**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**February 18th 2018. Hope**

**Discussion notes: Hope for the hurting. Ruth 1:20-21**

Faith hope and love last forever. But hope is hard to sustain in times of waiting and pain. Ruth is a beautiful story of restoration of hope to a family and a mother who have lost hope. The final outcome of the story prepares the way for the story of King David, which in turn leads to Jesus the son of David where we can all find hope for our future.

1. When circumstances in our lives go wrong who do we blame?
2. What factors in our faith cause us to hope in God when circumstances seem bleak?
3. Hope deferred makes the heart sick says the book of Proverbs. What has been your own experience of ‘hope deferred’? How do we handle unfulfilled dreams and longings?
4. In the book of Ruth what role does Boaz play in bringing hope? Can we be like Boaz to hurting people in terms of our care and provision and if so how?
5. What is the link between material hope and spiritual hope in people’s lives?
6. How important is the hope of resurrection life to you personally, to the gospel as a message and to our witness into the world? How can Church be a healing community to hopeless people? Who are the people most without hope in our city and in our places of connection?

The medieval mystic Julian of Norwich said ‘All will be well and all manner of things will be well’. How can we demonstrate as a Church a living hope that is not just based on circumstances going well for us?