



## St Thomas Home Group Study

### Growing Younger Together

#### 3. Together

The photo above was taken at the 'Blessing of the Crib' and switching on the town's Christmas lights which launched the Christmas shopping season. A cultural fusion of Christmases past and present, hundreds still gathered for the carols.

*Q. Upon which occasions does the life of the church intertwine with the civic or cultural life of the town?*

#### Read 1 Cor 12 4:7, 26

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit,  
<sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord,  
<sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.  
<sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.  
<sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

On Sunday, our readings included the following verse from Jeremiah:

<sup>29:7</sup> But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Q1. In verse 7 of the Corinthians reading, what do you understand by Paul's use of "the common good?"

Q2. What are the ways in which "the church" contributes to the common good?

Q3. Can you name a group, or an event occurring in Lymington (or wherever you live) that enriches the common life?

Q4. In which ways could the church (building and people) enrich the common life of our parish?

Q4. Share an example of someone within the church community, who either brings people together, or makes themselves available for others.

Q5. Read Jeremiah 29:7 What might it mean as a church to "seek the welfare" of our own parish?

Q6. "For in its welfare you will find your welfare." Is there a time that a community has provided you with support in a time of transition or need?

***It is in the shelter of each other***

***That people live.***

*Irish proverb*

Next week, we will conclude our series on *Growing Younger Together* as a church, reflecting upon the theme of renewal.

Blessings, Lee.