



Rooted in God, Growing Together Reaching out to the Community

Benefice Mission Action Plan Twyford, Owslebury, Morestead and Colden Common

Building on the four Diocesan strategic priorities and the Deanery Mission Action Plan, our challenge has been to outwork these visions and targets in our everyday contexts, encompassing four parishes and a wide variety of people.

We wanted to write a plan that not only fitted under the priorities and objectives of the Diocese and Deanery but that would deliver impact for the unique communities we serve.

It would have been very easy for us to jump straight into the detail and work on developing new projects and ideas but to do this without building strong foundations would lead to, at best, a hard slog for a few people with little sustainable success and at worst, failure

This plan has been researched and developed by an Action Group made up of members drawn from three of the four parishes in the Benefice who felt they had capacity to contribute. The fourth parish has been kept up to date with developments and has had opportunities to con-

tribute. Our incumbent has met regularly with the incumbent of our Mission Partnership Benefice and this will continue as we develop ways to work together.

Our Process

Research and Analysis

- SWOT analysis was carried out at Parish and Benefice levels by our Action Group and a joint meeting of the four PCCs.
- Using the Spotlight data and other local data they had access to, Parishes reviewed the social and demographic picture of each parish.
- Parishes undertook a Community Involvement Survey looking at the places and groups where the church already has a strong presence that could be built on.

Triple Listening

- Having reflected on our congregations, communities and capacity we decided to gather feedback from our communities via email. We posted a question across all the communication channels available in each village and requested a response. We received 30 responses encompassing a wide range of themes and ideas.
- Throughout the process we have provided prayers to be used both in church and by individuals at home as well as highlighting prayer points. We have also provided themed Bible Studies to enable deeper reflection.

Planning

- As a Benefice we decided to develop a Mission Statement which would provide the roots of our plan.
- We identified common threads from our research and triple listening and refined these into our three objectives.
- Our plan has been revised as we have sought to balance ambitious objectives with the reality of our starting points and capacity. It has been approved by all four PCCs.

“Jesus looked at them and said ‘With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible.’”
Matthew 19:26 (NIV)

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Strategic Priority 1: We will grow authentic disciples.

**What do we want to achieve?
(Objective)**

We will grow new disciples and equip existing disciples.

How will we know if we have achieved it?

(Outcome)

We will see an increase in the number of people engaged in continual Christian learning.

**What will we see as a result?
(Measurable Outputs)**

We will see a 10% increase, year on year, in numbers of people engaged in continual Christian learning. The increase will be measured on each individual course during the two years of this initial plan.

- * *Numbers that have been involved in courses and small groups this year.*
- * *Numbers that are involved in courses and small groups 2016 (existing and new)*
- * *Numbers that are involved in courses and small groups 2017 (existing and new)*

Out of scope for the first two years but possible next steps:

- *Running an Enquirers course using the ‘Pilgrim Course’ Follow materials with leaders being drawn from other discipleship groups.*
- *Running a Parent Fellowship during the First Communion sessions.*

What steps will we take to achieve this and when? (Activities)

Maintain the existing pattern of discipleship learning opportunities:

- *Lent Course*
- *Adult Confirmation*
- *Child Confirmation*

Introduce new opportunities into the existing pattern:

- *First Communion (introduced as an alternative to child confirmation)*
- *Post Confirmation Course (Using the ‘Pilgrim Course’ Growth materials.)*
- *Advent course/reflection opportunity.*

Resource and advertise all opportunities for discipleship learning across the four Benefice communities.

- *Identify suitable content for each opportunity.*
- *Identify and recruit leaders for each opportunity.*
- *Provide training for leaders.*
- *Encourage attendance through sermons and raising awareness through parish channels of communication.*

Equip and encourage small group prayer and bible study across the Benefice.

- *Identify a wide range of suitable bible study and prayer support material for use by small groups.*
- *Churchwardens and Treasures group to decide on the best way to finance materials*
- *Materials purchased.*
- *Invite those who attended recent courses to ask whether they would like to take part in/lead a new small group. Meet to review new materials.*
- *Spread awareness through a range of avenues.*
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Strategic Priority 2: We re-imagine church.

What do we want to achieve? (Objective)

We will broaden our range of opportunities to worship as a community.

How will we know if we have achieved it?

(Outcome)

We will see a variety of forms of worship attended by a growing number of people of a range of ages from across the community.

What will we see as a result? (Measurable Outputs)

A greater range of worship opportunities.

- * *List of current range of worship opportunities.*
- * *List of range of worship opportunities in 2017.*

An increase of 10% in the number of people *regularly attending from our three missing generations - Children and Young People, 20's and 30's, 40's and 50's .
(*regularly = average of once a month.)

- * *Number of people in missing age groups currently 'regularly' worshipping in our churches.*
- * *Number of people in missing age groups 'regularly' worshipping in our churches in 2017.*

What steps will we take to achieve this and when? (Activities)

Review the benefice pattern of worship.

- *Undertake a review at benefice and parish level of current and requested worship opportunities.*
- *Begin a family accessible communion service in Colden Common, Twyford and Owslebury once a month.*
- *Continue to develop a periodic Taize service within the Benefice.*
- *Develop the Messy Church model for our context.*
- *Be open to new forms of worship across the benefice as they are suggested or as our context and communities change.*
- *Plan to take a Benefice to group to Greenbelt.*

Establish mechanisms for identifying new music and liturgy that can be considered for use.

- *Identify websites, organisations and people who can provide links to new music and liturgy to refresh and renew our worship.*
- *Identify a way to ensure this information is shared and used by all those who plan and lead our worship.*

Equipping lay leaders across the benefice.

- *Identify new lay leaders.*
- *Provide in-house preparation for lay leaders where not provided by the Diocese, with or alongside our Mission Partnership churches in Hursley, Otterbourne and Compton.*
- *Train new and existing lay leaders.*

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Strategic Priority 3: We are agents of social transformation.

What do we want to achieve? (Objective)

We will develop opportunities and encourage ‘the church’ to engage with the wider community.

How will we know if we have achieved it?

(Outcome)

We will see our church members spending more time living their faith in the community and the community being more welcomed by the church.

What will we see as a result? (Measurable Outputs)

Increased level of engagement with schools (visits to churches and church community in schools.)

- * *List of different activities currently undertaken.*
- * *List of activities undertaken in 2016 and 2017.*

Increase by 4 the number of events in the church buildings across our Benefice.

- * *Number of events held in the church buildings this year.*
- * *Number of events held in the church buildings in 2016/2017.*

What steps will we take to achieve this and when? (Activities)

Parish Level

To promote wider use of the church building by the community and schools.

- *Find out how a visit to the local church can help the schools in delivering the curriculum.*
- *Facilitate visits on identified themes.*
- *Schools invited into the churches on a range of occasions.*
- *Develop an annual programme of potential events for the community, to be held in the church.*

To encourage members of the church community to be involved in a range of activities in their local schools.

- *Develop “Open the Book” team to run assemblies in schools.*
- *Identify a team who are happy to hear readers in schools on a rota basis.*
- *Identify people who are happy to serve on governing bodies.*
- *In conversation with the schools identify other areas church members could support (gardening, clubs etc.)*

Benefice Level

Create a development plan for the website.

- *Use social media (Facebook, Twitter) to communicate news, updates, inspiration.*
- *Use village communication methods.*
- *Equip benefice and parishes to respond to all enquiries.*

