

10 May, 2020

Dear Church,

For those who may not know me, I am Trevor and I am the current chair of the church trustees. One thing we trustees have to do is hold an annual general meeting at which we present the church finances to you and also share our vision for the church over the coming year; not surprisingly we call this a vision meeting.

Because of the present need for social distancing I am sure you will agree it would not be sensible to gather everyone together to hold the meeting. Also, given the present uncertainty, the leadership of the church is adopting a wait and see approach regarding vision, and what direction the 'new normal' will be taking us as a church.

Because of those circumstances we have reluctantly decided to postpone the vision evening until after lockdown and when the so called new normal has become clearer. We thought then would be the right time to hold a *revision* evening at which we can tell you all about the revised vision for the church as we move forward. Meanwhile. If anyone would like details of the church finances and a copy of the annual report please contact Alex Cooper at the Vineyard Centre (alex.cooper@plymouthvineyard.org.uk).

But what about now? Never before in our lifetime, I think, have people collectively been so afraid, confused and uncertain and as often happens individuals look for reassurance and guidance from another spiritual source. The trouble is though many do not know where to look. I think there is a space or void opening caused by people being stretched beyond the familiar, knowledge-based, google-it approaches that many have been taught, into a more discovery-based, intuitive and creative approach. And that gives us the opportunity to reach into that space and connect with them at the spiritual level. I say us meaning you and me as individuals. As organisations, including our church, can no longer operate in the familiar way so we as individuals can do something different by reaching out on our own, in our own way using the unique gifts and strengths we have and the resources available to us. Remember Jesus fed 5000 people with just 5 fishes and 2 loaves and still had 12 baskets of leftovers!

We are living through an amazing, tumultuous, creative, uncertain and extraordinary time. Let the Holy Spirit show you what needs to be done and how you can do it. Be the person God is asking you to be and take the action. It's how we can create a new normal that will work for everyone.

and then I heard the voice of the Lord saying

"whom shall I send, who will go for us?"

And I said "Here I am, send me,"

Isaiah 6 v8.

Step forward in faith,

Trevor