

Session 5: Growing leaders for Jesus Christ – Members' Handout

Vision Prayer:



Heavenly Father,
we embrace Your call for us to make disciples,
to be witnesses and to grow leaders.
Give us the eyes to see Your vision,
ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit
and courage to follow in the footsteps of Your Son,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Getting Started:

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody



This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

As a group discuss some of the following questions.

- Why are people reluctant to volunteer?
- It often said 'If you want a job done ask a busy person' – do you think this is true?
- What might encourage other people to get involved in serving/leading?

DVD Teaching input:



Bible Passage: Romans 12:1-8



¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

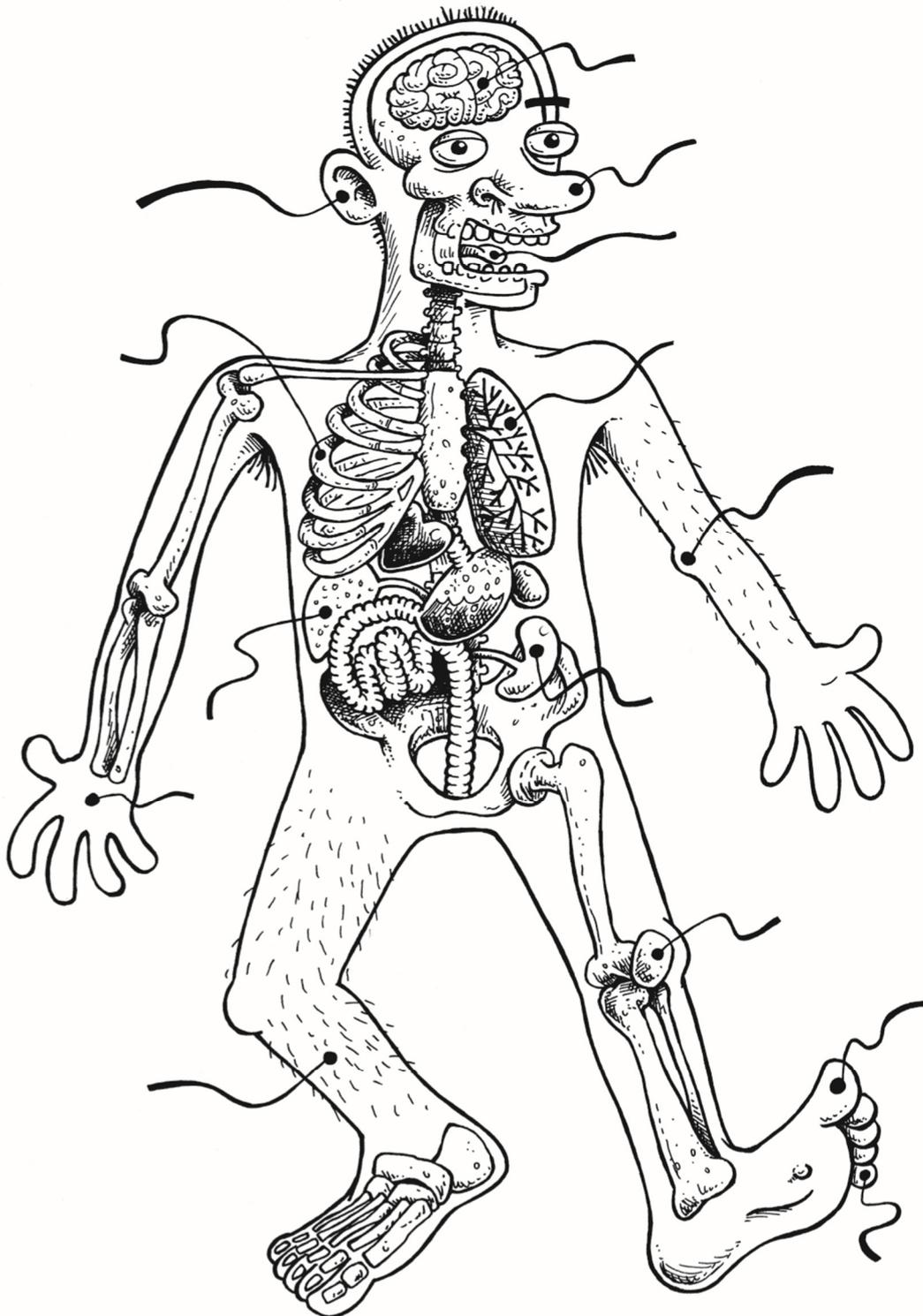
The church of Jesus Christ is described in many ways in the New Testament, but here it is as one body with many different gifts. Based on the passage above, discuss the following:

1. How are the gifts and callings of God discerned and expressed in the church?
2. What has to change for church to be a community in which the gifts God gives can be used?
3. What can we do to encourage leadership for the next generation of life in the Church of England and in this diocese?

Body Beautiful:



In the Bible passage the image of a body is used to describe the church. The passage points out that every part of the body is important. On the picture of the human body, label what the different body parts might represent in your church; you might think of people or areas of work and ministry. Feel free to label the other parts of the body or to add body parts! Are any body parts either missing or particularly weak in the life of your church? How can your church help people recognise God's calling and gifting? Who in your church is a potential priest, teacher, youth worker, lay leader etc?

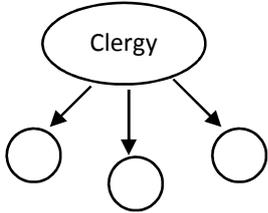


What part(s) of the body best describes your involvement in the church?

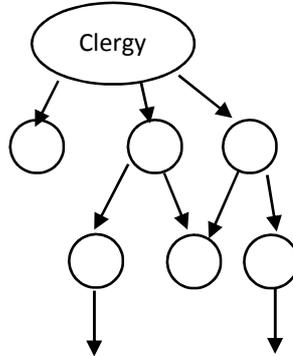
Shared Leadership:



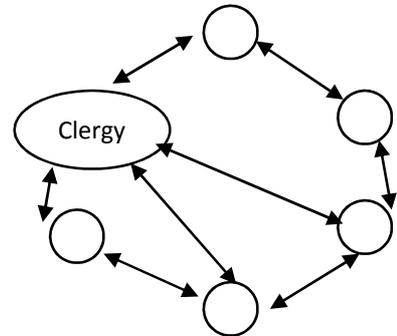
For the Church to be healthy as the body we need the different parts working well together. Here are three diagrams of shared leadership. None of these is 'right' or 'wrong' – they can all work well in different places at different times – and they are not the only ways things can work, your church may be quite different!



A: Clergy delegate some tasks to others



B: Clergy delegate some tasks and some authority to others to act at various levels



C: Everyone has a ministry in God's mission in the world: clergy tasks include connecting, encouraging and coordinating others.

Working as a whole group:

- What thoughts do you have about the diagrams above? Can you think of any other ways churches operate?
- Which do you think is closest to how you operate as a church?
- If the answer is A or B, who are the people who share tasks and authority?
- Does anyone in your church have gifts which aren't currently being used in a church context?
- What barriers might be preventing greater lay involvement?
- Do you have a sense of moving forward as a church?
- Where do you feel God may want to lead you?

Our Priorities:



What practical ways can you think of to show your appreciation and encouragement to people with leadership responsibilities in your church? You might like to remember to say thank you, invite them for a meal, buy them flowers, bake a cake, wash their car or think of some other practical expression of gratitude and appreciation.

Support and development:

In what ways could the leaders in your church be better equipped? Are there training courses available that would help develop your leaders? In what ways could you mentor and develop younger leaders?

Identifying leaders:

What steps could you take to identify leadership skills and gifts in other people? Do you actively encourage people to consider God's vocation for their lives?

Laying down responsibilities:

Do you have ways of celebrating people's contributions when they step down from roles and responsibilities? Do you encourage people to move on from roles when appropriate or do people get 'stuck' with jobs once they have volunteered to help?

Identify three practical steps to help grow leaders in your church.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

As a leader of the group, make sure these are fed back to the church leadership, PCC and parish priest.

Prayer Reflection:



This reflection based on the earlier Bible passage should be read by two members in the group. One should read the **bold text** and the other the text in *italics*.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Lord thank you for all that Jesus has done for us. Help me to offer myself in your service. May our lives be holy, bring you pleasure and offer you true and proper worship. (Pause)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Lord sometimes I make mistakes, I say or do the wrong thing. Sometimes I don't feel to be a very good Christian. Please work in me so that my will matches your will. (Pause)

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Lord you know my strengths and my weaknesses. You know about my faith and my doubts. Thank you that you love me and have a plan for my life.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

As part of your body the church, help me to work with others to build your Kingdom. Help me to appreciate, value and recognise the gifts and skills of others. Lord, I freely offer the gifts and skills in my life to be of service to you and your church. Help us to be a healthy church, transforming this community, and may I play my part, with others, to see your Kingdom grow in the place. Amen

Take it Away Material:



As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:4-5)

Write the text out and pin it up by your front door. Every time you leave the house remind yourself that God has called you to serve him in his church and in the world. You might like to carry a Lego brick or a small stone around in your pocket to remind yourself that you are a living stone in God's Temple.