

Response from Parish of Corsley and Chapmanslade, Cley Hill Village Benefice

Dear Bishop Nicholas,

We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to talk and discuss where are churches are as a consequence of your "Let Us Talk" initiative.

At Deanery level, we had an excellent meeting, facilitated by Ruth Worsley. The notes from our plenary session are attached to this email. In the coming months we we will be exploring in earnest how Deanery Synod, supported by the Diocese, can encourage the benefices in our patch to share resources and work closer together. We will be using the framework provided by our strategic plan to help us achieve this.

In Corsley and Chapmanslade, again we had an inspirational meeting. A note of our conclusions is attached.

I hope these documents will be of value to you in your project. We all look forward to a strengthening of the links between parishes, the Deanery and the Diocese under your leadership.

Kind regards, Phil Jefferson Heytesbury Deanery and Corsley and Chapmanslade PCC Secretary.

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

We see ourselves as a friendly, inclusive, church and, with the benefit of having three church buildings in our parish, we can offer a breadth of choice in the types of liturgy that are on offer. We look out from our church and do our best to cater for the needs of those who are not regular church-goers. We pride ourselves on being community focused.

What are the priorities of your local church?

We see these as trying to meet the spiritual and wider needs of our community. In addition we are actively involved in supporting the Juba Model Secondary School and other projects in South Sudan and we give support to other charities. We are deeply involved in trying to keep our financial affairs in good order. We work hard to enlarge our congregation, telling the Christian Story and reaching out to young families and we are proud of the links we have nurtured and developed with Chapmanslade CE Aided School.

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)?

We are much attracted to the Open the Book project and aim to use approaches such as this in the support we wish to give to young people and their families.

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

We recognise the possibilities offered by working more closely together at Benefice and Deanery level, sharing good practice, expertise, new ideas and encouragement.

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

By aiming at upward trends in these areas:- larger congregations, helping people to stay involved in the church, study groups, more people getting confirmed, fundraising, more of the community getting involved in the church life. If we can claim that we are at the heart of our communities, both Christian and secular, in our two villages then we will know we are getting there.