

Dialogue between Donal and Norman following the biblical reflection. Norman asked the questions

### **How does the church bring hope? Can you have hope without faith?**

It is hard to define who does or doesn't have faith. Membership doesn't equate with faith. Hope comes from within. 42% of 12-16 year olds have no sense of 'liking themselves', and have a lack of self confidence. Hope is personal we need to have hope in ourselves. An expression of faith can help to generate hope, for example through the Wake people can begin to process pain, faith contributes to a transforming hope.

Hope includes aspiration, both individual and corporate, and a partner's expectation that things can be different.

What is distinctive about Christian hope? Christian hope is an expression of grace that helps to process the past. That is the difference between Christian hope and optimism. Transformation is the result of enabling an individual or community to believe in the possibility of hope. People can and do believe in God they find it hard to believe in goodness. 'Hope' is widely used with many meanings. In the Christian tradition faith is a gift used to express hope.

### **What is the role of Christian leadership in a society looking to political/community leadership?**

From an incarnational theology God demonstrates a concern for renewal of the face of the earth. Therefore God encourages churches to proclaim faith filled words in public debate. People use vocabulary to process and understand human experience therefore it is essential that a vocabulary of faith is part of the public domain. In a society that has divinised itself the Christian use of power demonstrates modelling values, mediation, giving voice to challenge and expressing a voice of conscience

Political ideology is played out like a game. Politicians remain in the game because they see someone else can play, but they can play better. Local Strategic Partnerships are developing a different democracy in order to bring about change with the potential for a far more accountable and relational democracy. The decision I make has an impact on your life and mine. Therefore the Christian voice of faith and model of leadership has huge potential.

### **What then do we understand Christian leadership to be?**

Attentive to the local context – creating an environment where we can grow and learn about God together

The voice of the voiceless to empower those who have no voice.

To point beyond the existing horizon to talk of the reality of hope. To remain within the horizon is self deception.

To model the example of Jesus, not to grab power but to influence power

To demonstrate a model of shared leadership

Kenosis: to open up possibilities and create space for others that can become redemptive space.

To offer prophetic leadership during crisis – the model of the prophets

Proclamation leadership: prophet, priest, king and sacrifice is bound together in Kenosis  
Christian leadership proclaims 'the truth will set you free'

Agape leadership: to be in the public sphere long term this is where we are called to be church

Summary

Christian leadership is a demonstration of the prophet, of sacrifice and love.