CHURCH DEVELOPMENT GROUP MEETING REPORT – 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. **Short Bible study of Acts 11:19-30.** *Split into groups and ask question – “What about the church in Antioch do you admire?” Get each group to write a short prayer inspired by the Church in Antioch. It should have at least 2 elements: Thanksgiving and Intercession (asking) – but could also include such things as confession, praise or a description of God.*

God you are…..

Thank you for….

Please….

1. **Follow up from last meeting** –
   1. Changes to breakfast

Decision to be clearer about the purpose of breakfast without putting pressure on people to feel compelled to come. Don’t serve breakfast till 10.35 with a grace being said/sung before we serve. A second grace will be said/sung at the time of giving the two-minute warning. We need to keep repeating the reason behind breakfast. Ian will write words for those leading the service to say as well as the graces.

* 1. Ways of worship

Suggested that for more ‘informal’ times of worship it would be good to start with the Community Groups leading. Those in Community Groups will chat with them and then offer to be involved if they want. There was a discussion about how much direction should be given. Ian will send out the information sheet he already has for worship leaders as an example.

Important to explain to the church what is happening and keep telling the story. An alternative Sunday focussed on worship would be helpful.

* 1. “Strengthening of relationships”

We had a wide ranging conversation around this issue and in particular how we can develop a culture of acceptance, love and forgiveness. “Sharing the peace” was discussed: perhaps with words rather than physical contact. The importance of acknowledging both our brokenness and our love for one another. The significance of communion was acknowledge and we discussed its frequency.

1. **Congregation Conference** – we discussed how best to run the upcoming congregation meeting.
2. **Moving forward -** We had a wide ranging discussion about a number of issues including the next steps in the 4 Areas of Development; leadership structure in a multi congregational church and how to get to that point and adding to the Church Development Group.

One specific suggestion was that the alternative Sundays be repeated annually and include: bible, prayer, worship, mission, Christian care, communion and baptism

Ian explained about the upcoming Presbytery review.

1. **Next meetings –** either 25 October or 1 Nov.Congregation conf. – 4 Nov
2. **Prayer**