

# JESUS, TEACH US ALL TO LOVE – July 17 2016

**Jesus, teach us all to love.** Following a Leadership Day and extensive consultations and debate, the Ministry Leadership Team and Church Council have adopted these words as a summary of our direction and strategy as a church from July 2016 till January 2020.



It asks Jesus to **teach** us, and the Bible is at the heart of the church



It asks Jesus to **teach us all**, because we – from many generations and backgrounds - are learning to be the family of God.



It asks Jesus to **teach us all to love**, because we come together to be equipped and encouraged to love (locally, globally, in words, in actions, in ordinary life) when we're apart.



It's a **vision prayer not a vision statement** – because we can't be this church (Bible-hearted, generation-blending, using our time together to equip us to love when we're apart) without serious help from above.

There's a "welcome leaflet" for newcomers that sets out who we are and what we aim to do – you have received a copy this morning. And there's a six page document with timescales, responsibilities, financial implications and the evidence we expect to see to show success – just ask any of the signatories (Amy Baptiste, Colin Dawson, Jane Dougan, Gemma Fraser, Anne Gardner, Andy Griffiths, Travers Harpur, Polly Kersys-Hull, Suzanne McAllister, Beryl Moss, Chris Pearshouse, Anne Pepper, Fiona Selden and Jackie Sigournay). It does not replace the Mission Statement – on the contrary it maintains it, simplifies it and turns it into prayer

From the document: "*Please note – love is not a comfort blanket. Love is deeply challenging, is rooted in the heart of God, is cross-shaped, uses words and actions, and flows out to the world. We will miss no opportunity to say so.*"

The full document will make us more social, more spiritual and more simple. It will ensure that "gathered church" (when we're together) will concentrate on equipping us to live as "scattered church" when we're apart, increase our cooperation with other churches, and deliver a £6000 a year budget saving with a £6000 a year rise in income. It has twelve "action points".

- 1: The widespread use of "**Jesus, teach us all to love**".
- 2: A "**season of spirituality**" from November 2016 "*in which we discover, listen to and love the loving, generous God, and ask God to breathe upon us; this needs to include facing barriers to spiritual joy.*"
- 3: Supporting **daily Bible reading**.
- 4: **discontinuing evening services** and attempting to limit the number of committee meetings.
- 5: "**Inform Galleywood**" – which offers guidance on debt, benefits and budgeting – is called out of the church building.
- 6: communicating better about how we **serve the village**.
- 7: A rationale for Sunday morning worship – *it's to gather us all, so it's always a blend; it's to teach us, so it always centres round scripture; and it's to equip us to be full-time Christians in the 110 waking hours a week we spend apart*. We offer training on this in the autumn.
- 8: A "**season of gifts**" in summer 2017, helping us to enjoy three kinds of gift and use them for God's glory.
- 9: The future sustainability of **youth activities**
- 10: The creation of six functioning **mini-orders**
- 11: More **social events** - "flavour of the month"
- 12: Delivering all this with as much cooperation with **other local churches** as possible.