

Marriage Focus Group: Key points from relaunch 9th December 2010 at St Johns.

After review and evaluation of past activities, FOUR strands were agreed for action:

1. **PUBLICITY** needs to be continued regarding access to Church weddings, cost etc. This is best done by:
 - a limited reprint of the full updated Marriage Booklet (for Kettle & Fish, No. 72, Council Info office, etc);
 - a prominent link on the CTiS website; and
 - a printed flyer advertising help available on the CTiS website, & at No 72 etc. To be distributed widely;
 - prominent posters for display at churches, Kettle & Fish, Council noticeboards etc.
 - Articles in the local press.

NEEDED: A Publicity Co-ordinator.

2. Going into **local schools** with the 'Explore' programme (as presented at the last Forum).
Potentially this could be done in Middle & Upper Schools by Rev. John Boardman, Stuart Ayling (Eden's), and others, with local volunteer couples.
Co-ordinator: TBA

3. **Marriage Preparation:** most Ministers have their own programme but Prepare & Enrich may still have a role. (Training for this needs to be much improved).
Needed: A co-ordinator for this.

4. **Marriage Support** must be maintained, for those without church pastoral support, or needing more specialised ministry.
 - the 'Enrich' side of Prepare & Enrich may still have a role: needs evaluation
 - No. 72 offers informal personal support
 - specialist marriage guidance is also needed. "Inspire" Christian counselling (Ipswich) have offered to run a surgery in Sudbury. Needs investigating: logistics, cost etc.
 - for the medium-long term, "Inspire" also offers training for Marriage counsellors. Can we train some?
 - should we offer a marriage course? (eg HTB course 'One Accord').

Co-ordinator: Syd Platt, who has considerable experience in this field.

Next meeting date: Monday 7th February at 10am at St John's Methodist Church

Chairman: Rev. John Clark 01787 313383

Links: www.exploring-marriage.org.uk
www.inspirecounselling.org.uk