

SEP MED Group - Meeting notes - 14/09/2026



'Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship'

Members Present - 4 live and 4 via zoom

...representing 5 of the SEP Churches.

Phil welcomed all those present, and opened with devotions and a reading from Romans 12; living for Christ everyday, and referencing a faith based AI lifestyle.

...Phil then opened in prayer.

We began by reviewing **next steps from the last meeting**. In the end, the Summer events poster didn't materialise, but there were a few of the events we quoted that didn't actually happen due to the scorching weather. The 'Being With' Course has been postponed because we are yet to get the flyers done and posters in church for people to sign up. Phil & Peterson are working on that now and the course should begin later in October. We talked about follow up to the Bishop Tony events, which were good but needed better strategic planning, advertising and follow-up. Peterson mentioned a great attendance on the Sunday morning at St Andrews, with Bishop Tony preaching. The Ministers are yet to consider a new topic and timing for another preaching course, following what we did with Stewardship.

Advertising is going better, with Helen's input and promotion. Most churches are now using social media; Bradwell has just established a members whatsapp group. Peterson is particularly seeking to encourage St Andrews with this, and particularly mentioned 'Instagram', for the 30-50 age group (Facebook is now for over 50's!), and it has benefits over facebook for instant posts and protections. There needs to be consistent ongoing monitoring for adverts in churches and on the website for all events. The Newsletter too is being coordinated and edited by Helen. It was noted that her earliest version was too long (25 pages), and who would read all that? We felt the maximum should be 10 pages. Phil mentioned that whilst they are distributed online with weekly newsletters printed copies should be available into each church - someone from each church needs to monitor that.

The Pilgrimage was a big success, particularly with the efforts made by members to host at each church, and the Ministers for their carefully planned meditations. There were around 90 people involved in all, with about 20 walking the whole route. Phil hopes to repeat this around the same time in 2027. We talked about possible other events - like the Pilgrimage - which would be purely for encouraging and uniting church members. The darts event was mentioned, which is yet to be properly advertised and perhaps should also feature 'teams of players', rather than an individual contest. An SEP Quiz night was also proposed - with each church sending at least one team of 3-5 quizzers. We need to think about who would host and run that event.

Following a prompt from Trustees, Phil and Sharron are working on **Role descriptions** within the Partnership, so that all workers have a broad definition of their tasks. This is helpful too because of confirming who needs to have a full DBS check, and who will not. This could be developed into an encouragement for members to affirm what they are already doing, and perhaps encourage others.

Prayer and Bible studies - A new season of our groups is starting now, and the latest sheet of scheduled meetings is now available. We must continue to promote all meetings again, inviting people to attend any of them. Phil commented that his own group had been abandoned; giving time for him to attend others. Some prayer meetings also spring up from time to time according to projects. Phil and Jonathan are organising for a new 'Saturday Prayer Breakfast' meeting using the Wolverton House - where Bishop Tony held the Sports Breakfast; good food at a good rate. They would be meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month; starting 10th October. Phil will organise posters for all. This date coincides with the beginning of this year's 'National Week of Prayer' (10th-18th October) and churches were encouraged to join in.

It was affirmed that the first discussion point for the new **SEP Consultative Group** was in the pipeline and based around the planning, attendance and success of the ongoing Joint Services. We had a short discussion here about their fluctuating numbers, but Phil encouraged all to watch out for that discussion in churches. The next joint service will be the SEP Tree Cathedral Service - this coming Sunday afternoon, whilst the next joint morning service together will be at St Andrews, Great Linford on Advent Sunday - 29th November. The new Oxford Diocese Head of Discipleship, Rev Kate Stacey, will be the guest speaker for that occasion.

We had a short discussion also about **Advent and Christmas 2026**, and Peterson and Phil are meeting this week to clarify plans before the Ministers meeting on the 24th. We are particularly looking to affirm the historic churches evening Carol Services, which are always so well attended in every location. Children's services will also be easier this time, as Sam is around. We possibly considered looking at holding an 'open air' Carol service together in one location.

Comments from individual churches - there were none.

Next steps

- Advertising and social media - continued promotion and monitoring
- Darts Competition, with darts teams
- 'Being with' new course dates
- Discussion of other one-off strategies?
- Quiz Night confirmation and planning
- Encouragement always for Prayer, Bible Study and the new Prayer Breakfast meeting.
- Advent and Christmas planning and execution.

We closed with a time of prayer - using 'An act of Thanksgiving, Penance and Trust' from St Andrews Press, incorporating open prayer.

...This is an important time in the MED Group meetings.

Date of next meeting - Monday 8th February - 7.30pm - venue TBA