

Elders as a team – transcript of video

Speaker 1

As a team we bring lots of different skills, lots of different life experience. I'm the youngest by a significant number of years - that means that I've got a lot to learn, but also a lot that I can bring and help with different activities and different things that the church needs to work through. We help to encourage each other. We help to make sure things are running smoothly. It is an operation that involves all of us. All of us are actively engaged. All of us are taking roles in the church that suit our abilities, our skills. It's been fantastic to be part of the Eldership team. You never feel like you're on your own.

Speaker 2

In our team of Elders, we have particular areas of interest and responsibility. So we have elders who are particularly experienced in provision of pastoral care. So they assist the Minister in this, and they lead what we call our caring and sharing groups. We have elders that work well with children and young people so they look after that area of our church ministry. We have those that are particularly skilled in administration and management, and then we have those that are in charge of our welfare. So they look out for our house bound and also for those who are unwell.

Speaker 3

And we are also learning from each other, which is very important. We encourage each other to share our ideas and respect each other's views and understand that we all come with different gifts. For example, for me, finance is not my strongest area so during finance, talking about finance, you probably find me a bit quiet. On the other hand, pastoral care, prayer, is something that I'm very comfortable with.

Speaker 4

We respect each other's opinions and you know, we don't always agree with those opinions because we'd be robots, if we did you know, we can, but we can say, Well, yeah, you've got a point, it might not be my point, but that you've got a point.

Speaker 5

Where do you think the sense of Eldership team is when there is disagreement? Or, indeed how we deal with difficult times within the church? Might not be disagreement among us, but difficult times within the church? And any offers for that, one more challenging, Sheila?

Speaker 6

One thing I was told when I actually, before I agreed to become an elder the very first time, was that in Elders meetings you might not agree all agree, but it was left at the meeting, that the disagreements were left at the meeting door, if you like.

Speaker 5

Yeah. I think that's a really good piece of advice isn't it?