

**SHARPENING OUR FOCUS –
A PLAN TO DEVELOP THE MISSION – December 2016 update
OUR PRIME FOCUS IS TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST
AND ENABLE PEOPLE TO DEEPEN AND DEVELOP THEIR FAITH**

**We are a church which places great importance on Worship,
teaching and developing disciples**

- We have used a variety of instruments to enhance our worship at Christmas and Easter, and on the last Sunday evening in the month for our new “Connect” services.
- There have been two “Themed Preaching” series during the year – one on The Lord’s Prayer and the other on The Fruit of the Spirit, and the Sunday Club have participated in both series with teaching appropriate to their age group. Most home groups also studied the Lord’s Prayer or prayer between January and Easter.
- The Season of Invitation is established within our calendar to provide a focus for inviting people to come to church with them.
- The Bible Course was successfully used as a follow on from the Alpha course.

We are a church where prayer is central

- For Lent and the summer, Prayer guides were made available to help people with their prayer life.
- We participated in the National Prayer initiative at the end of September to pray for the community.

**We are a church which seeks to provide pastoral care for all
and has a culture of invitation, welcome and integration**

- A small group met during the summer to review our pastoral lists with a view of ensuring everyone, whether a member or not, has at least a Pastoral Link Person.

- Teams are being formed to have specific care and oversight of those who are unable to attend worship on a regular basis through illness or age, and also to help welcome and integrate newcomers into the life of the church.

We are a church which seeks to serve the wider community

- Libby Cook is now overseeing events for families which will include a new initiative “Who let the Dad’s out?” which started in September, regular Family Film nights and Thula Mama for young mums and their babies which is led by Jenny Cook
- We continue to partner with All We Can and Sharon Wright is now a regional advocate for All We Can.
- Gracious Street is playing a key role linking with Knaresborough Council and Churches Together at a special town event to mark the switching on of the Christmas lights.

**Having now got the premises we have longed for we must now work together
to release the building for mission.**

- We have appointed a Church Administrator who works 3 mornings a week and this will help in a variety of ways across church life.
- In November Rev Gail, Deacon David, Sue Walkington, Mike Hughes, and Libby & John Cook attended the national “Navigating Change Conference” to explore how local churches can engage contemporary thinking on Church Growth and development.
- It is important that everyone finds their place of service in the life of the church, so they can use their God given gifts and passion to develop the life of the church, and during the first part of 2017 we will be exploring this further.