

worship, and to make informed choices about where God wants the worship life of the church to go.

In order to meet the Vision that we feel that we have been given, we recognise that we need to move from our current two sites to a **single site**, and we will need to have premises that will be different to those that we currently use.

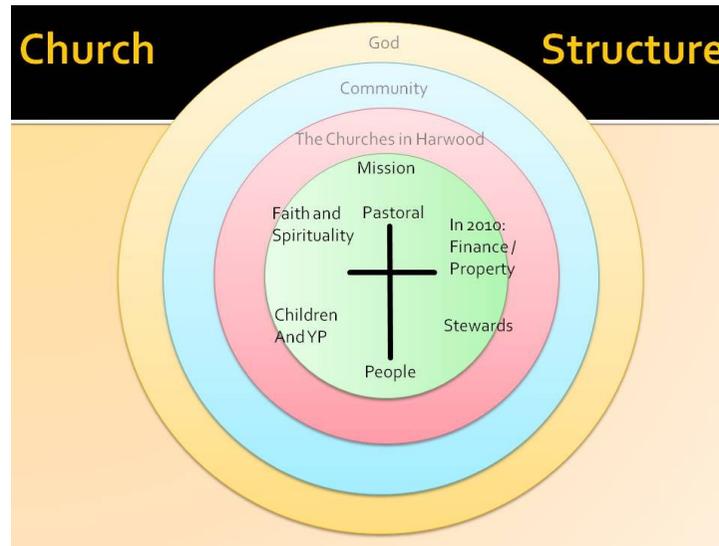
We are currently seeking to **appoint an architect late in September** to lead us through the putting in place of these new / amended buildings. The brief that we have given is that **nothing is to be ruled in or out** - they have complete freedom to suggest what they see as being right for Harwood Methodist Church, the other users of the premises, and the **people of Harwood** and the surrounding area.

Once appointed, it is our intention that the architect should produce a feasibility study and proposals, which is to be shared with a **General Church Meeting** for the whole church family in **February 2011**.

There is a great deal to be achieved in the next two years as we deliver this project. We **cannot focus on our buildings** and somehow think that we can address the rest of the church life when this is done - it will simply be too late. Likewise, we **cannot simply focus on the life of our church** whilst leaving the premises that we occupy unaltered.

This project that we are undertaking is about getting all the different areas of the church life evolving in the right way, moving in the right

direction, all at the same time, so that when we move into our new building we will already be well on the way to being the church that God is calling us to be.



I would finally stress that whilst a **project team** has been put in place to manage this work, this is not “their” project, **it is “your” project**, and the study month that we are having in September is going to challenge all of us to think about how we can contribute to making this Vision a reality—we all have a part to play, and a right to be heard. Since we value your comments and/or questions please contact the Rev’d Ian Smart if you want to explore any matter raised in this leaflet further.

The Methodist Year **2010/11** will include many **big decisions**, and a great deal of hard work - please continue to pray and give whatever time and effort you can to making this project a reality.

Harwood Methodist Church

Website: <http://harwoodmethodist.org.uk>

Contact: The Rev’d Ian Smart

Tel: 01204-306109

Email: ian@karenandian.com



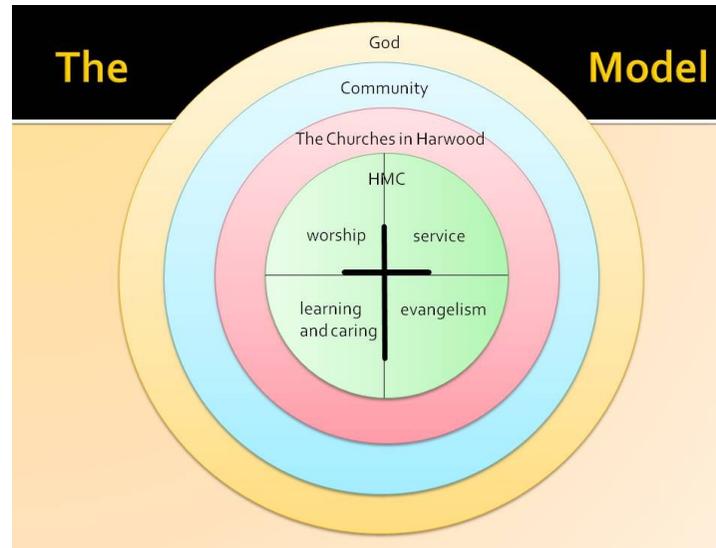
Roadmap
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the
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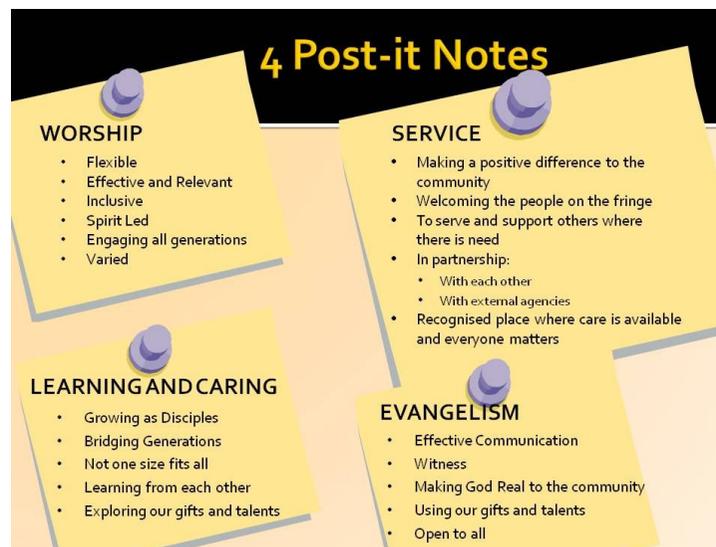
Harwood Methodist Church has been formed from the merger of two successful, respected and well established Methodist churches; each with their own gifts, graces and history. Since September of 2009 we have spent a great deal of time praying, reflecting and listening to God about what it is that he is calling us to be as the church in this place. This period of reflection, that we called “**Which Way?**” also included listening to the community that we serve. Residents of **Longsight, Tottington Road** and **Longsight Lane** responded to our requests and filled in questionnaires, also year 5 at **Harwood Meadows Primary School** spent time at the church hearing about the work that we do, they then provided us with their designs of a new church building.

All this culminated in a very exciting day in March at which God clearly spoke to us, and where all those who attended had the opportunity to reflect upon our calling as a church, feeding in their hopes and dreams for the new church community that we are seeking to establish.

We have expressed this **Vision** as a model that we are using to help us focus on being an **outward facing church, serving the community, working in partnership** with a number of agencies, and seeking to be a **focal point of the community**, with **Christ at our centre**, which aims to support the work that we see God already doing in the community round about us.



On our day in March we worked using Post-it™ notes (as shown below), and we have used these to describe our priorities in the four areas of Our Calling.



One of the ways that we are looking to implement this Vision is through the **establishment of partnerships** with organisations such as **Bolton Council**, and the building up of relationships with groups such as Age UK. We are also actively seeking partners who will provide services to **young families**, as well as looking at how we can build bridges across generations. Likewise, we have been greatly encouraged by our recent meetings with our local councillors and the area forum—who will all be important allies in making sure that we carry on listening as we undertake this project.

Internally, the church’s committees have been re-structured and we have just enjoyed the first of many events specifically designed to bring us closer together as one church, which was very successful. We are going to continue to evolve the spiritual and worship life of the church. This is going to happen in a number of ways.

So now that the **initial work is complete, what next?** Building upon the success of Which Way?, our time of questioning, we will be having **themed months** in our worship and linking this to exploration in our house groups, as well as discussion via our online Blog, and offline Blog-boards.

On **October the 2nd**, the leading Christian Songwriter and Singer **Dave Bilbrough** will be with us to provide worship training, and in the evening he will be **In Concert** at Longsight. We see this as the first in a series of similar events designed to help us experience other styles of