

West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership

Partnership Council Meeting June 24th 2013

Exploring the nature and shape of ministry in our churches and across our partnership now and in the future. This is not part of the ISR Review or intended to second guess its outcome in any way, though may well feed into it at some point.

Whilst we must never lose sight of the fact that all things are possible in God, we must also accept the reality of our situation now. Ministry is the responsibility of the whole church, not just its clergy. The nature and shape of ministry in our churches and across our partnership is going to change, it has to. By sharing together and listening to God let us explore what that nature and shape might be....

This is not a test or exam, there are no right or wrong answers! This is about the practical ways in which we seek to serve God and each other, now, remembering it is likely we will remain at our current staffing levels for at least eighteen months, and in the future, remembering that our options for employing additional staff appear very limited.

- What is your church's vision (why do you exist, what is your purpose, now and in the future)
- What is your church's mission (how is your vision applied and worked out)

- In what practical ways is that delivered now
- In what practical ways would you like to deliver that in the future (possibilities, opportunities)

- What structures and people do you have in place to deliver them now
- What structures and people would you like to have in place to deliver them in the future
- What involvement will you require from stipendiary clergy

- What support do you receive from the Partnership now
- What support would you like to receive from the Partnership in the future
- If "your" clergy were to become responsible for another church in the partnership, how might that affect your mission