

A huge thank you to all who came along and to those who worked so hard to set up, lead, serve and support the day. For those of you who had prior commitments, or were unable to come along, we hope this article will give you a flavour of the Workshop.

Parish history: Over coffee there was great conversation, sharing and swapping of wonderful memories from seeing pictures from a number of parishioners' archives. The display will be in the Narthex for a week or so. Do have a look.

We then split into 3 groups to visit three stands and hear what has been happening in the Parish, the Diocese and across Worth since the AGM back in April to bring our Parish from Maintenance into Mission. Fr Paul, Charlie Tibble and Will Desmond share with you here a brief summary of their talk from last Sunday.

The Church: Fr Paul My focus was to speak of the Diocesan Plan of Bishop Richard that we should all become missionaries. I set this in the context of the call of the universal Church, highlighting especially Pope St John Paul II's call to New Evangelisation, and the vision of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*. We looked at the falling number of diocesan priests, noting that, in Bishop Richard's words, this offers an opportunity and a challenge to us all – not a time for despondency. We observed his priorities of prayer, formation and mission. We looked at British Social Attitudes: That over half the population of the UK has no religion, and that this is driven largely by young people no longer coming to church. (71% of those aged 18-25) We then observed that Worth was at the geographical centre of the diocese and that this places us well to become a missionary resource for the whole diocese.

Divine Renovation and Alpha: Charlie Tibble Our mission as a church is to spread the good news of the Gospel to the lapsed or non-church goers. This is a scary thing for most of us and does not always come naturally. Relit and now Alpha has allowed me to see first-hand that evangelisation is not as hard as we might think. If we are open to it the Holy Spirit will put people in front of us in a very natural way. They will be friends, family, work colleagues or people who come looking or asking. If we are to be an invitational church then we need to be able to invite people to things and Alpha has a tried and tested format that encourages great discussion and a chance to form relationships with new and established members of our community. The aim is not to replace our prayer groups or Lectio but to have new members to join them, and we as a parish will be inviting others to come.

Worth Discipleship Centre: Will Desmond In response to the current call to evangelisation and the needs of our society, Worth, and all its various parts, is mobilising under a fresh vision. This vision is to offer an invitation into community and sacred space where we encounter Christ, the source of our journey and mission. I went onto share how the purpose of this vision will be to see every person transformed in Christ, and we will achieve this vision through four aims: to form Discipleship Leaders; to create an Authentic Community; to form Missionary Disciples; and to become a Resource for others. I concluded by sharing the various

projects which will bring this vision to life in the next few years: the Brighton mission; a transformational parish; a discipling school; estate utilisation; engagement; and a new discipleship centre.

Once all groups had visited each stall, we came together to reflect on 'What we loved' about our Parish and what we had heard, 'What could make it even better if...'. And also, 'What concerns us' for the future. A very warm thank you to all who contributed with openness, honesty and love in Christ. Please find below a summary of all of the contributions from those came. There will be many more opportunities to contribute and be involved in the New Year.

What we Love: All of it! Today's meeting! The courage to step out and give it a go! Parish Priest is open to Change, Promising initiatives – Discipleship, The Forerunners and the Ascent programme Alpha and Re-Lit Spirituality, Worth Abbey: it is open 24 hours, The contemplative nature of Worth, The whole site, A place of prayer, Friendship, quiet, The Monks and their approachability and humility and presence in the Parish, Liturgy: I am an altar server and I find it fun!, The number of services available, Peace of Mid-week evening masses, The liturgy and tradition, A Parish Mass – our Sunday Morning, Those occasions that focus on social situations e.g.: refugees, homelessness, etc...., House Group, Community: Great sense of Community, Nucleus of committed parishioners, Teas, coffees and cake, St Dunstan's – Welcoming and Worshipful, New Website, Music: The organ, the choir, singing hymns, the concerts

What could be better if....: The Discipleship project – very much like the idea of the centre, Discipleship Centre... an open learning resource with a library and work rooms, There were more Young Families, A Family Mass, Grandparents meetings, Better connection with Saturday evening and Sunday masses, 5pm Mass was shorter – i.e.: less sung responses, Baptisms and 1st Holy Communion to take place in the Mass, More contemporary music... better to connect with young and young at heart, Band with the Parish Mass – greater diversity of Music, Prayer Ministry, More prayer groups to be established in the Parish, Personal invitations to be involved to draw more people in, Use social media to Evangelise! Most young people use it!, Alpha was sold as for everyone to deepen our own faith, A Cafe, a place to meet, find out about Worth – antidote to loneliness – Real Communion/community, More integration and opening up with other Church communities both ecumenical and RC, Passion plays - Doing a play of Jesus's Miracles 🕒 Perpetual Adoration and healing clinic, More 'events', widely advertised and open to all e.g.: Carol Service, Barn dances, More activities that are relevant to and engage with children, teenagers and young people, More outreach to those in need locally e.g.: Crawley, Local groups to meet together especially those who can't get transport to Worth, Run free shuttle buses to Abbey, Share God's love with everyone – don't be selective

Concerns: Sense of fear of change and of embracing the new, Absence of prayer and Adoration, A lack of importance/centrality of prayer, Alpha – is it re-inventing the wheel? The word 'Evangelisation', That not everyone is on board or supportive, The language used is for the 'high-brow' and not at all relevant to most people....hard to understand and engage with, Lack of young families – how do we involve them? Average age of parishioners, Need to engage young people – a priority, Discipleship effort – we should start with encouragement of families and children, How much will this cost – who will fund it? Centralisation – bringing resources to Worth versus reaching out - Need to work on Christian communities – Ecumenism

Formation must lead not only to greater faith but to lay leadership – long lacking in the RC church and especially needed now..., Why have our Lectio groups gone? Parish Pastoral Council? Laity are not 2nd class people of God. Use their faith, life and love. Our geographic location and lack of public transport. What will be left in 10-20 years?

Other Concerns/ideas that are currently Out of our 'gift' in the Parish – but we will pass on to the Bishop, Where are the new monks coming from? Important to work on the pipeline, Seminarian training needs to change The Church's exclusion of people in 'gay' relationships, The Diocese should be smaller.

If you would like to know more or have a deeper explanation, please do come and speak to me, to members of the Evngelisation Core Team or to the Alpha Leadership Team. Details on our website or via the Parish Office.

Yours ever with my prayers, Fr Paul