



New Pioneer for Hamworthy

It's been a fast moving and exciting period in our work looking to enable mission in the new housing developments of lower Hamworthy. The conversations within 'Love Hamworthy' brought the possibility of a resource to fund and house a part-time pioneer through the Baptist church. Hill St Church in Old Town which has been without a minister for some time recently made the difficult decision to close. However this faithful community were inspired and envisioned to pray about how this ending could also be the seed of a new beginning for Baptist ministry in the area. They eventually agreed that the manse belonging to the church could be sold off to pay for a house for a pioneer in the lower Hamworthy area.



Meanwhile the Baptist Union agreed a half-time salary for the area and not long after that John Good, an associate minister from Luton, expressed an interest in the role. An initial visit and informal conversation was followed by a more formal interview in early August after which John was offered and accepted the post.

John comes from a role helping a large church explore mission in a community as a way of enabling local groups to en-

gage with their community. Before that he was a youth worker in Southampton where he grew in his conviction of the importance of being present amongst those the church is seeking to reach. John is married to Mim with two young boys. They are currently planning on moving to the area in late October. Do pray for John, Mim and family as they make the transition to Poole, in particular for places for the children at the school in Hamworthy.

A musical Epiphany

On a typically sunny and warm day last summer Poole Park Pavilion swapped the sound of leather on willow for the sound of music. Epiphany are an extraordinary group of professional, classically trained musicians who use music to enable people to connect with their souls and with God.

One of the unique things that Epiphany do is to play 'sound portraits' over people. People sit amongst the group of players who then play what they sense for them. 14 people sat for sound portraits and all of them were moved and amazed at the power and aptness of the music that was created on the spot for them.



In the evening the group then hosted A Happening, a fluid time of improvised music, art and response, to which some 60 people came.

Epiphany are using their gifts to create a space for the Holy Spirit to work in an extraordinary way. A lot of what the work of PMC has been about is creating the right kind of environments for people to build relationship and explore God. Sometimes this involves words, but for those who might be more inclined to explore God through experience words can sometimes be a

"We are excited about moving down to Hamworthy. What first attracted me to the role was that new builds are a blank canvas. New housing is strategic for the government but also for the Christian faith. Maybe more than ever it is town planners and developers who inadvertently are shaping the social landscape of our country. The idea of helping the invisible elements of community develop alongside the physical building work is a great opportunity. While church statistics would suggest that the church remains in decline, I believe that peoples need for connectedness, love, truth and justice all remain fertile ground for the seeds of the Gospel." (John & Mim)

hindrance rather than a help. Epiphany's extremely prophetic ministry is about creating environments through music where God can meet people in powerful ways. These moments can be significant points in people's journey of faith.



New Bishop's Mission Order

Over the past year or so we have been praying and discussing the next phase of PMC's ministry, prompted in part by the end of the current Bishop Mission Order (BMO). The BMO is the bit of Anglican legal permission that comes alongside a fresh expression of church and enables it to take shape. PMC has been working within its first BMO for 7 years now and this has come to an end.

It has felt to us however that there is a role for PMC to play in enabling the church in Poole to engage in mission in our diverse cultural context. We've established 2 fresh expressions of church and have learnt a lot from our experimenting with mission and discipleship. How might this learning be replicated and translated into other contexts where current expressions of church struggle to connect?

We are really pleased to say that PMC will soon be the recipient of a new BMO with a permission to work

across the whole of Poole Deanery. We will seek to plant more missional communities and see new fresh expressions of church emerge. We will be doing this in conversation with parish churches, exploring with them how to engage better with parts of the parish that are disconnected from church life.

To come and find out more, and how you could get involved do come to our vision evening in November— details above!

Missional Communities day

We had a very stimulating day back in early June when we hosted Rev'd Dr Michael Moynagh. Michael is one of the foremost theologians in the fresh expression movement and has written extensively on the subject of mission and discipleship. The day gave people a framework for forming new missional communities and a simple but compelling vision for making disciples and exploring new forms of church in any context. People joined us from a wide variety of contexts including a number of more rural locations in Dorset.



Farewell & thanks to Sue Payne

We said farewell recently to Sue Payne, our administrator. Sue came to volunteer at Café No34 and ended up staying involved for nearly 7 years! She has done an amazing job moving PMC on from its early days and establishing the office at The Spire. Enjoy your retirement Sue!



Praying for PMC:

- Give thanks and please pray for John & Mim Good as they move to Poole and look for schools for their children.
- Please pray for the developing vision for PMC and for the Vision Evening in November where the vision will be more widely shared.
- Please pray for more people to hear and respond to God's call to lead in mission in their community.

Investing in mission

We are helping develop new ways of being church and doing mission amongst unchurched people. Will you join us?

If you would like to become a regular supporter email Phil at admin@poolemc.org.uk or go to www.poolemc.org.uk/support