

A few words from the Vicar

'When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' (Luke 24:30-32)

Last month I wrote about our new Mission Strategy and the centrality of mission in the life of the Church. This month I am writing about some exciting new developments arising from our Mission Strategy.

Firstly, I am hosting a new course called *Emmaus* on Thursday evenings at the vicarage (7.30pm beginning on 3rd October).

The Christian life is often described as a lifetime's journey of faith as we travel with Jesus through the ups and downs, the joys and sadness that life brings. It is a journey that begins long before we know anything about Jesus or indeed make any sort of commitment to following him. As we journey along with Jesus, if we are open to his gentle love, we gradually come to know him more and more, we grow in faith and become more committed as disciples.

Emmaus is subtitled *'the way of faith'* and draws upon the insights of the story of the walk to Emmaus that Jesus shared with two disciples (Luke 24). *Emmaus* is designed for all those who wish to find out more about the basics of Christianity whether they are enquirers, new Christians or even established members of the Church who feel they could do with a 'refresher'. In fact, *Emmaus* is for everyone!

The first part of the course will be shared with those adults preparing for confirmation but, with a break for Christmas, the course itself will continue into the New Year (and beyond for those who interested in exploring things further). There is no obligation to commit to the full course or to turn up for all sessions.

As we travel along with Jesus at a leisurely pace, in a relaxed atmosphere over a coffee, we will chat and share insights with one another. We will explore:

- Core Christian beliefs about God, Jesus, the resurrection, the role of the Holy Spirit and becoming a Christian;
- How we grow through prayer, Bible reading, belonging to the Church and the sharing of Holy Communion; and
- Living the Christian life in the way God intends, in love and in serving Jesus.

All are welcome. Speak to me if you're interested.

Secondly the ministry team are hoping to introduce something called *Messy Church* into parish life.

Aimed at children and their parents, grandparents, carers etc., *Messy Church* has been successfully introduced by many churches and is a different and fun way of doing Church. It uses



hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together. Activities can get a bit messy and there's even food and drink on offer!

The game plan is to run monthly sessions on a Sunday afternoon in ACCH, beginning in January. However, before then, Debra (our new Reader) and I are planning a taster session at 2pm on Sunday 3rd November in ACCH. As this is All Saints Day, this will be an opportunity for a saintly but messy celebration!

Finally, a reminder that Morning Prayer is now held in church on Monday and Friday mornings at 9.15am and evening prayer on the last Monday of each month at 7.00pm. Everyone is more than welcome to come along.

Every Blessing

Dave