

- Having a drop in centre of some sort. Maybe extending the Saturday coffee to include cakes, doughnuts and buns.
- Making the building less remote to some groups by providing a service from it such as a toy library. Once you have ventured inside it is easier to come again and easier to glean information about what else goes on in the building.
- We shouldn't necessarily try to do what other denominations or groups do better.
- Be prepared to welcome newcomers to Church
- Spend more of our home group in prayer.

Once we got our teeth in to this, there seemed a lot we could do which we ourselves were not too frightened to tackle.

Over recent months several of these suggestions have been taken up, notably the establishment of new home groups. After a Home Group Eucharist in the summer, three new home groups have started including a new Emmaus nurture group. Last year's Emmaus Group has moved on to it's second year of "growth."

The Outreach committee is looking at ways of engaging with the local community while complementing the work of the other churches in Bromley. This was started with the "Harvest Drop." The Fabric Committee have been looking at the appearance of the Church including the front garden, the main door and the notice boards.

I personally found Restoring Hope very challenging but encouraging. I hope that the entire congregation will be able to watch it and gain strength from it. It will be shown after the Sunday Eucharist, every week in November, in the Club Room. I hope that you will all try to make time to see it.

Matthew Young

"La Nativité du Seigneur"

On Sunday December 14th at 6.30pm I shall be playing "La Nativité du Seigneur" (The Birth of our Lord) - a cycle of nine meditations by the 20th century composer Olivier Messiaen.

In "La Nativité" Messiaen pursues five principal theological points: Our predestination fulfilled by the Incarnation of the Word, God living among us, God suffering, the three births: the eternal birth of the word, the temporal birth of Christ and the spiritual birth of Christians, and a description of some of the characters who give Christmas a particularly poetic appeal - the Angels, Magi and the Shepherds. I was fortunate to study this work during my time in Paris as a pupil of Susan Landale. The music is essentially impressionist and its message and emotion sincere. Each of the meditations will be preceded by a sentence from scripture chosen by the composer.

Henry Fairs