

# Boring, a Timewasting, Ineffective ‘Talking Shop’

The PCC Awayday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016

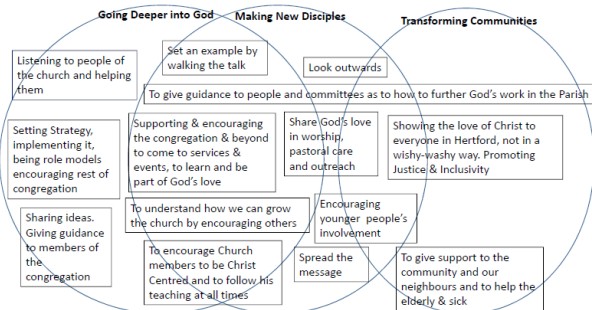
Well certainly not case for the AwayDay, but in the past the above has been said (with some truth) about the PCC several times! We have been working on changing this for some months and the away day was a key part of the plan.

## What have we actually achieved?

During the day, we worked on our joint spiritual life, how we work with each other and why we belong to the PCC - all things that influence how we make decisions.

We created a number of outputs and activities, most of which will be further worked on at our next meeting. As we are keen to keep up the momentum, we have decided to hold an extra meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to do this (and to prepare for the meeting with the Bishop of Hertford on 17<sup>th</sup> November).

Here are a couple of examples of our work:



PCC AwayDay 8/10/16

Firstly, the above is our current (very draft) set of strategic responsibilities relating to Mission. We will tidy these up and then focus work on the most important straight away.

Secondly, we looked in depth at how we attract 'new blood' to the PCC. We split into four groups to look at different aspects of this. We then collectively reviewed and affirmed what had been produced. By the time you read this, all four groups will have met again to look at specific actions to address the issues raised. These actions are being circulated amongst PCC members to allow discussion at the 2<sup>nd</sup> November meeting.

## How did we get here?

The Standing Committee met with a very skilled Organisational Effectiveness Consultant last December and looked at how it could work more effectively, based on the results of a questionnaire that each member completed. This led to some immediate changes!

Then the PCC took some time at its February meeting to look at what it did well, what it did less well and what it would most like to improve. We identified some key priorities and committed to work on them, which we have done over subsequent meetings, making a succession of small changes that have much improved our meetings – and timekeeping! One key item was how we made the PCC a more effective and efficient body and so came the plan for the AwayDay.

## What happened?

The structure of the day wove together the practical and the spiritual including a Pre-Lunch Eucharist in which hugging during the peace was not only allowed but encouraged!

Our consultant facilitated the first work session. He reminded us that the PCC has three legal responsibilities: maintenance of assets (e.g. buildings), finance and 'promoting the mission of the church'. Our focus was to be on the last of these.

We worked through various exercises, tried some simple tools/ideas to help us keep on track, discovered some things about ourselves, had quite a lot of fun and got a lot done – we even finished early!

Oh and the consultant? Philip Oldham (CEO of Lyle & Scott and a former All Saints Chorister) who generously donated his time. He is continuing his involvement (having left us another questionnaire as 'homework') and we are all clear that he will not let us slip back and waste the considerable effort he has put into helping us already.