

## Discussion notes based on Dan's talk at the annual meeting

Dan highlighted various words that we feel God has highlighted to us as a church during the pandemic.

### 1. Wait.

None of us like waiting. What makes waiting easier for you?

What in particular have you found most difficult about us waiting as a church for new direction and vision over the last 2 years?

Read Psalm 130.5-6

What do these verses teach us about a biblical approach to waiting?

Why do you think God might have been asking us to 'wait' so long as a church?

### 2. Listen.

How easy do you find it to listen to God?

Read Revelation 2.29 – a phrase repeated in each of the 7 'letters to the churches' in Revelation.

Why is listening for what the Spirit says so important?

What are the dangers of not listening?

Share any ways that you've been practicing listening to God recently (eg if you've tried some of the exercises in Pete Greig's book "How to listen to God").

### 3. Rest.

Read Matthew 11.28-30

We typically think of 'resting' as doing nothing. But when will we experience rest, according to Jesus in these verses?

If we're supposed to be 'yoked' to Jesus (ie tied together with him, as 2 oxen are yoked together whilst working), do you think you tend to go faster than Jesus' pace, at Jesus pace, or slower than Jesus? Why?

Which of these 3 words do you think you've done best?

Which have you struggled with most?

Spend some time praying for our church and especially the new PCC, as we seek to continue listening to God about his plans for our future.

Dan then spent some time getting us to think about our discipleship triangle (up, in, out). As a church, our calling is to:

- *Go deeper* with God
- *Grow closer* to each other
- *Reach further* with the gospel

The PCC want some honest one-word appraisals of how we do those things as a church at the moment. eg

- Are you (or your small group) going deeper with God reluctantly or cautiously or boldly?
- Are you growing closer to each other warily or excitedly or slowly?

- Are you reaching further with Jesus' good news gingerly or rapidly or miraculously?

The PCC also want some faith-filled one-word suggestions of how you would love us to be doing those things in a few years' time. eg

- Do you want us to be going deeper with God expectantly or passionately or trustingly?
- Do you want us to be growing closer to each other sacrificially or vulnerably?
- Do you want us to be reaching further with the gospel boldly or creatively or enthusiastically?

Don't use words which describe how we do these things at the moment. Choose one word for each part of our discipleship calling which you would love to see us move towards over the coming years.

Pray about this together, and fill in your answers online at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/blog/oneword](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/blog/oneword)

We will then take these words back to PCC for the next stage of our discussions.