

Mission

Following the end of the mission course in October 2016, the PCC (7th November) agreed that, as a church, we should continue to meet to plan our next steps, particularly how we might 'listen' to our community. 'Moving Forward', an update document, was published to keep the church congregation informed.

An open meeting was held in the Prince Fred on 4th December.

We talked about:

1. The need to understand our **core values** as a church much better than we do (and we recognised that some of this might be addressed by the *PCC Tonight?* course being undertaken by the PCC). We agreed this was important because understanding our values provides clarity and focus, and grounds decision making.
2. Getting to know and understand our community much better than we do. The Mission Course taught us that above else we need to **listen**.

We thought we might follow this path: What we know already + listening + ideas (with prayer) → values (mission statement) → structures → plans.

Where to start?

We agreed that we should start with listening.

In groups we discussed 'What do we already know about our community?' and 'How can we find out more?'

We found that we knew facts about our community (how many nursing homes, where the businesses are etc) but we didn't really know it – the people, their needs etc. We recognised social isolation to be a particular problem.

We agreed three things:

1. To look into opening up the church as a drop-in place/café one morning a week – possibly Monday morning. This could be both a service to the community and a means of listening to the community.
2. For Ruth to talk with a friend at St. Mary's Shortlands, who has been part of implementing a way of introducing the church to residents/offering prayer, with no pressure, to see if we could do that here.
3. To organise a further meeting in the Hop & Rye and a small group volunteered to visit the pub and arrange something.

Ruth Peet

5th December 2016