

Dear

Over the past 18 months the standing committee, leadership team and PCC have listened to your comments from the APCM 2017 and put them into action. Some examples:



'Joint services should be held in our churches rather than the hall.'

We have held most of our joint services in All Saints or St George's apart from the united launch for the transformation of the hall.

'End family worship on the first Sunday.'

We have ended the monthly all age worship at All Saints and focussed on developing Messy Church, to which all congregations were invited for Christingle making and service. It was a positive experience for all who attended, with lively all age worship, a communal tea and older and younger members learning from each other.

'Consider the future of evening prayer services at St. George's.'

We no longer have evening prayer services or evensong. The prayer group has also now ended. We now have a 'Friday midday prayers around the cross' to pray for the needs of our world. We use written prayers and ten minutes of silent intercessory prayer.

'100 year Armistice to be celebrated.'
'Have a good Old Days evening.'

We have commemorated the 100 years well in the parish with talks about Aviation in the wars, an Old Time Music Hall event, daily commemorative prayers for peace, a walk from St George's Church to Harnham Memorial Hall, with over 190 people of all ages attending the Remembrance Service.

'Use social media a lot more.'

Both our webpage and Facebook page have been reviewed recently. We have a few Twitter accounts through the parish and clergy.

'Very strong feeling towards taking the pews out of All Saints.'

We have reviewed the use of church buildings regularly at our property committee.

Should our energy be on buildings or people?

'Join with Harnham Free Church.'

We are developing our links with Nick, the Harnham Free Church youth worker, and including HFC in our communication with the local council about the needs of our wider community.

'Link to Local events.'

We have worked well on the Harnham Neighbourhood Association committee & in the hall transformation project to develop links with the local community; we supported the first Harnham Neighbourhood Fun day on the Sports field; we hold some of our events in local hotels and pubs and the social club.

'Attract new people through events.'

Our Events committee has worked hard to put on events that link to the wider community. We need you to invite others along using your own networks.

We can only build on these successes if we have more active volunteers and work smarter. We are grateful for the commitment of many. But need to acknowledge that the amount of our members who are active has reduced over time.

Revd Heather, our curate has had maternity leave and is moving to Old Basing to work in her new post. Katharine Callard has retired from leading Messy Church after 6 years of being a key member of the leadership team for children's work. Irene Wells has 'retired' as LPA. We acknowledge the great help of Revd Penny Joyce who is now a link with the infant school and regular leader at Messy Church, as well as Debbie Orris who leads discipleship within the Diocese and is also a key leader of Messy Church. Our Hall fundraising committee has several members from the wider community. Our community teas, on a Sunday afternoon, serve those in need and draw on volunteers from both the parish and the wider deanery via the Mother's Union.

The PCC have also considered the Bishop's call for each Parish to PRAY SERVE GROW. Please see our thoughts for your consideration attached to this letter.

We are hosting a vision afternoon on Saturday February 23rd at the reading room in Strafford Sub-castle between 1.30 and 4.30. During the afternoon we will consider how to Grow as a Parish, both numerically and ourselves spiritually, and what we need to prune in order to ensure our objectives for growth can be achievable.

- **Where do we want to be in 5 years' time?**
- **What should be the main priorities for the parish in order to achieve this?**

Our current approach:

- a programme of weekly traditional services at both churches.
- active pastoral care for congregational members.
- supportive welcome to those coming forward for baptisms, marriages and funerals (The most of all the Church of England parishes in Salisbury Deanery).
- maintaining and extending regular contact with the Junior and Infants Schools.
- a programme of events that reach out well beyond our normal congregations (e.g. Pet Service, Beer and Carols, Community Teas, Pause for Prosecco/Pint etc).
- the development of Messy Church further as a key congregation within the Parish.

It will be difficult to maintain the status quo with existing resources and existing ways of working. If we want to pursue any of the options for growth, we must look at new ways of working, and make choices about which priorities are the most important.

Options for growth:

- **Develop the Parish Hall as a community hub for the whole of Harnham, with a growing programme of service activity to meet identified community needs.**
- **A key strategic plan to reach out to younger members of the community to find ways that enable us to engage directly and regularly with 'tween-agers', young adults and young couples in ways that meet their needs.**
- **Simplification and reorganisation of the current services on Sunday asking ourselves how we can offer different lively forms of worship.**
- **Develop music as a mission tool.**
- **Grow in our own discipleship.**
- **How we can open our churches more and be more open with the community as we walk with people outside our churches to understand their needs and spirituality.**
- **Network wider than we do currently.**

Please come along and share your thinking.

Revd Becky, the Churchwardens, Mission and Vision Committee and PCC.