

A FUTURE FOR PARKWOOD

What can we be proud of at Parkwood?

- Our church is at the heart of our worshipping and praying community, committed to serving all ages from the 'Messy Church' for youngsters, through Uniformed Organisations to the Community Breakfast for everyone and the Drop in Lunch for older people.
- We are part of the world-wide Methodist church and share in its mission to ALL people.

What are the challenges we face?

- We have a declining church membership with fewer people taking on more and more of the work.
- Our income from Sunday collections doesn't cover our expenses.
- The cost of our property is outstripping our income and will require money spending on it to enable all our members to continue worshipping here.

What can we do about it?

- The good news is that we still have time to think about what God is saying to us about the future of Parkwood. We can't rush it, but we have to start the process now.
- The Church Council has set up a group to encourage us to pray, think and talk about the future of our church. Parkwood needs everyone to be involved over the next few months we want everyone to have a voice we're looking forward to hearing their comments and chatting to them about their ideas. There will be different opportunities and ways to get involved - here are two to begin with:

Please use the prayer on the back of this card as we seek God together. And please put Saturday 5th May in your diary. As part of our Church Anniversary celebrations and looking to the future there will be a special day out for the whole church family – and we're looking forward to hearing your comments and chatting to you about your ideas. More details will be publicised nearer the time.

Parkwood Prayer for 2012

**O Lord our God, we bless you and give you thanks;
You have been faithful to your people at Parkwood,
Through times of joy and times of pain,
Times of celebration and times of need,
You have been with us, and have never let us down.**

**We acknowledge together our need of you
As we face the challenges before us.
Open our eyes to see what you are doing,
Open our hearts to hear your Spirit's voice,
And give us courage to respond to you
Even when we are fearful.**

**Continue to show us your grace and mercy in all things, we
pray,
For you are loving and kind,
And we trust you.
May your kingdom come here, Lord Jesus,
Giver of new life, source of every hope,
To the praise and glory of your name.**