



# FAN THE FLAME



## A Week of Teaching and Renewal

### **Fan the Flame - What is it?**

Fan the flame has at its heart a week of teaching and spiritual renewal designed to, encourage existing congregations and to rekindle their faith in Christ in the power of the Spirit.

*Fan the Flame can be a time of transformation.*

*It can enlarge our vision of God and his Church and give renewed confidence and hope to the people of God in their worship and witness.*

The Fan the Flame process includes a 'Follow up' day some time after the week itself. New insights received and new ideas are then discussed by the PCC and a strategy for change developed.

Essentially the week involves five nights of teaching, song and prayer ministry exploring the basic Christian themes of:

- Baptism
- Grace
- The Cross (reconciliation)
- Resurrection and the Holy Spirit (healing)
- Eucharist

A Fan the Flame week uses singing, lively teaching, visuals, symbols, prayer and hospitality to put that which the Church has always done (Acts 2;42) under the magnifying glass.

*"These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers."  
(Acts 2:42)*

Just as such a glass concentrates the existing heat from the sun making a dry leaf burst into flame, so faith that has been 'clouded' by overfamiliarity or lack of understanding or the sheer business of 'keeping the show on the road' can be rekindled by this concentrated time together in openness to the Holy Spirit. By putting our faith under the magnifying glass, the truths we have heard preached, and the sacraments we have celebrated, and the joy of community living are experienced afresh and with renewed power.

## **Who leads a Fan the Flame Week?**

The week is facilitated by two missionaries from the Mission Task Force - one or two priests, a religious, a deacon or lay person, who work alongside a team of lay people from the congregation — generally selected by the local pastor.

This co-ordinating team from the congregation spearhead the prayer ministry and practical details leading up to the week and share in the leadership of the evening presentations.

*In this way the vision of collaboration between priest and laity is encouraged and fostered.*

The pastor of the parish is not directly involved as a member of the co-ordinating team, but is in close communication with both the team and the two leaders to ensure that the week is neither 'imposed' nor in contradiction with his vision and hopes for the community. The parish priest joins in some of the priestly ministry during the five evening presentations.

Fan the Flame can be as appropriate for a small congregation as for a large one.

The evening sessions during the core week are adaptable and can be tailor-made for the local situation.

## **FAN THE FLAME**

### **A process of Teaching and Spiritual Renewal**

#### **AIMS:**

- > to strengthen the faith and understanding of existing members of the congregation
- > to give sound teaching on Christian 'basics'
- > to provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to invite friends or 'fringe' members to this special event
- > to better equip 'the saints' for evangelism
- > to promote and encourage a spirit of collaboration in ministry between ordained and lay Christians in the parish.

## How does the Fan the Flame process happen?

### A. The lead up'

1. Visit to the PCC from the Mission Task Force Administrator for discussion and explanation of the Fan the Flame process. (It is likely that the Mission Task Force will have been in touch with the pastor prior to this meeting.)
2. Reflection and decision by the PCC to go ahead and support the process.
3. The selection of five or six (or a larger number if appropriate) Fan the Flame 'co-ordinators' from the PCC and congregation who will spearhead the preparation, and share in the leadership of the evening sessions during the renewal week.
4. Practical preparations undertaken by the co-ordinating team which include:
  - Personal invitation by word of mouth to members of the congregation. The personal invitation may be followed up by letter.
  - Explanatory leaflets
  - Explanation by co-ordinators at Sunday celebrations
  - Simple prayer card for distribution before the week to congregation and Christian friends
  - Arrangements for hosting and feeding the missionaries
  - Logistics for the week itself
  - Prayer vigil on the Saturday evening before the renewal week begins
  - Preparations for a bookstall for the week

### B. The Fan the Flame Week itself

Saturday Hour of prayer and vigil open to all, but including at least the visiting missionaries; parish clergy and co-ordinating team.

Sunday The two visiting missionaries and the co-ordinating team are welcomed and commissioned by the parish priest; archdeacon or bishop at the main Sunday Celebration.

#### Sunday - Thursday

7.30pm - 8.00pm Songs of Praise (a gathering time)

8.00pm Teaching session which may be followed by prayer and / or laying on of hands; or some other appropriate prayer opportunity.

Refreshments

It is the aim to conclude each evening by 9.30pm

Members of the congregation who are available during the day are encouraged to host lunches for the two missionaries with groups of friends. However, the main activity of the week is the five evening sessions.

### **C. Post the core FAN THE FLAME Week**

Members of the congregation are invited to join in a 'Follow Up' day when there is an opportunity for experiences and blessings to be shared and a new vision for the local Christian community explored.

Objectives are discussed and proposed on the day and these are presented to the PCC at their next meeting. The PCC will then agree an action plan which contains short term and longer term achievable goals. **PLEASE BOOK THIS DAY IN THE CALENDAR WHEN YOU BOOK IN THE FAN THE FLAME WEEK.**

The day is usually arranged for a Saturday soon after the Teaching week and should be held within 3 months. The day normally starts with a form of worship and then runs for about 5 hours. This includes a time of fellowship when lunch is shared together.

To help in their leadership role the parish priest and coordinating team receive Fan the Flame manuals which provide all the information and instructions required to successfully launch and manage a Fan the Flame week.

#### **Requirements of the Clergy and Parochial Church Council BEFORE Fan the Flame can go ahead:**

1. A humble realisation amongst members of the clergy and Council that we all have new things to learn about the Christian faith.
2. Prayerful discernment that this is '*kairos*', that is 'God's time in the life of the parish to embark on such a process.
3. A willingness not only to support the idea, but a commitment to come to the core week.
4. A willingness to accept financial responsibility for the week:
  - > *e.g. travel expenses for the MTF Co-ordinator and a small honorarium and travel costs for visiting missionaries*
  - > *accommodation and meals for missionaries (in practice this is more often willingly provided by parishioners)*
  - > *cost of publicity, printing, refreshments, sound and special lighting equipment etc*
  - > *cost of information leaflets such as, Fan the Flame manuals for clergy and co-ordinators.*
  - > *a donation towards the ongoing costs of the MTF (Min £150)*
5. A willingness to respond to all that God does during the week and if necessary make appropriate changes to the way the parish lives, prays and witnesses.