

Vision Sunday – Pete Greig

Pete Greig shared the Emmaus Road vision for the next 12 months.

The Table, weighed down with food and a place for hospitality, is the symbol of our vision this year.

A video clip showed a diverse crowd of people around a table enjoying food and being together, welcoming others to join to the point where an additional table had to be brought up to make space. Even so, a vacant chair showed there was still space for more to be welcomed in.

Hungry physically, emotionally, spiritually and in other ways.

Key points of the vision include:

- Enjoy the table
- Extend the table
- Empty the table

In the Bible:

- Thou preparest a table in the presence of mine enemies.
- The Lord's table.
- The last supper.
- Luke's gospel includes 19 meals: almost one per chapter.
- The Emmaus Road journey lead to a mealtable.

Invite guests to our table and include them.

- Most new Christians are under 30 years of age.
- The New Atheism, recently so strong, seems to be diminishing and intellectual Theism is rising in popularity.
- Many new believers baptised this Easter. I think the numbers given were:
Gas Street Birmingham 37, Norwich 116, Audacious church Manchester 469, Colorado 419 and throughout France, a secular nation, 12,000 catholic believers baffling the catholic church leadership.
Driven by a personal encounter with Jesus.
- Izzy from our church had such an encounter and the video showed her explaining how she came through a friend to Alpha, met and prayed with the student pastor, came to faith, is delighted and recognises the Holy Spirit working in her life prior to Alpha.
She was quite overwhelmed when she realised that, brought up in a secular family, she was baptised as an infant on 2nd March and this year asked Christ into her life on 2nd March.

Feed the hungry

Supper club at the Guildford evening service. 6,000 hot meals served last year in the Lighthouse and guests said:

- "This is the only time I use a knife and fork."
- "This is the only hot meal I have each week."
- "This is the only time I eat at table with others."

760 Back to school packs.

1100 Christmas kindness packs

"Never in my life have I felt loved, but here in the Lighthouse I do."

Appeal

To continue these activities, maintain our Sunday services, enable the vision of a huge marquee at Waverley to host joint meetings of all Emaus churches, the three year lease of the Riverside Centre in Guildford, the Guildford centre Lighthouse, apprenticeships and more and needing to cope with the effects of inflation we do need budget.

- Please give if you can.
- Preferably by regular standing order.

28th April 2024. Emmaus Road. Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford.