**What happens when you listen to God?**

Watch the video about the story of how the Roots Café at Wymondham Baptist began.

1. What struck you about the video?
2. In the video, we hear of the toddler group closing and the sense that things were declining in the church. The phrase ‘We started to believe that God had forgotten us’ is especially striking. Do we ever feel that way? When we do, what can we do?
3. The painful acceptance of the closure of the toddler group was necessary before the vision for the café could be received. We often talk about God doing a new thing, but perhaps we need to focus more about letting go of things to make room for the new thing that God is longing to do. What is God calling you to lay down?
4. The church meeting voted in favour of a project, even though they didn’t have all the answers or finances. How do we balance the need to be financially responsible with the concept of stepping out in faith which is central to Christianity?
5. ‘It (Home mission) was never about a handout to survive. It was an investment to Thrive. It really gave us this belief that the Baptist family were with us’. Discuss this statement.
6. The money that churches give to Home Mission is split between grants to churches and the funding of the specialist teams and the regional associations. Wymondham Baptist Church required a Home Mission grant to enable their ministry to continue and to see fruit from this. What projects would you like to see Home Mission supporting?
7. What is God saying to you and the church and community that you are a part of? Take some time to pray together about this.

**Bible Reflection: Nehemiah 1-2**

Nehemiah meets Hanani who tells him that the Jewish remnant are living in disgrace and that ‘the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.’

Nehemiah felt despair and he wept, but instead of internalising this and excluding God, he cried out to God. ‘For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.’ His prayer included:

* Confession and repentance
* Calling God to remember his promise to return his repentant people to their land
* Asking God for his help as he spoke to the king

Instead of drowning in despair, Nehemiah prays and takes action and the results are astonishing. The king grants his request to rebuild Jerusalem and the king also pays for it. It feels strange to many of us that God’s temple and holy city is rebuilt through funding from an evil pagan empire, but this is also a reminder of the mysterious ways in which God works and of his ability to redeem.

The outcome is miraculous and these chapters are a wonderful reminder of the way that the combination of prayer and listening to God combined with faith and action can result in seeing God powerfully at work in, through and around us.