

The Brickhills and Stoke Hammond

Living Faith 4: Creating vibrant Christian communities

This is about shaping 'communities of grace' which exhibit the character of Jesus. Such attractive communities are genuinely hospitable, deeply engaged with their communities, and passionate about God.

Sunday readings: 1 John 4. 7 – 12; John 15. 1 – 26

LIVING FAITH QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The dead wood referred to in verse 2 is not necessarily people, but also habits and attitudes. What is the dead wood that needs to be removed from your community in order for spiritual growth to take place?
2. What makes your church community distinctively Christian in your local setting? How could you do this better?
3. How do you relate to other Christian communities? Are you working with them or against them?
4. Depending on how you defined 'testifying', how can you and your church do this more effectively?

FOR PRAYER

GROUP PRAYER

Put out a selection of material that your church has produced recently – magazines, weekly service sheet, sermon card, prayer cards, pictures of the church or people, and so on. Ask each person to choose one and pray for the people or activities represented, either silently or with another member of the group.

SOME FURTHER TOPICS FOR PRAYER EITHER IN THE GROUP OR IN THE WEEK AHEAD

Give thanks and pray for ...

- The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our community
- The visible presence of the Christian church in our towns and villages.

Pray especially for ...

- Church communities set in difficult urban areas
- Rural church communities and their particular problems
- The courage of all of us to be seen and heard to be distinctive.