

**Analysis of the notes from group leaders at Church Forum – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**Discussion about finding a building**

In one group half felt that a building was important but the other half did not. In some groups the advantages of a building were defined (Blank canvas – community centre – continuity – consistent venue for outreach) but others seemed happy to stay as we are for coherent reasons (we would have a ‘churchy’ face – being ‘building obsessed’ – waste of money – Stadium is a good venue)

Several groups were negative about taking on another church’s buildings (you get that church’s identity – complex problems with conservation groups)

It is clear that, though people see the advantages of a building, many are happy with the way things are with some reservations about continuity of location.

Some were keen to pray about this issue more. One group suggested a monthly prayer meeting for this issue alone.

Comments about Bede Centre:

Parents are not keen to have to entertain their children when we are Bede – could there be a Beacons activity there?

Students do not tend to come to Bede – could we bus them up?

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| <p><b>Strengthening community</b></p>              | <p><b>Suggestions made included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A church magazine</li> <li>• Texts and emails to get news out</li> <li>• Cell groups mixing more – joint events</li> <li>• Name badges for Welcome Team/Leadership Team/everybody</li> <li>• Getting regulars to do the work – 3 minute rule</li> <li>• More social events and lunches</li> <li>• More thought on Welcome Desk location</li> <li>• New and good quality welcome literature</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Other useful observations</b></p>            | <p>A couple of groups noted that we do little for the Beacons during the service</p> <p>One group in particular were concerned that young people were not well catered for on Sunday and wondered whether we ought to have a youth service.</p> <p>One group wondered whether we were not really looking after single mothers.</p> <p>Update the church on building search more regularly.</p>  |
| <p><b>Getting people engaged in ministries</b></p> | <p><b>Two suggestions by <u>almost every group</u>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal approach is most effective</li> <li>• A jobs fair may be a useful thing to run – a vacancies board may help</li> </ul>  |

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|   | <p><b>Other comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bodybuilding is useful, but people need to be followed up carefully.</li> <li>• Ministry leaders have a responsibility, if approached they should respond promptly</li> <li>• Plugs, adverts, flyers and the website should be used</li> </ul> <p>Some are intimidated by the prospect of accepting a job or role in the church</p>      |
| <p><b>Other comments we ought to note</b></p> | <p>“It’s exciting to be part of City Church”</p> <p>“We have learned to be adaptable and flexible in ways that other churches are not”</p> <p>“We may think we are progressive but to young people we are very traditional”</p> <p>“Push gift aid more and explain more fully how gift aid works”</p> <p>“More advertising could be used”</p> <p>“Work with other churches more”</p> <p>“Develop Maranatha”</p> |

## Comments on Welcome Cards – Chruch Forum April 29<sup>th</sup> 2007

We would both be willing to help if it was made clear what help was needed.

I feel communication needs to be addressed both between cell groups and leadership team and feedback from today.

2 smaller cell groups meeting together would help people get to know one another.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday better attended if 6pm not 5pm

Really enjoyed sermon today cos of focus on service. If more people encouraged to get moved and find their gift/ministry, and use it in practical way. This is something I feel I need to pray and respond to.

Ideas for sites. 1. University of S/land 2. Stay here!

Idea for Christmas Carol Service with JJ. Joint primary school choirs – would need to be in big venue – might reach quite lot of Sunderland people.

I would like to see churches taking the lead in environmental issues. It really is going to matter to everyone.

Have a coffee bar in town, say once a month. As a drop in for those not in cell groups or people who need to get to know one another.

I only found out today that there is a prayer group. Didn't know that 'til today. Would love to see participate in more corporate prayer such as prayer days. Maybe in the future, have a prayer café or idea is 24 hour prayer.

Everything about church life in city of Sunderland should be prayed about. Also in 24 hour prayer idea if more opportunities for personal prayer. Maybe church could experiment with a week devoted to 24/7 prayer rota – 1 person

Children evangelism. What steps are being taken in direct outreach to children aged 4 – 14 ?

Childrens inclusion. There seems to be no inclusion of children in sun mornings services. Too adult focused. Children just leave with no notice during song.

I would like to be on welcome team or serve tea and coffee.

Sometimes I find the music too loud. I always try not to be near a loud speaker. But I have to say that this Sunday I think the music was just right. I love the worship side of the service but not the loud music