

## ALDERBURY DEANERY CHAPTER

### Response to

### *LET US TALK*

#### **1. What is the 'Personality and Character' of your local church?**

The Personality of the Deanery is trinitarian, where each Team works under a different model of being Team but we all learn from each other and work well together.

One of the characteristics is the preoccupation with stipendiary clergy numbers. Maybe because this is the key concern of the parishioners who regret that they no longer have their own vicar in the parish, whose sole responsibility was that of the parish.

We have two clergy who have a half Deanery role as well as being Team vicar. These roles can be difficult but the main downside is that the Deanery role was not recognised or allowed for in the Teams and Parishes.

#### **2. What are the priorities of your local church?**

- To increase lay involvement.
- To work towards a sustainable pattern of ministry not dependant on stipendiary ministry.
- To engage and encourage people in the life of the church.
- To be more proactive rather than reactive,
- Always ensure that we do not stamp out the individual personalities of the parishes.

#### **3. Is there one thing you would like to take on in the coming year (recognising that may mean you may need to stop doing something else)?**

- On the whole it was felt that Chapter meetings are productive and enjoyable and most wanted to sustain this fellowship and deepen and grow it.
- Deanery Mission Project to be reimagined and reworked.
- Deanery Strategic Plan, to be made simpler and more flexible and to invite local participation in it.

#### **4. Are there ways in which we can work together to achieve more?**

We will work together to provide back ground information in Advent on the Gospel of Matthew and shared reflection and prayer in Lent 2014.

#### **5. How can we best measure the quality and impact of church life?**

We felt this was not able to be measured especially at Deanery Level.