

Juniper Green Kirk Session – September 2017

Shaping the future – what one thing...?

Digest of comments

What follows is an unedited digest of all of the comments that have been made as part of this *Shaping the Future – what one thing...?* exercise. There are some comments that almost duplicate each other, but I have given them to you regardless. This is what you said.

Some of these comments have become the seeds of ideas for an Action Plan created by the Kirk Session for the next couple of years as part of a discussion with Edinburgh Presbytery through the Local Church Review process; more of that later in the year.

Worship:

1. More of a variety of hymns/songs
2. What can the church in general learn from Messy Church in terms of liaison with the public?
3. Encourage events for High School children – bring friends
 - a. Messy Church/Youth Groups for 12 and over, especially adults!
4. More modern worship songs
5. More background information about characters in the bible to make actions and words more in context.
6. Guest worship bands
7. Joint worship nights
8. More voices in Sunday worship
9. Shorter sermons – concentration lapses
10. Longer sermons
11. Shorten Christmas Eve Service a little to keep kids' attention.
12. Sometimes sing the Lord's Prayer
13. More involvement by the young people eg doing the bible readings
14. Choir sing in the middle of the service
15. More hymn variety in more comfortable setting
16. Greater variety of format and a less predictable format

Nurture:

1. More kids' events and outings
2. Less 'men only'
3. We need to build "church" as a "family", not just "church, not just "religion"
4. More lunches/coffee mornings – today was excellent.
5. Focussed events for all different age groups – not just children's ones, not just adults, not just teenagers, concentrate on WHOLE church family.
6. Embrace the recognised studies that show circles are better than rows and have small age appropriate activities/small groups/meetings for all ages.
7. Personal testimonies

8. Some way of doing more age specific/appropriate activities in Kids Church and beyond.
9. Monthly meeting for youth within the churches in the area for teens
10. Make more available to people who are still working like green strollers at the weekend.
11. More focussed events for children and adults who have children age 12-18 years.
12. Church and community opportunities/events – Tearfund’s Big Bake, lunches, Suppers
13. More “Whole Church” events: breakfasts, evening get togethers, study groups/home groups, inclusive of everybody.
14. More focussed events for members in their 20’s and 30’s who don’t have children
15. Maybe get some advice from youth and community agencies and groups on planning overall activity programme for different age groups. Demands change as communities change.
16. Events bringing Christians with great testimonies to speak
17. Identify ways other congregations make available for “working” men and women to meet together to develop their faith.

Mission:

1. Doing things “for” the community
2. Looking outwards into the community – events to be “seen” as church for all.
3. Like the Open Door, where people share their lives with our volunteers who can then pray and share God’s goodness.
4. Letter to parents of children who use the halls, inviting them to come to church
5. Promoting church more in community, invites etc
6. Congregation to have a calling for mission to the local community
7. Require to re-order pastoral care policy as reduced direct communication with members.
8. To be able to open the public (coffee etc) some mornings.

Prayer:

1. Global church prayer points in Church News
2. Prayer bookmarks throughout the year; get children/adults to make them in a craft session and then give them out.
3. Short prayer with the children as they go out for Kids’ Church
4. Include a wish for peace in the world
5. More people to be encouraged to come to prayer meeting

Service:

1. Encourage the whole church to Christian action – look outwards, whether in shoeboxes, fundraising etc; think of others to be encouraged, not “me-culture”.
2. Doing things for the community, not just “church” things.
3. A ladies forum
4. Encourage youth more – activities
5. Encouragement and thanks to those involved in many areas and years of service.
6. Require communications team to create a strategy to take the message of God and Jesus Christ to the wider community as well as members utilising digital, notices, sound etc.

Other:

1. Annual all-age outing to get to know each other better.
2. Church bell – nice to hear it on a Sunday; definitely important.
3. Messy Church for adults; good idea.
4. Combined child and adult – many children have adults with them.
5. More services in the community (during summer in park – that was great! Bring the dogs.)
6. Community events not necessarily seen as church events, especially for retired people.
7. 12-adult messy church – make crafts to donate and raise money for CHO/charity etc.
8. Activity baskets in church – for kids to keep amused while listening to services: eg beads, make jewellery (Sell for charity/funds)
9. Greater involvement in the parish
10. Now that the hall is complete, posters to be made to encourage greater use of our facilities, posters to be placed in local shops.
11. After Church tea in the big hall
12. Can we have the big hall for the Guild – we are 45 in number at times.
13. Hold a summer fair (like Christmas) as a fund-raiser with items collected well beforehand.
14. Always remembering why we exist as a Christian church in this parish.
15. Sanctuary requires upgrade to be welcoming to new generations otherwise majority will not return.