

## **TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, WIMBLEDON**

### **CHURCH MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016, 8.00PM**

## **TRINITY'S MISSION, PRIORITIES AND FUTURE PLANS**

### **Introduction**

Our next Church Meeting is a very important one for Trinity. Since our Local Ministry and Mission Review (LMMR) late last year Elders' Council has been considering how to respond to what it found. Now we want to share our deliberations with the whole church, and work together to set a new course for Trinity, with new priorities, a new mission statement and new ideas for action. At the meeting we will be doing three things:

### **Affirming our new priorities:**

The LMMR told us that are many things we do very well, with a wide variety of projects and many committed volunteers. They asked us to consider, however, whether we need a clearer sense of our mission and purpose as a church. They challenged us to state more clearly what we feel is God's will for us, and align our work more closely to those areas we feel need to be our greatest priority.

Elders' Council has therefore identified three areas that it is recommending to Church Meeting as our new priority areas for action in the next eighteen months (to the end of 2017). They are:

- Strengthening faith - a commitment to nurture and develop the faith of Trinity folk;
- Service - a commitment to serve God through service to our local and global community; and
- Witness - a commitment to be witnesses to our Christian faith in the wider world.

This is not to say that other areas of Trinity's life are not important. Elders want to emphasise in particular that areas like children and youth work and worship, for example, run through all of these priorities. But prioritising things does mean focussing on some areas more than others. By adopting these areas of focus it will mean that Trinity will prioritise time and resources on these issues, and identify some specific projects to support them.

We hope you will be supportive of these chosen priorities. At the meeting you will hear a bit more about our deliberations, and Church Meeting will be asked to approve the conclusions.

### **Choosing our new mission statement:**

A Mission Statement is "a formal summary of the aims and values of a company, organization, or individual". It is usually short, memorable, and a clear expression of what an organisation says about itself. It's also an important part of communicating with people coming into contact with a group for the first time.

Trinity's existing Mission Statement is rather long, and, if we are honest, not as memorable as it could be (do you know it without looking it up?). We have been planning to review it for some time, and the LMMR recommendations felt this would be useful in better defining our overall mission and purpose.

Elders' Council has discussed and has made a couple of suggestions:

- *"Called to be God's people, transformed by the Gospel, making a difference in today's world."* (The national URC Mission Statement, used by many local churches).
- *"Rooted in faith, growing through service."*

Do you have a better idea? If you'd like to suggest another form of words please contact the Minister or the Church Secretaries by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Church Meeting will be asked to vote to select one of the suggested statements as Trinity's new Mission Statement.

### **Suggesting ideas for action:**

It is important for us to choose priorities and refresh our Mission Statement - but what are we actually going to do? The majority of May's meeting will be devoted to getting your ideas, views and suggestions about what specific actions we could take to support our new priorities. We're going to have an engaging and lively discussion, and you'll get a chance to talk to other church members about their ideas.

Before the meeting, you might like to think about what ideas you have for helping the church better nurture the faith of church members, serve the community, and be witnesses to God's work in the world. In eighteen months' time, what would we have done to make a real success of these areas? What might get in the way? And what could you do personally to help?

After the meeting Elders' Council will use the ideas suggested to put together a new action plan so that we can forge ahead together with a renewed sense of purpose.

**Please make every effort to attend on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May.**

**If you have any questions do please speak to the Minister or the Church Secretaries.**