

A Day to Discern God's Will

- Notes From the Day

Bowling Club Pavilion - Saturday 25th January 2025

Twenty-five people attended



"You did not choose me, but I chose you and I appointed you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that shall last." (John 15 v 16).

As a church, we in St Peter's this year wish to continue consciously reviewing our way forward. We want to actively listen to people across our community. Above all we want to listen to God, notice where His Spirit is at work and discern together what He is calling us to do in this place. As part of this we hosted a day to discern God's will together.

Aims of the day:

- To reflect on the 'current times' and the needs of the community around us in Carmarthen
- To listen to God and to discern what He is calling us to be and do as His body in Carmarthen
- To agree the next steps on our journey with God over the coming months.

Below are notes taken on flipcharts during the day as we responded to each of the key questions that we prayerfully posed.

Question: What are the needs of the community around us in Carmarthen?

- Hope
- A sense of belonging
- Feeling part of the community
- Ways to combat loneliness
- Getting connected to other supporting services
- Dealing with a culture of fear and misinformation
- Space in life for reflection
- A place where you are not judged
- To meet with God in the silence
- A safe space of compassion
- Feeling loved.

Dwelling in the Word

As a group we prayerfully reflected together on the Bible passage, Luke 10 vs 1-12. It records the instructions Jesus gave the seventy-two he appointed to go out into the villages as his disciples. As we carefully listened to what resonated for each of us, we sensed these are His guidelines for us also here as His Body in Carmarthen today:

- Be trusting and keep listening to the Spirit of God
- Go out on a Mission. There is some urgency
- “I am sending you out like lambs among wolves”
- Do not be faint-hearted. The road is not always easy
- This is challenging and sometimes not comfortable
- Support each other
- Out there do not be judgemental. Meet people where they are
- Be single-minded and focus on the task. Keep it simple; ‘take no bag”
- Focus. Move on if it is not working
- This calling is a gift, an anointing
- Work in pairs and teams; this is not the responsibility of the few, or only the clergy
- God has a plan for us to walk in
- “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few”
- There are indeed plenty of opportunities to serve different ‘communities’ across Carmarthen (they are like villages)
- But identify certain key groups to focus on as we are few
- Keep strong. Be proud of our faith
- We may need courage. Be prepared to be mocked or met with indifference
- We can bring His healing and His unconditional love
- This is exciting and will make us feel hopeful. God is with us.

Question: What are we noticing that God is already doing through and around us?

These things seem to have life, spirit and energy. Some we are doing already or are involved with and may want to do more. Some we have only heard about and might want to make closer connections.

- Our church’s connection with the Model Primary School
- Our support for Plant Dewi in their work with children and young families
- Our Thursday Breakfast Club offering food/fellowship for homeless people and those in need around us
- The work of the Salvation Army with homeless people
- The several other churches/organisations offering food for homeless people locally
- The hospital chaplaincy at Glangwili
- The work of the Carmarthen’s Health and Social Care services
- Our Church/LMA Choir, which is growing
- St Peter’s Mothers’ Union
- Our mid-week Eucharist service
- Individual acts of kindness.

Conclusions from the Day

Question: What is God calling us to be and do as His Body here in Carmarthen?

Building on all the above, we spent the afternoon following a process called 'Conversation in the Spirit'. It took us through several rounds of listening to each person in turn as we honed our collective thoughts down to what we discerned as the next steps on our journey with God for the coming few months. These are our conclusions:

- ❖ We are to focus first on two areas of mission over the coming few months:
 - Build on our Thursday Breakfast Club and develop further connections with homeless people and those in urgent need in Carmarthen
 - Build on our connections with Plant Dewi in their work caring for parents and young families in need.
- ❖ Go out, talk to and work with other groups already working in these mission areas. Offer ourselves as we are.
- ❖ Be a catalyst for other active groups to connect and cooperate in Carmarthen (including speaking with the other churches in the town).
- ❖ This is to be a broad, team effort involving not just the work of the few or the clergy. We all have different gifts to bring.
- ❖ Do, rather than talk.
- ❖ "Only the power of my Spirit will do it", says the Lord. (Zech 4 v6). Allow God to work through us. God can do this.
- ❖ **'FAN'** – Faith, Action, Now.

(Alongside this, naturally continue with other areas of current church development, such as the growing of the choir and addressing the immediate Quinquennial problems with the building.)