

Come Holy Spirit Day – 11 May 2019

Parish of Effingham and Fetcham

1. On Saturday 11 May 2019 our Parish held a day of Mass, Adoration, reflection, lots of prayer, discussion, new ideas, brainstorming and chat, supported by shared coffee, tea and snacks. The aim was to open our personal doors and hearts to the Holy Spirit to enable him to come amongst us and help us consider and come up with ideas to move our Parish from Maintenance to Mission in a spirit of New Evangelisation and reaching out of our comfort zone. Some 40 plus parishioners of all ages came and a further number who could not come sent in their thoughts.

2. The aim of this report is to provide a short summary of the main themes and next steps to get the Parish on the road to change. Any further ideas will be very welcome (whether or not you were able to come last Saturday). If you feel able to respond and volunteer to help take these ideas forward will be even more welcome. Most of all please pray for our Parish and this exciting journey we are on.

Evangelisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liturgy and worship at the centre of the movement – to be vibrant, engaging, relevant and transforming.• More instruction in Faith to give self-confidence to reach out. Catechism courses, regular talks and sessions – Word on Fire, Café, Divine Renovation etc.• Try Alpha as a door opener/stepping stone to evangelisation.• Change individual focus from self to outwards.• Some parishioners to do formal training such as CCRS at Cobham starting September 2019• Core group of 5-6 Parishioners to take on oversight of New Evangelisation.
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post First Holy Communion and Confirmation group activities.• Youth Group and possible link with other Parishes (Cobham?)• Paid youth worker (possible sharing with another parish)• Advertise, promote and financially support Lourdes opportunities for the young.• Encourage FLAME attendance• Youth Retreat Day – share with local schools• Regular activities, including Mass and a social and sport.• Involve young people in the liturgy, especially music.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed flyer publicising the Parish with activities and events• Parish Presence at Village Days, Christmas Fairs etc.• Improve both Church notice boards to make more welcoming, interesting etc• Use of Social Media, in addition to Website, to encourage “conversation”

Welcome and Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Churches during the day • Raise the profile and role of Welcomers at Mass and in the Parish. Include young people as welcomers. • Plan for a Welcomers workshop in Sep 19. • Increase outreach to local charities supporting the homeless, homeless shelter organisations, foodbanks, prisons, ex-offenders, young in need of mentoring etc. • Outreach more with other churches – More support for Churches Together • Reach out to the lapsed in our Parish – by example, by friendship, by joining in.
Group Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and grow small groups – house groups, cell groups, prayer groups, rosary groups (already 1st Monday of the month), family groups, bible study, young parents groups. Small groups aim to draw together people in a spirit of Faith, prayer and discussion. • Encourage and join Messy Church groups to enable young Mums to find support and encouragement. • Family Retreat Day (use St Teresa’s School or Cranmore) • Increase numbers of social occasions – new Parishioners lunch, Holy Hour followed by supper
Other Good Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Audit of all that goes on in the Parish with regular insertion of dates in the newsletter – Do and Raise, Connect, Tuesday Teas, Grandparents etc, with photos of key people • Coordinate and expand the visiting the sick and housebound at home, in care homes etc.