

Calling Out a Ministry Leadership Team

During the season of Advent we shall be taking the first step at St John's in the process of calling out and establishing a Ministry Leadership Team, as set out in the September edition of St John's News.

What kind of leadership will a Ministry Leadership Team provide for St John's Church? It will lead us in vision-setting. It will develop, enable and facilitate the ministry of all the people of God at St John's. It will draw on the gifts and abilities of several people and model the collaborative ministry of all the baptised, which is not, primarily, about what goes on in the church building, but about the way we all live our lives as members of Christ's kingdom. **A Ministry Leadership Team will not undertake the ministry on behalf of the rest of us, but will lead us and equip us in sharing in it together.** Leadership, in this sense, is not about doing all the ministry, but about helping and supporting all of us in sharing in ministry together. So we anticipate that the Ministry Leadership Team will probably comprise about five to seven people.

The Vestry has identified the key areas of ministry in and through which it believes the Ministry Leadership Team will fulfil this role of enabling and supporting the ministry of us all. These are the areas of leadership in our common life that will need to be exercised by the members of the Team. The next step in this process involves **you** as part of the whole constituent membership of St John's.

- You are asked to take this leaflet away with you and prayerfully consider the two sections that follow.
- In Section A the key areas of ministry are listed in two groupings. In the space for each grouping you are asked to write the name(s) of those who you think would be able to build up and lead the congregation in its life and witness through the particular contributions in ministry that are listed.
 - You can write as many names as you like in each grouping
 - You can write the same name(s) in both groupings
 - You can write your own name in one or both of the groupings
- In Section B there is a brief explanation of why the church ordains some people to a sacramental ministry. This is followed by space for you to write the name of anyone who you think might be approached by the vestry with a request to consider whether they might be called to ordained ministry within the context of our Ministry Leadership Team. Again, you can write more than one name, you can write names you have already put forward in Section A, and you can put your own name forward if you wish.
- Please undertake this task carefully and with prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- The process is anonymous. You are not asked to sign the form or indicate your identity.
- Please bring the tear-off part of the leaflet back to church with you in a sealed envelope and put in the box provided by 31st December 2007.

This is not an election. All the names put forward will be considered by a small nominations sub-committee appointed by the Vestry, comprising Annie Kinghorn, Bill Elliot and David Sceats. They will bring a proposal for the membership of the Leadership Team to a meeting of the Vestry in January. With the Vestry's approval, those people will be approached to see if they would be willing to be part of the Ministry Leadership Team.

Once it is in existence (in the New Year) the Leadership Team will work with David to establish how to work so as to share the leadership of our ministry and mission as a church. Further processes of selection will begin for anyone who accepts a call to ordained ministry, and there will be ongoing training for all the members of the team, which will take place alongside the continuation of *Travelling On* (the discipleship study course which anyone from St John's can take part in).

Section A - Key Areas of Ministry

The key areas of ministry identified by the Vestry fall into two groups: those relating to spiritual things and those that have to do with more practical aspects of our common life. The two categories overlap, and it may be that some of the people you might want to suggest for one category could also be suggested for the other. That's OK.

Please write the names of those who you see as leaders in each of these areas in the space provided.

Leading worship—Preaching—Teaching—Nurturing and directing the spiritual life of individuals

Organising—Communicating – Vision-setting—Encouraging and enabling other people

Section B – Ordained Ministry

One of the ways in which the Church provides signs of its own identity is by ordaining people as clergy. From time to time the Christian community recognises in some of its members a particular gifting of the Holy Spirit which enables them to model something of what it means for it to be an assembly of Christ's kingdom. Such people are, in a sense, 'sacramental' expressions of the Church's identity and ministry. As such, they have a special contribution to make to its ministerial formation and to the leadership of its mission.

Their gifting will combine the themes of service – caring for those in need, supporting the weak, comforting the afflicted, sustaining those who have suffered loss, exploring the meaning of service in the workplace and the wider world – and of the 'gathering together' and 'naming' of the Christian community – by retelling the stories that enable the Church to know itself in continuity with its roots; by enabling its members to understand and recognise themselves as Christ's people through the sacrament of Holy Communion; by offering the faith-community a shared 'language' to understand and express its gospel.

Such people are appropriately called to ordained ministry, to bring the Church together as a priestly community for worship and service and to reflect back to the Church what it means for it to be the servant people of the servant King.

Although vocation to such ordained ministry sometimes starts with the person concerned, the Christian community **always** has a part to play in it; and very often that part includes suggesting to such a person that they might be someone who should consider ordained ministry.

Please write in this space the name of anyone at St John's who you think might have such a special gifting of the Holy Spirit for ordained ministry: