

SOLIHULL United Reformed Church BULLETIN JULY 2014

SOME EXPLORATORY GROUPS AT WORK ON OUR LIFE AND MISSION

Over the Summer and early Autumn there will be **four groups looking at different aspects of our life and mission**. There is opportunity for all to participate as they wish, either by being a member of a particular group or by offering thoughts and suggestions.

LIFE

WORSHIP

Three different worship cultures - what do we do? Church Meeting heard the suggestion of creating a blend with which we grow familiar, but Mark reminded us that Sunday worship is not able to touch everyone in changing life and relationships, enabling the God we know in Christ to reveal himself to us and us to be open to him.

If our worship is to be relevant to a wide range of life and experience then it needs to be varied and rich. So we begin to look at creating some different worship opportunities - not only because we are seeking to serve three communities, but also to allow necessary variety.

A group looking at worship, of which the existing 'Worship Writers' will be a key part, can help us all find patterns for our future.

On Monday 18th August 6.30pm @ Hobs Moat there will be a 'Worship Supper'.

A simple 'bring and share' meal and Mark will spark discussion by offering something of how worship is shaped. Out of this you may be inspired to be part of the regular group or to help shape worship for a particular time or situation in the future.

YOUNG PEOPLE

A small number of children and young people does make planning activities and teaching difficult, but we must not give up! Conversations have already taken place with parents and teachers about activities beyond Sunday morning that might also be attractive to friends and others.

We also wish to explore how we relate to the uniformed organisations at Olton in ways other than just through parade services.

We are looking for folk to be part of the 'Sunday team'. Please let Mark know if you wish to be a part of this, as we are also ensuring all DBS checks are up to date.

However, you don't need to be one who might get actively involved with children and young people to contribute your wisdom and ideas for the future.

THE WEBSITE - www.solihullurc.org.uk

Renewed and updated to express our life and mission as a single church.

You will find here all there is to know - worship details (plus the full plan for the year), events details along with newsletters, bulletins and church meeting minutes that can be downloaded (including back-copies), a prayer-blog for your own contributions and pages keeping folk up-to-date regarding our life together and discussions about the future.

Not on the internet yourself? - please pass the address to any who wish to know more

CHURCH CHAT - Saturday 30th August 10am - 12 noon @ Hobs Moat

An informal opportunity to air views, offer suggestions and listen to others on matters relating to our life and mission. All welcome. Come and go as you please. Refreshments available.



MISSION

OLTON COMMUNITY

Our capacity for mission activity is limited by our age-profile, but in partnership with others we can enable many in our communities to engage with Christian faith. We will be exploring what this could mean by focussing initially on the Olton Community, opening discussions with other churches, the youth organisations and the Residents' Association. We hope that we might learn lessons that might be applied in other places too.

MEETING PLACE' - HOSPITALITY

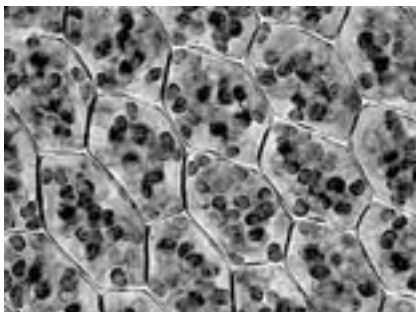
Shaping a comfortable and welcoming space that can be the focus for hospitality towards those outside the church is key to breaking down barriers. If we are to share a faith that is relevant then a place for meeting will help us learn of the lives and situations that Christ wishes to touch through us. A group will focus on the nature of the hospitality we wish to offer and the practicalities of creating the right sort of space.

GROUP PARTICIPATION

In due course there will be open discussions on each of these areas of our life and mission, amongst others, but we are looking to form small 'focus groups' to begin the process.

If you have a particular interest in the work of any of the four groups and wish to participate, please make this known to Mark. Depending on numbers and the desire to create balanced groups representing our three communities participation will not be open to 'all comers', but we do have **CHURCH CHAT on 30th August** when the work of the groups will be aired. Other open meetings will be planned during the Autumn, with **Church Meeting on 28th September**.

RE-FORMING CELL GROUPS



We have had four groups meeting regularly over a lengthy period and we are looking to re-form them, giving opportunity for new members to join. Past members witness to the great value these groups have for building relationships, deepening faith and understanding and praying together. They are also valuable places for discussions around our life and mission as they develop.

"Another Story Must Begin" is the title of the material we are preparing to use for the coming months. It is based on the film of **Les Miserables**.

The film will be shown in its entirety on **Saturday 6th September 7pm @ Hobs Moat**.

Following the film we will begin the process of shaping the groups, based on possible days/times for meeting, in the hope that we can enable all to share in this.

You are welcome to come and enjoy the film and refreshments even if you do not wish to join a group