



**The United Benefice of
Saint Mary the Virgin, Waterloo Park
and Saint Faith, Great Crosby**



Joint PCCs' Away Day 2011

The Seafarers Centre, 20 Crosby Road North

“Going for Growth”

21st May 2011

9.30am – 12.30pm

Summary Document

HEALTHY CHURCH • HEALTHY COMMUNITY • GROWTH

Present (in no particular order):

Laura Caddick	Fr Neil	Jeanette Carter	Maureen Madden	Rachel Linacre
Jackie Parry	Leo Appleton	Fred Nye	Gillian Linacre	Brenda Cottarel
Mike Carr	David Jones	Jill McElroy	Elsie Pate	Eric McIntyre
Jackie Williams	Glyn Jones	Lynda Dixon	Margaret Houghton	Howard Pate
Peter Garner	Gareth Griffiths	Cynthia Johnson	Joy Roderick	Dora Whitehead
Geoff Dunn	Christine Spence			

Apologies:

Joan Tudhope Margaret Davies Paula O’Shaughnassey Helen Kibby Rosie Walker

Outcomes from Away Day

Away Day Opened: Fr Neil opened with an introduction and prayer.

How did we do? The whole group looked back at last year’s goals and achievements and also agreed those actions needing to be carried forward for further work this year. These are:

1. *Back to Church Sunday* (see www.backtochurch.co.uk).
2. *Ritual & Tradition explained in “plain English” – is this on SF website?*
3. *Healing Services – Ministry Team to agree how to incorporate into 1st Sunday of month 6pm service.*
4. *Mission groups at SF & SM – should they be a joint group?*
5. *How can we grow numerically? – Subject of 2011 Away Day.*

All of these actions are carried forward to the Appendix

“Fit & Healthy?”

The group analysed “The Seven Marks of a Healthy Church” and agreed to add an eighth: “Is Financially Self-Supporting”.

The group then broke into four syndicates and scored each of the eight marks between 0 and 10 (where 0 = poor, 5 = satisfactory and 10 = perfect).

The scores were averaged and produced the following result:

Our Scores for Marks of a Healthy Church

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1 Energized by faith	█										
2 Outward-looking focus	█										
3 Seeks to find out what God wants	█										
4 Faces the cost of change and growth	█										
5 Operates as a community	█										
6 Makes room for all	█										
7 Does a few things and does them well	█										
8 Is financially self-supporting	█										

The Scores in Detail

	<i>Syndicate</i>				Average
	1	2	3	4	
1 <i>Energized by faith</i>	8	7	4	7	7
2 <i>Outward-looking focus</i>	5	5	5	5	5
3 <i>Seeks to find out what God wants</i>	5	5	3	5	5
4 <i>Faces the cost of change and growth</i>	3	8	6	7	6
5 <i>Operates as a community</i>	4	8	5	7	6
6 <i>Makes room for all</i>	8	6	4	6	6
7 <i>Does a few things and does them well</i>	8	8	4	6	7
8 <i>Is financially self-supporting</i>	3	7	2	6	5

Observations:

- Mark 8 received the lowest scores of “2” and “3” from two syndicates
- Two syndicate groups scored Mark 8 quite high but two very low
- The syndicate groups were unanimous in scoring Mark 2 as satisfactory
- Mark 3 was joint lowest scoring along with Mark 8
- Mark 2 scored an average of 5 but was slightly ahead of Marks 3 and 8

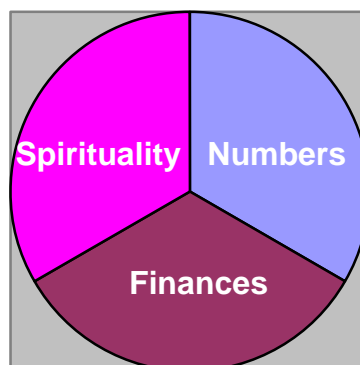
“Body Building, Body Balance”

The next exercise was to prepare for a year of growth.

The whole group discussed what was meant by “growth” and it was agreed that this should apply equally to:

Spirituality
Numbers attending church
Financial well being

All three have to be in balance so that each area can thrive.



With this agreement on what growth means to us, the group split into the same four syndicates and brainstormed actions for each of the eight marks which would enable us to score them more highly if the actions were successfully implemented. These were written on “post-its”.

The syndicates brought back their suggestions for action and shared them with the whole group. The “post-its” were stuck on flip chart pads and displayed in the meeting room. The group were then given 6 stickers to place against the actions in order to provide a clear focus of what should be the priority actions during the next 12 months. These votes, one for each sticker, were totalled up and are displayed in the table below.

All suggested actions are to be assessed and evaluated by either the ministry team or the relevant PCC. Following this assessment/evaluation, actions are to be formally agreed and owners for them allocated.

Geoff Dunn will retain record of the outcomes and will check with action owners for progress as the year progresses.

The Suggested Actions

See Appendix for detailed list of actions and scoring

Summary of scores for the Marks & the Suggested Actions

Mark		Score out of 10	Total Votes for Suggested Actions
1	Energised by Faith	7	5
2	Outward Looking Focus	5	7
3	Seeks to Find Out What God Wants	5	5
4	Faces the Cost of Change and Growth	6	31
5	Operates as a Community	6	24
6	Makes Room for All	6	24
7	Does a Few Things and Does them Well	7	0
8	Is Financially Self-Supporting	5	43

Top Scoring Suggested Action (6 or more votes)

Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes
8.1	More publicity about financial situation (put simply)	12
5.1	Youth: more events – musical, theatre, activities with young leaders	10
5.2	Strategy for “fit for purpose” buildings	8
4.1	Revamp/redesign website – more user friendly	7
8.2	Land evaluation	7
6.1	Welcome badges	6

Fr Neil closed the event with prayer and by thanking all of those who took part and so willingly gave up their Saturday morning.



Proposal from Fr Neil and Geoff

There appear to be three “themes” emanating from the top scoring suggested actions:

Financial Well Being (including buildings & land)

Youth Development

Public Appearance/Publicity

Many of the suggested actions can be put under the umbrella of each of the above “themes”.

The proposal is that we form a proactive group for each of the above themes and that these groups meet to further evaluate the suggestions and propose a strategy for taking the three areas forward.

Each strategy to be agreed by the Ministry team and the relevant PCC or both PCCs.

Geoff has agreed to facilitate the first meeting of each of the above groups in order to provide a structured and standard approach to developing the strategies. It is anticipated that an initial 2 hour meeting for each would be required. By the end of the meetings, an outline strategy would have been developed for submission to the Ministry Team [and on to the relevant PCC(s)].

Any suggested actions not allocated to the above themes to be assessed and evaluated initially by the Ministry Team and if necessary passed on to PCC.

If this proposal is acceptable to the PCCs and in order to get off to a fast start building on the time and effort expended thus far, Fr Neil has written to people who are currently active in these areas asking if they would be willing to part of a group. The groups of course would remain open to others joining and that is to be encouraged.

Each group would need to nominate a lead person who would be responsible for chairing future meetings and alongside Geoff, ensuring planned actions are implemented in line with agreed timescales.

Progress will be monitored throughout the year culminating in a presentation of progress at next year’s Joint PCCs Away Day.



Appendix

Colour Coding:

Financial Well Being (including buildings & land)
Youth Development
Public Appearance/Publicity
For Ministry Team Consideration

Action No.	Brought Forward from Last Year
1	<i>Back to Church Sunday (see www.backtochurch.co.uk)</i>
2	<i>Ritual & Tradition explained in "plain English" – is this on SF website?</i>
3	<i>Healing Services – Ministry Team to agree how to incorporate into 1st Sunday of month 6pm service.</i>
4	<i>Mission groups at SF & SM – should they be a joint group?</i>
5	<i>How can we grow numerically? – subject of 2011 Away Day</i>

Mark 1	Energised by Faith	Score: 7/10	Total votes: 5
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	Hold some Young Persons only services	3	
2	Hymns that we know!	2	
3	Lord's Prayer to be "said"		
4	Uplifting Music		
5	Liturgical settings simplified for general response		

Mark 2	Outward Looking Focus	Score: 5/10	Total votes: 7
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	More community space in SM	2	
2	Go Out and knock on doors	1	
3	Social/Internet Café	1	
4	Fellowship & church	1	
5	Re-order church	1	
6	Justice and peace group	1	
7	Formalise links with schools		
8	Diverse opinions encouraged		
9	General re-furb		
10	Signage at SF/SM		
11	Integrate in community		
12	Knock down church and use hall		

Mark 3	Seeks to Find Out What God Wants	Score: 5/10	Total votes: 5
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	Bible study groups	4	
2	SM 6.30pm Thursday prayers	1	
3	Clarity of message		
4	Prayer groups		
5	Spiritual group		

Mark 4	Faces the Cost of Change and Growth	Score: 6/10	Total votes: 31
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	Revamp/redesign website – more user friendly	7	
2	More publicity of events	4	
3	Marketing	3	
4	Better notice boards	3	
5	Improve communication between SF & SM	3	
6	Challenge the Diocese	2	
7	Youngsters in the choir	2	
8	Go onto Face Book/Twitter	2	
9	Internal notice boards & displays	2	
10	“Church open”	2	
11	Modernise S. S.	1	
12	Re-organise SF S. S.		
13	Roadside pulpit (posters)		
14	Communication		

Mark 5	Operates as a Community	Score: 6/10	Total votes: 25
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	Youth: more events – musical, theatre, activities with leaders	10	
2	Strategy for “fit for purpose” buildings	8	
3	Ministry team more involved with youth groups	3	
4	Get the vicar on the telly!	2	
5	Forge links with other church groups (e.g. Lent Study Groups)	1	
6	Ecumenical events	1	
7	Ecumenical youth events		
8	Social Club in Church Hall (bar)		
9	Visit other churches		
10	Make more of joint services/social events		
11	Fun events		

Colour Coding:

Financial Well Being (including buildings & land)
Youth Development
Public Appearance/Publicity
For Ministry Team Consideration

Mark 6	Makes Room for All	Score: 6/10	Total votes: 24
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	Welcome badges	6	
2	Buddies/mentors	5	
3	Get social visitors to church	5	
4	Times of service – adapt	4	
5	Reduce incense	3	
6	Personal outreach	1	

Mark 7	Does a Few Things and Does them Well	Score: 7/10	Total votes: 0
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	Courage to admit change does not always work		

Mark 8	Is Financially Self-Supporting	Score: 5/10	Total votes: 43
Action No.	Suggested Action	Votes	
1	More publicity about financial situation (put simply)	12	
2	Land evaluation	7	
3	(Glass) collection box	5	
4	Serious research	3	
5	Be proactive	3	
6	Publicise collections	2	
7	More collections	2	
8	Partnering with businesses for sponsorship	2	
9	Church charity shop	2	
10	Sell SM annexe	1	
11	Adverts in church mag	1	
12	Promotional DVD	1	
13	Sell tours of SM & SF	1	
14	Adult education & art classes/workshops	1	
15	Publicise Parish Share		
16	Display costs		
17	Summer Fair & related gifts		
18	Swear box		

Colour Coding:

Financial Well Being (including buildings & land)
Youth Development
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For Ministry Team Consideration