

## Invitation to RENEW

Join RENEW and meet new people † belong to a small community † be supported in living your faith † respond to God's call to live your faith more fully † read and come to understand the Scriptures † and discover how God may be calling you.

Our Parish RENEW Team, comprising 15 volunteer parishioners led by Caroline Westwood, is working on an exciting RENEW process for St Thomas.

The RENEW spiritual journey covers five Seasons of six weeks each. Each Season engages the entire parish in a basic gospel theme. Season One starts in August 2013.

### Season One - Weekly Themes

- † Jesus the Healer
- † Jesus the Reconciler
- † Jesus the Mystic and Prophet
- † Jesus the Redeemer
- † Jesus the Word
- † Jesus the Bread of Life

'In my spirit I have a strong sense that RENEW is where the Lord is leading us as a parish at this time. For me RENEW offers all of us the opportunity to hear God speaking to us in a fresh way.

My prayer is that the additional blessing RENEW will bring is to enable those people, whose faith has faltered, to hear God say to them "I love you" and "my Church of Thomas needs you." Fr Keith de Vos

## RENEW Africa Prayer

God of love and Father of all,  
we are your family  
embraced by your love.  
You call us into the fullness of life  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
Unify us now as we strive together  
to create a world  
where truth and justice find a home.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit  
so that we may be empowered  
to live your likeness.  
Help us to be  
a community of love and understanding;  
a community of hope and welcome;  
a community of prayer and action.  
Renew us in Spirit  
as we recommit ourselves  
to your loving service.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



RENEW deepens our spiritual growth and everyday acts of discipleship

## What is RENEW Africa?

RENEW Africa is a parish process for **establishing and supporting small Christian communities** (much like Bible Study Groups) that form the basic unit of the parish for the future.

We come together to † pray † proclaim and reflect on Scripture for the Sunday readings † **connect our lives to God's Word** † find mutual support † celebrate and share our faith † deepen our relationship with God and one another † and participate in the mission of Christ in the world.

RENEW Africa is designed to help participant parishioners **experience the rhythm of a vibrant faith lifecycle** – celebrating and returning to Sunday Eucharist; responding to the call to love and serve; gathering as small communities reflecting on Scripture – enabling parishes to **become a communion of communities united in the Lord.**

### Why RENEW Africa?

'The diocese supports a new commitment to **RENEW** because of the positive contribution the earlier programme had made to the spiritual life of people and parishes in the Diocese. **I believe RENEW Africa can contribute greatly** towards realising our Anglican vision.' *Bishop Garth Councill*



# RENEW St Thomas

## Gathered as God's Family

### Community

**Gather in safe, trusted communities** getting to know each other, forming friendships, and establishing some lasting relationships of mutual support – ultimately **strengthening our St Thomas community**.

### Mission

**Explore our mission to be Christians** in action and word. **Respond** to God's call to live our faith. **Be aware** of our gifts and put these to God's service.

### Growth

**Grow our church** through fellowship and faith sharing, and **increase our numbers**. **RENEW the good things** we have built at St Thomas and create new opportunities so that we may **become a truly self-sustaining church**.

### Sharing

**Share our faith experiences** in prayer, small communities, church services and celebratory events to enhance communion.

### Reflection

**Reflect on God's word.** Understand scripture from different perspectives.  
**Focus on God** and interpret his message.  
**Connect Scripture** to our daily lives.

### Prayer

**Pray for RENEW.** Pray in small communities. Pray throughout the Season and in between. Allow for meaningful conversations with God.

### Openness

**Create an openness** to be part of RENEW. Be receptive to the RENEW invitation and make ourselves accessible to God by **breaking out of our comfort zones**.

### Hope

**Accept the promise** of personal and parish renewal with the hope for **greater fellowship, parish growth and connection and communion** with others and with God.

