

Spiritual Nurturing & Development
Group discussions at Deanery Synod Feb 2016

1. What has helped you develop/grow in your own faith, whether in small ways or big ways?
Having to do door to door evangelism
Learning through circumstance
Making sense of ultimate question in life by looking at the inventor of it
When young witnessing older (wider) people in church
Group trips together, 'doing it' together
Being allowed to query sermons and dogma
Teaching e.g. course on Theology
Serving at the Alter
Reading Scripture
Singing in the Choir
Lent Study Groups/Holy Week
Home Groups/Support Groups
Sermons
Prayer
'Common theme – Discipline' – Habit and indoctrination/Being aligned to a House Group/Making time to take 'time-out'/listening to Gregorian chant – Music
Alpha – Someone inviting or taking an interest. Opportunity to talk about Christina faith
Leading worship – using a Study Bible and commentaries/house groups/Breakfast Prayers/giving people responsibilities/more collaborative ministry
Ecumenical House Groups
Study & Feedback
Opportunities to talk to others – find good listeners
Hands-on activities – task challenges
Story Telling
Prayer for Healing
Fellowship Groups/Bible Study
Going away –'Family Camp'
Open The Book
Praying together with others
Listening and preparing Sermon
Small groups – feeling more accountable

2. What has taken place in your own churches, communities or contexts?

- Moving morning prayer to a week day – non Sunday church goes happier to attend. Got more on a weekday than Sunday.
- Lectio Divina as a way to explore text with freedom/meditation to balance standard service
- Messy Church
- Experience Church – Easter/Christmas etc
- Themed Sermons/Home Groups
- Friday/Wednesday Cuppa
- Prayer Board (Church next to Hospital) – Lectio Divina
- Mission Groups with key responsibilities
- Harvest Supper encouraging outsiders to attend with local entertainment.
- Mike Noah has done great job working with small groups in Alpha Course (Frampton)
- Arrival of Malcolm as Team Rector – his leadership is inspiring
- Commemoration of Consecration in 1315
- St Laurence, Stroud becoming a community orientated ‘Town Church’
- One to ones/discussion groups/‘café Church’
- ‘Celebrate Sunday’
- Opportunities in Church Schools
- Works Outings
- Youth Group – based on Choir members and their friends. Youngsters to lead, adults to enable
- Christmas Services/Festival church – doing it differently, outside comfort zone
- Prayer as Benefice
- Bereavement – impact of loss and nurture
- Alpha leading on to Emmaus
- Congregation quadrupling. Roof not leaking! Effective clergy
- Compline every week; people work so busy but they actually come to what they want

3. Dreaming dreams – what would you like to see happen? What ideas have you that could be tried?

- Gospel Rock Band
- Lent Groups developing into ongoing study/house groups
- Café Church/Pub Church/Reaching out into the community
- Young people leading services
- Vital, stimulating, connecting worship
- Events based upon meals, e.g. Agape
- Monthly Supper Group
- More work with Schools

Would like to see more people come and recognise that church is relevant to their lives. Would like to see more efficient/effective leadership at the very top of the church
Alternative type of collective worship/relationships
Need potential to be unlocked
Teaching/encouragement e.g. see film War Room
More people as part of regular groups
Dreaming dreams – grave talk
Teaching, sharing prayer
What stops us/holds us back from trying them?
Fear of change, staying with the known. Society has changed
Lack of confidence (will it work?)
Not trying new things
Lack of Leaders
Resistance to change
Fear of failure/time issues
Buildings
Poor communication
Lack of faith