

## Venta Group Vision Update 23rd October 2016

Back in July, we held an away day for all of our PCCs which to work on a new vision which would inspire, sustain and grow our group of churches in the years to come. We worked as groups looking at each of the Diocese's mission priorities, and have focused those into 3 key areas for us here: *creating* Community, *discovering* Discipleship, and *encouraging* Evangelism. To help concentrate on these 3 things, we have created three groups made up of members of the different PCCs, which met this week.

Each group looked at the vision sheet (on the reverse of this sheet) and discussed how the churches look now in relation to their column. We then settled on some big hopes and dreams for the coming years—we said 5 years, but maybe they will happen sooner—and worked out what the all-important first steps will be. I am really grateful to the person who suggested that with all this, Venta should probably stand for Very Exciting New Things Ahead.

So...

C (Community) group had a vision for putting the life of the church back in the heart of our village communities. The next thing we would like to do is organise a village-wide questionnaire in the new year to see how members of the community would like the church to be involved in what is going on in the villages. We will be exchanging ideas over email, and meeting once the results come in at the end of February.

D (Discipleship) group would like us to grow to the point where almost all regular members of the church are in some form of small group, where we are all playing our part as the Body of Christ, where we are all excited about the bible and prayer as individuals, and about worshipping together around the group. We are going to begin with a short survey of church members to gauge how people feel about their own discipleship so that we can provide some resources to go with our teaching on prayer in January.

E (Evangelism) group would like to see 100 people across the churches who are more confident in welcoming new people, inviting people to church activities, and sharing their faith. Our first step will be to encourage people to go on some outside training about faith sharing, plan some sessions on it within the group, and talk about it on Sunday mornings in February.

I hope that you can see that we have been busy! Do pray for us, and do talk to any of the PCC members if you would like to find out more.

	<b>Creating Community</b>	<b>Deepening Discipleship</b>	<b>Encouraging Evangelism</b>
<b>I will...</b>	Catch opportunities to bless people that come my way	Develop a pattern of spending time reading the bible and praying every day	Expect to have opportunities to share my faith, and try to take them
<b>Our small group will...</b>	Connect with the community around us in ways that show God's love	Devote ourselves to growing in faith through worship, prayer and the bible	Expand and grow, involving new people and aiming to multiply
<b>Our congregation will...</b>	Continue to be known in the community for generosity and kindness	Decide to meet together with God often, to learn to follow Jesus closely	Explore ways to make new people welcome when we meet, and make leading people to faith a priority