



Thames North Synod
Saturday 12 March 2016
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Paper B1

*(Report from
Discipleship
Committee)*

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

The new Discipleship Committee has met twice, during January and February and have begun to unpack our remit and look at the subject of discipleship which forms our agenda. Our continuing discipleship is essential to our mission and growth which are at the heart of the Synod re-visioning.

We have begun to get to know each other through conversations about our own faith experience and have looked briefly at definitions of discipleship and how we have experienced encouragement and growth. We found that there are some natural parallels in our stories from our church life but each story is unique as God shapes us as individuals.

We looked at the work being done by the national Discipleship task group and felt their questionnaire was a useful tool to help us better understand the churches in the Synod and also to gather information about resources and courses used by different churches. We hope that this will help us to network with each other, sharing resources, experience and advice about the value we placed on the resources used.

Discipleship is naturally more than courses and programmes and we hope we, as a Synod, are able to encourage each other by telling our stories of where God is at work and share good news that emerges in the challenge of establishing our working as LAG's. We began with a challenge to ourselves to intentionally take a step closer to God by

1. Praying this prayer each day

“Lord, I make myself totally available to you today.

Work through me to accomplish your will.”

AND

2. Spend 20 minutes daily in silent prayer and to share our experiences.

Our remit places the continuity of work undertaken elsewhere prior to the re-visioning on our table. It will take time to learn from our predecessors' good practice and for us to discern the best way for us to work now in each individual area. Our intention is to also identify the places cross committee working will be most supportive and to remain as flexible as possible in our working while new structures are put in place.

At the Synod in November we were asked what fruit we hoped would come from the re-visioning. The hopeful responses were very encouraging showing that God, our gardener, is at work in our churches preparing the ground for seeds to be sown and to grow.

Jane Weedon
Convener of Discipleship Committee

February 2016