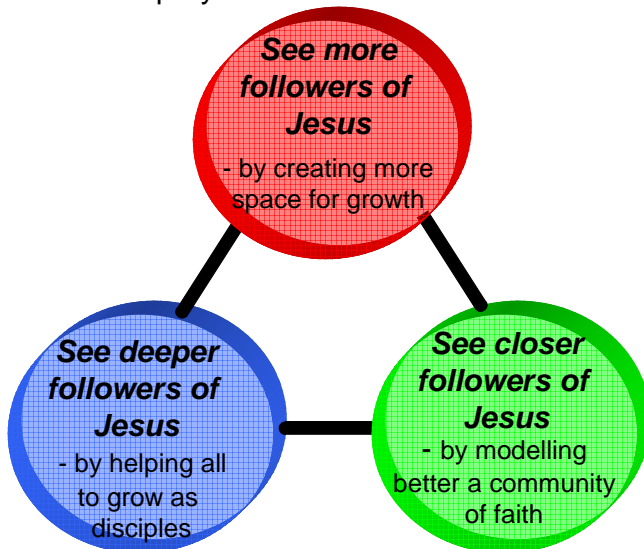
At the Leadership Day Away PCC members and other leaders at HTC reflected on the following responses from the Church Vision Meeting and wider vision process

- church members were glad to have more information on where we are as a church, even if that data was not universally encouraging e.g. a thriving church, but not a growing church
- people were fired by the possibilities that lies before us, in terms of Emmanuel Hall, new curate, improved facilities at HTC
- there is widespread agreement that the questions we are asking about the future are the right ones
- there is an air of excitement about the future as well as awareness of the demands this will place on us as individuals and as a church

## PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

With this in mind those on the Leadership Day Away endorsed the following three priorities for HTC in the next five years.

Under God we pray that we will:



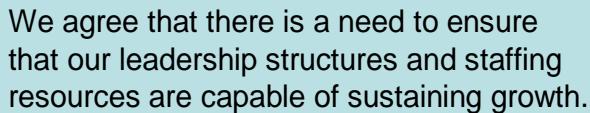
How do we think we might achieve these goals? This was the area on which we concentrated during the Leadership Day Away, and which is outline over the rest of these pages.

# AIM ONE: TO SEE MORE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS



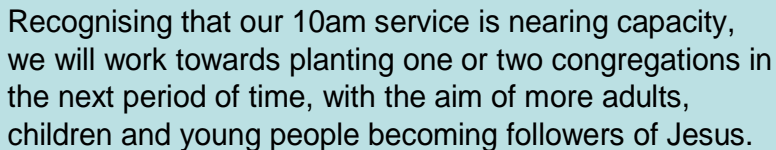
Create more  
space for growth

- a) Planting new congregations
- b) Reviewing structures and staff resources for growth



We agree that there is a need to ensure that our leadership structures and staffing resources are capable of sustaining growth.

**Action:** *The PCC will be discussing this in its September meeting.*



Recognising that our 10am service is nearing capacity, we will work towards planting one or two congregations in the next period of time, with the aim of more adults, children and young people becoming followers of Jesus.

**Action:** *Philip Plyming will chair a working group which will conduct research and explore possibilities, reporting back initially at the end of 2007.*

# AIM TWO: TO SEE DEEPER FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

## Help all to grow as disciples

- a) Reviewing small groups
- b) Enhanced teaching opportunities
- a) Encouraging training

We hope more people will have access to training on Christian leadership and ministry.

**Action:** We will be running a pilot Growing Leaders course in the autumn and will be making external training opportunities available.

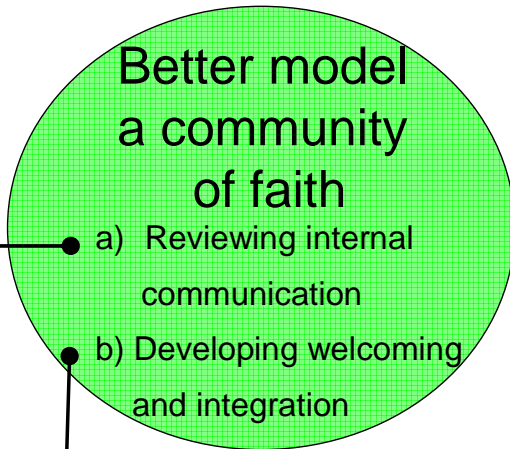
We want to introduce new ways for members to access teaching on issues that affect them in the modern world.

**Action:** Autumn programme to reflect this aim. Watch this space.

We agree that growing small groups is vital for the long-term health of HTC, and we are committed to finding ways of building on the existing homegroup structure and also embracing new patterns of small groups.

**Action:** Linda Morgan will chair working group exploring future options.

# AIM THREE: TO SEE CLOSER FOLLOWERS OF JESUS



We want to ensure that we do more to welcome and integrate newcomers into the church family.

***Action:** Tom Darwent, our new curate, will be working with Philip over the summer and some developments will take place from the autumn.*

We want to see information for prayer and fellowship shared effectively across the church family.

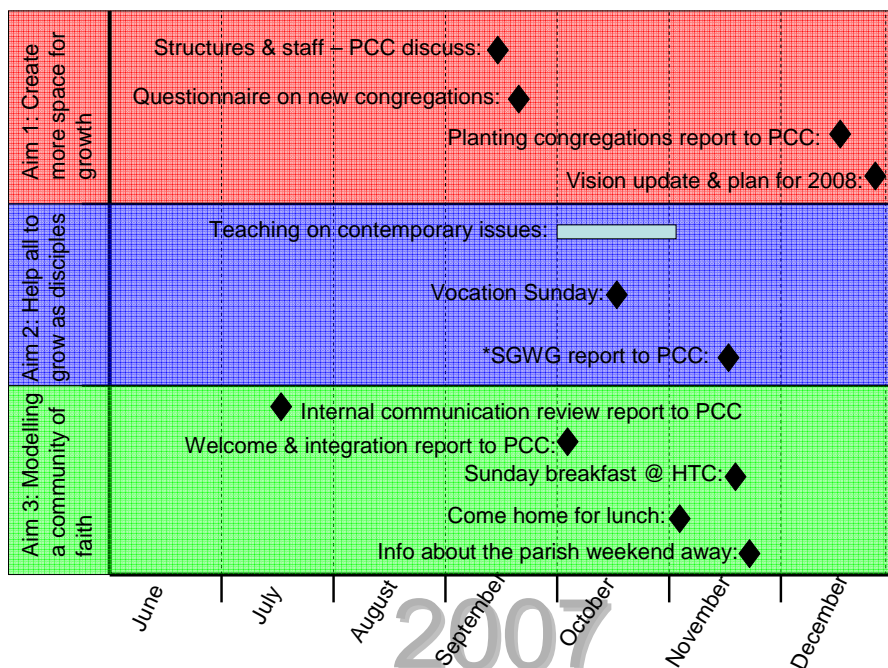
***Action:** Mark Chapman will be working with a small group and bring proposals to the July PCC meeting.*

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

None of the above developments are going to happen overnight, and some may take years, instead of months, to implement fully. That should not worry us unduly. The vision process has been about setting the direction and priorities for the next few years, rather than enforcing hasty change.

Some developments will start in the autumn, and during that period we will be focussing on our three priorities as a church in our Sunday services, homegroup studies and church programme.

The plan for the rest of the year across the three aims are as follows:



\*SGWG – Small Groups Working Group

## **AUTUMN 2007**

In September we will be thinking about how people start a journey of faith in Jesus -

*look out for:*

- questionnaire on possibilities for new congregations
- launch of Alpha course

In October we will be reflecting on how we grow as followers of Jesus in a challenging world -

*look out for:*

- a new opportunity to access teaching on issues facing Christians today
- a themed weekend on 'hearing and responding to God's call'

In November we will be focussing on our life as a church family -

*look out for:*

- breakfast before a 10am service!
- 'Come Home for Lunch' Sunday
- information about the Church Weekend Away –  
25-27 April 2008 – put the date in your diaries/Outlook now!

We hope that it will possible for us to start using Emmanuel Hall, pending the conclusion of legal negotiations and PCC discussions, but it is not yet certain when this will be.

## **CONCLUSION**

All the above has only been achieved through much prayer. Please keep on praying for the future God has for us and feel free at all times to let me and the leadership team know your thoughts.

I am excited about the future and am so grateful for your support. My prayer is that in all this God will continue to receive all the glory and honour as people come to know, follow and live out Jesus in their lives.

Philip Plyming  
17 June 2007

## **FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE**

Please use this space to note down what topics from this booklet you feel you would like to pray for and / or be involved in over the months to come.