



July 2014

Elders Report 2014

Dear Friends

This is our first report since Stuart and Helen left us in January to move to Manchester where God led them, to start a new church plant in Salford. We wish them every blessing in their new ministry.

For us, God is still at work here and He is calling us to serve Him within our community in Derriford. Our outreach is very much based around our Oasis Café. In addition, various other regular activities take place across the week relying on the selfless dedication of many people associated with the church. We would very much like to thank all the volunteers who give up much of their time to cover these opportunities. God is very clearly calling all of us to be involved in some way or other to reach out into our community and to be the light, life and love of Jesus in our community. The recent completion of the Disabled Access into our Church buildings has highlighted this. It has been such a blessing for both the young and old alike and those with pushchairs so that none are prevented from sharing our resources. You will see just how vibrant and diverse Derriford is through the many reports enclosed. God is clearly at work here and we wish to remain open to the Holy Spirit as He encourages us. One such community outreach to look forward to is the commemoration of the start of World War 1 in August when we have an opportunity to share over a Church Barbeque on Sunday 3rd August.

We must retain our dedication to our corporate and individual prayer times enabling us to listen to God. As we do this through our House Groups, Ladies and Men's Prayer Groups, Days of Prayer through the increasing use of the Prayer Room as well as individuals we can build up a sense of unity and underlines what God wants us to do here at Derriford. The opportunity to feedback what we hear is therefore very important and we must learn to do this more. (Perhaps this is a challenge for us in the coming year)? At the end of

every Sunday service, we offer prayer ministry and we have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit at work through healing, support and counselling.

This year we have been looking at discipleship and we are growing spiritually through the various teaching. Our search for a new minister continues with the production of our Pastorate Profile which the URC will use once our Scoping has been determined and our vacancy is declared. Now that we have appointed an Interim Moderator (Rev Paul Stokes), we can begin to engage in this part of the process. Please continue to pray for the Elders as they work with Paul in this way. We also wish to encourage different people to become involved in our services and if you feel you have a calling in this ministry (or feel that someone else has), please let an Elder know. The Deacons have also worked diligently and have brought the Manse up to a suitable condition for rental and we are very pleased that a tenant has been found. As you will be aware, they are also working on a way to install Disabled Toilets in the Church Hall whilst keeping the damp out. We should be very thankful that God works with us and provides the right resources to meet His purpose.

The pastoral needs of the church are ever important and none of us are getting any younger. We hope that the balance between the Eldership and Housegroups mean that everyone has an opportunity to be cared for. The Elders regularly review this and, under Karen's coordination, we trust that this is working and if you have any concerns please highlight them to us.

We thank God for all He is doing here and we pray for growth (both spiritually and numerically). It is evident that people are using their gifts and we pray that we remain open to the Holy Spirit and, as it prompts us to trying new things, we will remain in unity with one another. The sacrificial giving of our time, energy and love is vital to see God's Kingdom grow. Many thanks to those who have given so much for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Yours in Christ

Philip Brewer
Church Secretary
(On Behalf of the Elders)