

## Calne Deanery Synod

### An Open Meeting to discuss “Let us Talk”

13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

#### Notes from the meeting held in the Village Hall, Lyneham

**Note from the Rural Dean and Lay Chair:** *We took a decision at the DSPC to host a “Let us Talk” event for Deanery Synod and Deanery PCC members. The meeting took the place of a scheduled Deanery Synod and every effort was made to invite as many people as possible. Deanery Incumbents were encouraged to use this meeting as a launch for further discussion within individual parishes, benefices or teams (perhaps as part of an APCM) or as the place to locate their discussion. Thomas Woodhouse and Derick Eadon*

**Apologies:** Liz Horobin, Elaine Leighton

**Present included:** Richard Selby-Boothroyd, Philip Bromiley, Peter Giles, Elizabeth Giles, Doreen Illman, Berendean Money-Kyrle, Richard Aylen, David Taylor, Karen Rizzello, John Kilbee, Derick Eadon, Kim Gough, Alison Way, Maggie Garratt, Val Procter, Geoff Procter, Stan Annis, Perry Chadwyck-Healey, Pam Evans, Thomas Woodhouse, Jemma Sander-Heys, Morcia Bootton, Margaret Hogarth, Deirdre Lias, Lucy Waterman, Nancy Kyte, Ken Webb, David Bates, Lesley Bates, Judy Digman, Elizabeth Hannah, Elizabeth Parlett, Judy Scott, Jim Scott, Mary Simpkins, Roger Simpkins, Ken Arnold, Pauline Arnold, Brian Horlock

Replies to the first three questions answered in benefice/parish groups were as follows:

#### The Marden Vale Team

*The notes from The Marden Vale Team were taken by those from the team and will be submitted separately.*

#### Lyneham with Bradenstoke

##### **1 - What is the “Personality and Character” of your local church?**

- Friendly, welcoming, hospitable
- Tending towards traditional
- Growing in confidence (despite recent history)
- Open minded
- Long tradition of exercising social responsibility

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

- Increase our relevance to our local community
- Outreach and “in-reach”
- Fully come to terms with the implications of our changed community

##### **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)?**

- Change one service a month into a new format

#### Benefice of Woodhill

### **1 - What is the “Personality and Character” of your local church?**

- Local with local events and local presence
- Want to be more welcoming
- Outward looking
- Forward looking
- Church is shut most of the time – Open door
- All equally responsible
- Was “old style” but now more relaxed and participatory

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

- Introducing people to love of God in service
- Developing relationships
- Prayer and worship heartbeat
- Lack of presence
- Social media
- Inclusivity
- Get to know God, Christ and Holy Spirit more
- Reach out
- Heart of the community, spiritually and pastorally

### **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)?**

- Baptism anniversary for older children
- Baptism families toddler praise
- Inclusion

## **Royal Wootton Bassett**

### **1 - What is the “Personality and Character” of your local church?**

- Complacent – there was a lack of people from the parish at the meeting
- Committed to worshipping
- Confident Christians
- At the heart of the community
- Prayerful
- Friendly and welcoming to visitors
- Sense of purpose and willingness to get things done

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

- Pastoral care of elderly
- Social Engagement: Food Bank, Women’s Refuge, Sudan Link, Children’s Society, Bible Society
- Responsible and Effective Resourcing
- Refurbishment Project, now almost completed

### **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)?**

- Renewing – consolidate our mission action planning and continue to grow our worshipping community at every level.

## **Oldbury Benefice**

*These notes are subsequent to notes already submitted by the benefice.*

**1 - What is the “Personality and Character” of your local church?**

- Older congregation (60+)
- Much more inventive in our worship and activities but more to do
- Cherishing two primary schools which are important to our community
- Warm welcome but hospitality could be much better
- Young families under-represented in church (many at boarding schools)

**2 – What are the priorities of your local church?**

- Grow ministry – increase ordained capacity to allow more to be done.
- Continue Thursday services for those who do not want Sunday worship
- To increase teaching – more work by Bible study groups
- Push hard at stewardship campaign
- Bring more people into our church
- Grow our prayer life, encourage people to pray

**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)?**

- Build up a system of social support (so we know who is in need and someone will help them)

Deanery-wide answers to the final two questions:

**Calne Deanery**

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

- Come together in prayer
- Share ideas and experiences (fund raising outreach)
- Communicate to improve and achieve our goals (social media)
- Deanery Synod - re-invigorate to share and take action (relevance of deanery to parishes)
- One big service - once a year for the deanery
- Tap into existing initiatives – lay learning
- Help others to pay their fairer share

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

- Growth Spiritual/numbers/community
- Judgement/personal view
- Signs of the kingdom - testimony, evidence of affecting lives
- Positive giving