

# Discipleship Strategic Task Group

**Report to the Kirk Session**

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2009**



# Discipleship Task Group Report

## Context

*Failure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century C of S to :*

- *effectively share key messages of Jesus locally and nationally*
- *engage effectively with local and national communities*
- *influence 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking*
- *to influence local and world issues*
- *to retain win the hearts and minds of the youth*



# Discipleship Task Group Report

## Task Group Challenges

- *Crieff 2006 – Giffnock 2009*
- *Change can be uncomfortable*
- *Diverse views, beliefs and interpretations*
- *21<sup>st</sup> century definition of discipleship*
- *How are we going to do things differently to ensure that we affect the key outcomes we desire?*
- *Need to focus on what unites us not what divides us*



# Discipleship Task Group

- **Current Vision of Orchardhill Parish Church**
- *To be a witness for Jesus Christ within our changing community and the world through:*
- ***Discipleship that enables all to mature in their faith and fulfil their mission calling***
- ***Fellowship that deepens relationships***
- ***Ministry recognising and using the gifts and talents of all***
- ***Worship that is a way of life live out by all***



# How do we enable and empower?

- Define key messages
- Ensure engagement and access to messages
- Provide opportunities for people to explore their understanding of these messages
- Support people to take positive action based on personal interpretation of messages
- Allow enablement and empowerment of others
- Other people are curious and inspired
- Messages spread widely
- Action evident that reflects key messages



# Key Ideas

“From provider to enabler”

“From beliefs to relationships

“From the few to the many”

“Walking the talk”

*“Discipleship is everybody’s responsibility”*



# **Key Discipleship Message**

**“Discipleship is fundamentally about our values, behaviours and principles and how these influence and affect other people”**



# Values and Behaviours 1

## Values / Behaviours of Orchardhill Parish Church

*(As demonstrated in the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ)*

- ***Loving***
- ***Empathising***
- ***Listening***
- ***Learning***
- ***Healing***
- ***Forgiving***
- ***Sharing***
- ***Hopeful***



# Values and Behaviours 2

*(As demonstrated in the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ)*

- ***Trusting***
- ***Compassionate***
- ***Considerate***
- ***Seeking Peace***
- ***Seeking Justice***
- ***Respecting others***
- ***Sustaining and preserving the world for future generations***
- ***Building relationships and community***



# Key Principles at Orchardhill 1

- *Jesus at the centre*
- *We are all one in God*
- *Building on our heritage*
- *All are welcome*



# Key Principles at Orchardhill 2

- ***Faith in action***
- ***Lifelong learning***
- ***Using our gifts for God***
- ***Sacrifice of self for others***



# Definitions of Principles 1

***Jesus at the centre:*** We promote an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus

***We are all one in God:*** We believe that all human beings are of equal value

***Building on our heritage:*** We seek to respect and understand our history and traditions and learn how we can develop these in ways that are relevant to our contemporary society

***All are welcome:*** We invite all people to participate in our community and worship life as we journey in faith and hope



# Definitions of Principles 2

***Faith in action:*** *We believe that the way we behave towards each other is the best expression of our faith*

***Lifelong learning:*** *We find grace in the search for understanding*

***Using our gifts for God:*** *We wish to create a community using all its gifts help and sustain others*

***Sacrifice of self for others:*** *We are committed to peace and justice and putting others before ourselves*



# Possible Success Measures 1

***Jesus at the centre:*** Increase in people talking about and learning about the relevance of the Christian faith in our lives, God and the teachings of Jesus (*e.g. more people come to church, more participate in house groups, more people involved in helping others in the community*)



# Possible Success Measures 2

***We are all one in God:*** Increase in different views being shared openly and in ways that are respectful of others (*e.g. open conversations take place between ourselves and people of other faiths or no faith*)



# Possible Success Measures 3

***Building on our heritage:*** Increase in the church's influence in the local and wider community (*e.g. increased core and wider congregation, financially viable, compatible with the current vision of the Church of Scotland*)



# Possible Success Measures 4

***All are welcome:*** Increase in the number of people and groups who feel fully included in the life of our church (*e.g. secular groups and “unchurched” feel comfortable with church members and in church activities*)



# Possible Success Measures 5

***Faith in action:*** Action projects are identified, well supported and completed (e.g. *Pastoral Care, Youth Strategy, Summer Mission, Eco Church, South Africa Mission*)



# Possible Success Measures 6

***Lifelong learning:*** A coherent and wide-ranging learning strategy is in place that promotes open dialogue and questioning for all age groups (*e.g. wide variety of multi media resources and opportunities to discuss, debate and to research learning*)



# Possible Success Measures 7

***Using our gifts for God:*** Increase in all age groups using their gifts for others (*e.g. pastoral care, café, sharing personal stories, volunteering, supporting community, celebrating skills and talents*)



# Possible Success Measures 8

***Sacrifice of self for others:*** Increase in loving relationships (*e.g. evidenced by Church Health Survey and people actively recommending Orchardhill to others*)



# Examples of Key Resources

- Bible
- Kirk Session
- Congregational Board
- Learning Strategy
- House Groups
- Youth Strategy
- Arts/Music Strategy
- Community Events
- Men / Women's Events
- Community Partnerships
- \* Jesus Narratives / LTQ
- \* Strategic Task Groups
- \* Key Personnel
- \* Pastoral Care
- \* Website, Dialogue / Debate
- \* Fellowship Groups
- \* Personal Stories
- \* Gifts of all utilised
- \* Orchard Café
- \* Partnerships with Science



# Key Actions

- ***Sharing the vision, supporting learning***
- ***Engaging the younger generation, the congregation and local community***
- ***Empathising and getting to know people personally***
- ***Enabling everyone to contribute and develop their gifts and talents***



# Possible Straplines

- *“Faith in love, learning and hope”*
- *“Sharing God’s love in the community”*

