

The Brickhills and Stoke Hammond

Living Faith 5: Shaping confident collaborative leadership

This is about developing leadership using all the resources available to the local church. It will involve consolidation in some parishes and new work in others to build up shared ministry in teams, with appropriate training and support.

Sunday readings: Romans 12. 3 – 8; John 21. 1 – 22

LIVING FAITH QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1 Some people find it very hard to share leadership and responsibility. How can they be encouraged to work collaboratively?
2. Think of how leadership in your own church is currently structured. What works well? What could be done differently?
3. What resources do you think should be made available to your leaders: diocesan training courses, 'secular' management training, discussion groups or something else?
4. How are you encouraging and developing future leaders in your church?
5. Think back over these five sessions. As a result of these studies, what in particular do you intend to take forward in your church?

FOR PRAYER

GROUP PRAYER

Put out a few copies of Rublev's icon (downloadable at www.wellsprings.org.uk/rublevs_icon/rublev.htm). Play some quiet music and ask people to reflect on the 'collaborative team' of the Trinity.

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

Give thanks and pray for ...

- Church leaders at every level (national, diocesan, local)
- Lay people exercising gifts of leadership within the local church, diocese and national and international church bodies
- Those who devise and deliver leadership training programmes.

Pray especially for ...

- Clergy and lay people who find collaborative leadership difficult
- Leaders experiencing a loss of confidence, whether in their own abilities or in their faith
- Congregations that lack appropriate leadership
- The continuing development of, and enthusiasm for, **Living Faith**.