

# **Consultation Conversation with Bishop Charlie Murry – Focussed through Parish MAP Goals - Monday 29 April 2019**

## **Goal 1 Outreach (Engaged with the Community & Mission)**

### **What is going well:**

- Wonderful ESL group – have come to church services and relationships have been built
- Community based choir brings people into the church and meets people where they are at
- One off annual event – **Love Lanes** (organised by the Central Coast Council) people have connected through that
- MU very involved with Wyong Hospital Maternity Unit
- SRE –we have a lot of teachers covering 5 schools – really have a heart for it
- ROSE Women’s Ministry – invites people using social media
- Teddy Bear’s Picnic – great success (Invites went to Baptism families and the community)
- Watoto Children’s Choir attended by 240 people in 2018 – to visit again in August 2019
- Support for Chaplain at Wyong High School and SRE teacher
- Very successful Christmas Fair in November 2018
- Polling booth for elections
- Café Church has commenced at 5pm on Sundays

### **Challenges- things that weigh on us, cause us some anxiety:**

- Changing world and the demographic we live in is a difficult society
- Will people visiting really feel comfortable and welcome? Particularly if they are not “like us”

- People here have a good heart, but how do we reach more widely across our demographic?
- Concern that we do not talk more about these things amongst ourselves. If we brought people here who have been in a Kairos program for example, would we accept them, would they accept us?
- Are we willing to change to meet the needs of the community out there?
- People have a different expectation of what worship is. How can our outreach be authentic and relevant?
- We don't seem to attract and keep young families
- Of all the positives that we have, as a rule we see little growth from events that we have despite good numbers, welcoming etc.
- We proclaim the gospel but we are not seeing new faces (In fact, we have at least six new people who have attended 9.30am service over the last four to six weeks)
- We have Baptisms but people are not always open. Opportunities to further our relationships with Baptism families.
- The reality is that our congregation profile is older than those around us
- Sadly people do not commit to anything. Commitment to community is counter cultural
- How can we build opportunities for contact?

**What are our concerns:**

We don't pray enough – only 3 people pray on a Sunday between services. A hope and dream that this will change and grow.

**Goal 2 Welcoming and Inclusion (Belonging)**

Gather crowds and explore views more deeply (Hope of inviting people to Church who come to or whom we meet through events)

### **Goal 3 Growth in Discipleship (Bible based and prayerful)**

- Home Bible studies are going well
- Mothers' Union has a ring around prayer circle
- **Prayer Warriors** group on Messenger links in with **St James Sisters** and anything that comes to them in turn goes to **Prayer Warriors**
- Faithful teaching of God's word
- Bethel Course valued
- Celebrating differences in prayer life but we also need to cater for differences
- Hope of inviting people to come closer through events
- Celebrating our youth group and Sunday youth ministry, their encouragement of each other and reaching out to others

### **Goal 4 Pastoral Care (Compassionate)**

- Every person on the parish directory is covered and some are reaching out to others who no longer come to church
- **Blue Christmas** – some people didn't come because they were 'blue' enough. Need to think how we promote it
- Bishop Charlie feels that we are a compassionate group – our attitude has changed and gone quiet – respecting others' feelings
- Always looking at how we can do things better

### **Goal 5 Healthy Church Culture (Unity)**

- Healthy meeting with our neighbours (St Cecelia's) next door
- Safe Ministry training workshops are covered well
- Celebrating the diversity in our congregations. This includes the new Sunday evening service and Wednesday morning service. 7.30am and 9.30am are like two separate congregations although we do come

together on occasions. Celebrating our diversity - different spaces for people who have different needs at different times.

- Comment from a short-term parishioner that the church does seem to be catering for people's different needs
- Things have changed and we are seeing different types of worship at different times. It was noted that Hillsong has the same style of service all through the day.
- There will always be a diversity of views on style of worship. We don't really need to change what we've got. We value diversity but we continue to need to attend to changing needs.
- We want to keep what nurtures and feeds people who attend now
- We want someone who will continue to grow with us on our journey forward

#### **Ephesians 4.11-16 -- Reality**

<sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

#### **Goal 6 Developing Infrastructure (Buildings, Staff and Systems)**

- It's difficult to reach out to people with young families. Making spaces for encounters with people.
- Finding a way like any group of people for them, to be able to support them (ER centre). Discernment process of what we are called to do
- Because we are older, we should be offering help to people who are housebound especially those who can't attend church any longer

- Deliberate mutual care
- Cooking meals for families who need help. Outreach ministry – frozen meals bank
- Parishioner confirmed that she received meals when she was ill and others have been helped also

## **Hopes about what a new Incumbent might bring – can they nurture the gifts we have?**

### **Character:**

- Sense of humour 5
- Sold out to God 5
- Friendly 5
- Person of integrity 5+
- Someone that we can relate to 3
- Someone who people feel comfortable with 4
- Patient 4
- Gentle 4
- Enjoys the company of others 4
- Outgoing 3
- A peacemaker,(someone who will get to the truth) 5
- Strong in their faith and in their preaching 5
- Strong in their prayer 5+
- Someone who will be comfortable with us 4
- Someone who is willing to be involved in the wider Wyong community 5++
- Someone who is looking to be part of the church family 5
- Someone who is not looking for their first post 5

- Someone who is not looking forward to retirement. We would like someone who hopefully is going to stay for at least seven or eight years 5+++
- Someone we can nurture 5
- We want someone who believes in the resurrection 5

What Paul teaches is that the pastor is not the body of the church. We are the body of the church (Christ) We are asking the incumbent to be a part of the body of Christ (our church)

## Skills

- Someone with experience
- Someone between really young and really elderly!! So they have personal experience of **relating to the young and the elderly** 5+
- A good shepherd to lead us 5
- We want someone who is strongly grounded in scripture 5
- Strong in their faith and preaching 5
- Able to mediate, caring 5
- Pastoral 5
- Someone who has a few runs on the board 5
- Wisdom and maturity regardless of age 5
- Needs to be able to be critically engaged with the culture - to be in the world but not of it 5
- Somebody who is able to forge unity from our diversity 5
- Someone who recognises they can't do it all themselves 5+
- We already have someone working as a 'youth minister' (Children's & Family Minister – Darren Cardwell) in this parish so we need someone with management and supportive skills who can be a mentor to the Children's & Family Minister
- Somebody who does not wear party politics on their sleeve 5

- Somebody who is not caught up in comprising of what fits in with the world 5
- Someone who can use technology on a day to day basis 5
- Details oriented, not just visionary. Someone who can follow through a process. Manage the vision and the process 5
- Someone who can delegate 5
- He or she needs to recognise other people's gifts and enable them to use them 5
- A person who will nurture and care for **all** people regardless of gender 5
- A person who is equipped to be a pastor whether they are male or female 2.5
- Somebody who is committed to a healing ministry – laying on of hands 5
- Someone who has had experience in a parish this size or larger so they can take us forward to the next level 5

**Notes:**

1. We were assured by Bishop Charlie that Bishop Peter wants a scripture based, mission minded evangelical. Someone asked, what is the meaning of an evangelical? (Bishop Charlie explained)

It is the intention of the Bishop that every time someone preaches, the gospel is proclaimed

2. Although it wasn't specifically said at the meeting, a number of parishioners have expressed to the Incumbency Board that they would like a person who has a 'youngish' family in the hope that they will attract younger families to the Church.