

## To: Members of the Overslade Congregation

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

### Summary

As you know from my last letter, I met with the Overslade Leadership group this week to think and pray about how our Overslade congregation should meet from September. There was unanimity amongst us for which we give thanks to God for his guidance, and the agreement is as follows:

- **From September, we will seek to meet in Overslade Community Centre, initially once per month on the third Sunday. If possible, we will move the time to 11am. These services will be informal and have a high element of fellowship afterwards. The prayer focus will be for the estate.**
- **We will look to put on some special mission services on Overslade (possibly in the park for some of them) at major festivals such as Christmas, Easter, etc. accompanied by increased publicity and wider parish support.**
- **Messy Church will not restart this term, but we will invite all connected families to the events we do put on.**
- **We are planning towards launching a new mission initiative on the estate, including some young families moving into the area, in about 18 months' time.**
- **Sunday and Tuesday services at St Oswald's (and an extended drop-in and shortly a lunch on Tuesdays) will be places where members can still meet and worship.**

### Reasoning

What we discussed was the fact that as a congregation we have some truly excellent pastoral care and fellowship. That exists in part in our Connect Groups but that an occasional larger gathering was still helpful to foster our relationships. It also gives us a place to focus the prayer for a future initiative.

There is still a big 'missional heart' in the congregation, but the passing of the years means that there simply is not the physical energy to do all the things that a full church needs to do, without exhausting people. It is a season to see Overslade Church as a 'pastorate' whose missional purpose is to care for each other, pray for what comes next and join as possible in the special mission events.

There simply are not the resources to keep Messy Church and every Sunday service going.

I hope that all makes sense to you. If you have any questions please do ask me or any other member of the Leadership team. When the times for September 19<sup>th</sup> are clarified we will let you know, but do put the date in your diaries!

God bless,

Alan

