

Dear Bishop Nicholas

Here are some contributions to the discussion by way of answers to the five questions.

1. **Personality and Character.** We're a community that's gradually learning how to be an effective lighthouse! We think we're kind and welcoming, generous-hearted, increasingly open to learning and changing. And we're heterogeneous; learning to be comfortable as a mixed economy community!

2. **Priorities.** Growth in faith and numbers. Relevant and engaging Biblical teaching as a basis for conversions and for growth in discipleship. Becoming more representative of the demography of our community, hence giving emphasis to working with young families. Strengthening and deepening the church as community, especially including pastoral care of our elderly.

3. **One thing for this year.** Recruiting a Children's and Families' Worker and getting going with him or her!

4. **Working together with neighbouring churches.** There's already a lot that we and the churches here do ecumenically, especially in prayer and outreach, including the daily soup run. There's more scope for collaboration on work with teenagers, and we'll soon have a teenager or two to encourage into that. It has proved something of a challenge to get local churches to engage with the opportunities for collaborating with Wiltshire Council on support for vulnerable sections of the community, and I'd like us to do more with that.

5. **Measuring quality and impact.** The most obvious measure is growth in our congregation, with new people joining and staying. More folk are joining our small groups and beginning to show signs of spiritual growth and good habits such as daily Bible reading and prayer. Our Christian basics course is running annually now and is always well attended; we have seen signs of evident conversion. Reputation in the community is increasingly positive based on anecdotal evidence. The extent of our pastoral caring for members and others is growing.

I hope that this will be of some value.

Every blessing

Rob Thomas

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