

Sacred Heart Parish St Ives

Proclaim! Group in November 2018

Proclaim! – Where are we now?

It is over 18 months since we launched our parish programme for new evangelisation – Proclaim!
Our initial targets were:

- renewal of faith for all the congregation, mainly through our religious education programme;
- reaching out to resting Catholics;
- engaging with other Christians, mainly through working with Churches Together in St Ives (CTSI).

We then widened our mission to include spreading the good news to all residents in our parish – very much in line with the direction of Bishop Alan, Pope Francis and, first and foremost, the mission Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us 2000 years ago to “Go and teach all nations”.

Big steps since then have been:

- learning from the evangelisation programme in Plymouth Diocese through a Diocese run seminar;
- following that with a course based on the book “Forming Intentional Disciples”;
- Bishop Alan’s appointment of Fr Karol as the Diocese Vicar for Evangelisation;
- forming a team of “Proclaimers” – see Elizabeth’s article on the build up to the team and their start on house visiting;
- Fr Karol’s appointment as the Chair of CTSI for the coming year.

Where to now? Our main ideas are:

- building the discipleship message and skills of through events and courses;
- seeking out and engaging with resting Catholics, supported by ...
- updating our parishioner contact information from the recent round of GDPR consents;
- developing community relations in the streets of St Ives and our 26 villages;
- proclaiming the Christian message through CTSI and wider contacts outside of the St Ives patch;
- continuing the house visiting programme, eventually covering the whole parish area.

This was always a whole parish project. What is your role in it?

Each of us has a part to play in the mission Jesus gave us:

- Some of us have an important responsibility for raising Christian families;
- Many of us have voluntary roles in support of fellow parishioners in everything from church cleaning to eucharistic ministry, in religious instruction to our children and young people and ...
- in support of our neighbours in need of a Good Samaritan.*

Are you able to do a bit more? There are plenty of opportunities to:

- develop our prayer life and personal relationship with Our Lord through events, courses and reading – look out for what suit you;

- to set an example as a joyous follower of Jesus and engage with friends and colleagues who show any interest in our faith;
- to use our individual skills and experience to fill a gap in our parish operations for a few hours a month in our established voluntary groups*;
- to support our expanding evangelisation team with work on: tracing and contacting resting parishioners; improving our parishioner information and communications; to be a local focus in your village or street community; or to reach out to the wider community through work with CTSI or our own household visiting programme.

David Kerr

22/10/18

* Voluntary tasks already happening in the parish include: church cleaning; flower arranging; Welcomers, Readers, musicians (including organists), Cantors and Choir; Grapevine editing; Churches Together in St Ives (CTSI) including Church in the Market Place (CITMP); house visiting, including prayer support; St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP); Parish Social Group; Holy Land Group; Proclaim! Group; Children's Liturgy; Altar Servers; database support; church history and archives. Any would welcome your interest: ask the parish office to make contact or look out for vacancies in the newsletter.

STOP PRESS: A few more big developments in the fortnight since writing this article!

- Extensive coverage of our visiting programme in the Diocesan newspaper; wide interest in other parishes in the Diocese following our initiative; another "village visit", to Woodhurst.
- Plans for another Lent course focussing on evangelisation in 2019.
- CTSI Committee Meeting with Fr Karol in the Chair and a full complement of three Sacred Heart church representatives. A positive response to a full agenda and planning of activities for 2019 including:
 - a new format for the Christian Unity Prayer Octave in January with daily prayers in each of the churches and a combined service on the Sunday afternoon (20th January);
 - another joint "Women's Day of Prayer" on Friday 1st March in our church, organised by Elizabeth;
 - the Good Friday "Walk of Witness" from Crossways to the Market Square for prayers and hymns supported by the Somersham Town Band, organised by our church this year. Help us to deliver the Easter message to St Ives with a strong turn out.

Please support your parish Proclaim! efforts with your prayers and participation where possible.

David

20/11/18 Open Meeting Report

Adapted for Grapevine Article

5/2/2019 Adapted for web site report