

Being in the midst

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The basis of Christ Church and St Paul Anerley has always been an outward looking one with many activities in the community. I fitted in well as my primary call is and still is of an evangelist. Healing on the street, events in the park but also what we call “Week End Workout” with prayer walking, prophetic evangelism, BBQ in the community and many more. A while back it was to look into a project to have some kind of welcome place in the community, café type, praying place or the like. For us it is the way that we apply what is at the beginning of “Ministry in the Church of England” where it says that “Everyone has something Jesus Christ has given them which has to be shared with the whole community.”

It is amazing to see how the ministry of a church can be shifted with weekly initiatives. One of them is a weekly bible study group for ex-offenders and people with mental issues. There is a regular 12-15 people attending. Several have been baptised. Praise God! Another one is a weekly community meal that brings 45 to 60 guests with some peaks of over 70. We don't need to find this community place any more. “Needy” people are coming to us. A recent redundancy made me available to join the two initiatives.

‘Being in the midst’ is my second call to ministry, starting with having a listening ear, also mentoring for some but mainly praying with people from the smallest request to being there until the end with someone dying from cancer. An example is what we can call the ‘wall ministry’. It is being available to our gracious God on the front of the church. Some days I am



wondering what am I doing there, being myself at a low. But in spite of that, I can have remarkable and so uplifting discussions and even suggestion of faith in Jesus with a total stranger. With subtle and sensitive questions, they can open up to you, pouring out their

traumatic life changing events that have brought them to drug abuse or alcohol. Being non-judgemental to start with but most of all showing them respect as human beings and not “rejected of the society”. I don’t do a lot but some small touches of love and also being available to the presence of the Holy Spirit, you can be yourself as much as them surprised by some words. It can have a huge impact on someone’s live. Some will come back and wait for you to give them another touch of hope. Praise God!

The life of a church spreads on 24 hours and 7 days a week and if you make yourself available you will see amazing things happening. You will see and hear how God is gracious and good. You will see Jesus Christ resurrected, living and active through the Holy Spirit transforming lives. Amazing! Come and see!