



The United Benefice of Atworth with Shaw and Whitley

*St. Michael and All Angel's, Atworth
Christ Church, Shaw*



Let Us Talk

Feedback following consultation with the Joint PCC

18.04.2013

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

- Semi-rural, small village 2 church Benefice working together- closer as a Benefice than 30 years ago
- Welcoming, warm, inviting, inclusive
- Striving for excellence
- Slowly building young families' involvement
- There for the whole community – open cafe, schools, Mavern House, LPAs
- Developing people within the church, encouraging gifts and ministries
- Encouraging strengths of individuals
- Spiritual Nurture through 'Life Groups' (house groups)
- Good structure of pastoral care
- Middle of the road – liberal
- Ecumenically-minded

2. What are the priorities of your local church?

- To bring God's love and God's word to more people- Mission focus
- To be an active part of our community in more areas leading to growth
- Engagement with the community – build on outreach and involvement
- Increase congregation
- Increase spiritual growth
- Nurture the green tender green shoots of growth
- To encourage people to offer their gifts
- To improve the fabric of our two churches
- Toilet and tea-making station in Christ Church, Shaw which is going to cost £55k
- Financial priority to generate regular income
- With successful new Service pattern in place with 2 Sunday morning Services we are seeking now to explore times for bringing the 2 congregations together
- To improve co-operation and contact between ourselves and other local churches

3. Is there one thing you would like to take on or develop in the coming year (recognising that this may mean you may have to stop doing something else)?

- Continue with 5 year plan
- Encourage more young people and build relationships with new head teachers

4. Are there ways in which we can work together with neighbouring churches to achieve more?

- Closer contact with Melksham group – to exchange/co-operate good practice and ideas
- Build on work with different denominations – e.g. Independent and Methodist Churches

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

- Attendance - growth in numbers in congregation
- Spiritual growth
- Presence felt in the community
- Increase in the use of the church
- The number of people coming forward for Licensed Ministries
- Measure the number of people travelling to the parish
- Measure the impact through social networking/events