

## Funding

We shall be hearing more about the role of the Assistant Minister in coming weeks, and there will be opportunities for questions and comments after some of our services. I am also happy to talk to you on an individual basis about any aspect of this project, should you wish to.

It is hoped that we shall raise sufficient funding to advertise this as a 3-year post, either through one-off gifts or commitments to regular giving over a 3 year period.

**Along with the Wardens and PCC, I invite you to be prayerful about this exciting project, and to consider your giving towards an Assistant Minister at St Peter's.**

Rev. Mick Hough

*Heavenly Father,*

*We thank you that, in sending your Son to take on human flesh and become one of us, you have invested wonderfully in your creation.*

*We thank you that through faith in Jesus, we are blessed to know you and to live in the hope of eternal life.*

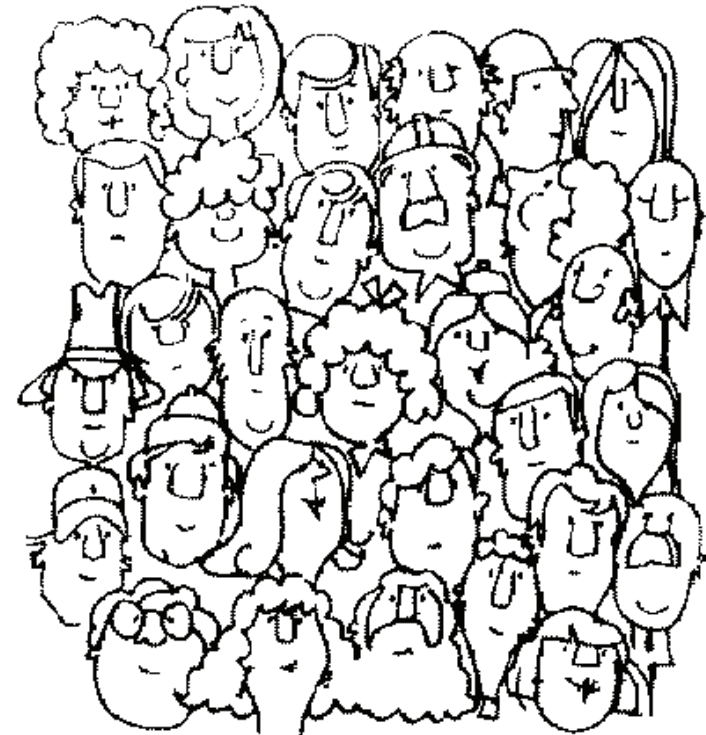
*As members of Christ's body in Woodmansterne, help us to hear his call to be faithful in proclaiming the good news to our generation, and in making provision for generations to come.*

*We pray that we may know your guidance and provision as we consider an Assistant Minister for St Peter's in 2010. Give us a vision of your church as you would want it to be—a church that is eagerly discovering, celebrating and sharing life with you through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen*

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians Chapter 3 v 20,

# *Investing in People*

## *A vision for an Assistant Minister at St Peter's Church*



## **Saint Peter's Church Woodmansterne**

*'Discovering, celebrating and sharing  
life with God through Jesus Christ'*



## An assistant minister for St Peter's

In recent months the PCC has explored the possibility of employing an assistant minister for St Peter's.

We are now at a stage where we have a description of the job that needs to be done and the kind of person that we are looking for, as well as some figures for the funding that will be required.

The title '**assistant minister**' indicates that they will be employed to assist with the ministry of St Peter's church. It is likely that the person will be a lay minister rather than ordained, and may be male or female.

The job breaks down into three areas

- Children and Youth work.
- Addressing our responsibilities to the Mount area of our parish, and exploring how we might meet them.
- General strengthening of the existing ministry at St Peter's.

### Children and Youth

*'We will tell the next generation of the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD' Psalm 78*

At St Peter's we have a good core of children and young people, and their leaders work hard at teaching them week-by-week.

The vision for an assistant member of staff is that they will work alongside our existing leaders to strengthen and develop our current work among children and young people (i.e. in church, in schools and midweek).

It is also essential that we take seriously our task to teach the next generation about Jesus - not for our sake but theirs and for His! The figures for the number of children attending church in 21<sup>st</sup> C Britain make for alarming reading, and we need to address this locally by building for the future.

The potential to have a thriving children and youth ministry at St Peter's is great, but requires someone who is able to bring time and experience to developing our program of activities for this age group.



## Ministry on the Mount

It is envisaged that the role of the Assistant Minister would be to gather and lead a small team of people, who would do some visiting and listening to the needs of people on the Mount. This would help us as we then consider what sort of ministry is appropriate there. It might be, for instance, a mid-week service for those at home during the week, or an evening 'Fresh Expression' of church.

Again, the aim is outreach and bringing people into contact with the good news of Jesus, through word and action.

It is also to take seriously our responsibility to serve that area of the parish.

### General ministry

The amount that can be achieved in terms of pastoral care, outreach activities, teaching and training new leaders etc. is (in human terms) directly proportional to the number of people on the staff team!



The presence of a full-time assistant minister, living in Ralph Cottage, would transform the life of St Peter's. Strengthening our existing ministries and developing new initiatives would be possible in a way which is essential for the future of St Peter's Church, and yet which isn't possible at present.

### What will this cost?

The cost of employing an Assistant Minister would be in the region of £20,000 per year. This is not the salary, but the approximate cost to us. Ralph Cottage would be part of the package, and the Assistant Minister would need to reside there as part of his or her role in the community.

This is a large sum of money, but we are in many ways well on the way to achieving it. We have been committed to paying a Verger's wage for many years, and approx £10,000 per annum of that remains in the budget, along with the costs associated with Ralph Cottage.