

Let Us Talk

Question 1 – What is the personality and character of your local church?

1. A town centre church on the High St, which welcomes many visitors and parishioners alike. As the resident parishioners age, difficulties of access can be a problem, there being no parking
2. Formal but quite friendly
3. Friendly – welcoming – active
4. Mature, welcoming, Anglican and Catholic
5. Welcoming, very friendly, all embracing, and supportive. Middle-of-the-road churchmanship humour
6. Caring, friendly, “middle of the road” Anglican
7. Friendly, excellent music, variety of services
8. An historic town centre church that has a strong sense of community involvement

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

1. Inclusion, Friendliness, no artificial piety
2. Ministry to the whole congregation, especially those in care homes, hospitals and schools
3. Worship
4. Involvement with the community. To worship God. To be faithful followers of Christ
5. Living witness of Christ’s message to all in Dorchester. Support and friendship for all who seen in Dorchester
6. To reach out to the wider community and try to demonstrate the love of Christ to all. To maintain a high standard of music/singing. To raise enough money to pay our way and be generous
7. To raise the profile of traditional Anglican worship and outreach in the centre of Dorchester
8. Outward looking, good for all generations
9. To be a strong part of the community with an open welcoming presence. To provide congregation and visitors with the opportunity for prayer, reflection, services and a well-cared for historic building

Question 3 – is there one thing you would like to take on in the coming year (recognising that may mean you would need to stop doing something else)?

1. Food bank
2. No – sorry. Already fully committed in voluntary services
3. Talk to more people
4. Joined the church council

5. Active service for the parish in some way
6. (Help) plan a newcomers' party, to be held from time to time (not less often than annually)
7. No, because, as a couple we are well employed in various ways helping in church and supporting functions
8. Establish a basis for funding major maintenance in future years
9. Respectfully no – too old now

Question 4 – Are there ways in which we can work together to achieve more?

1. Interesting comments, on-line, giving consideration to changing service times to more fully engage with the younger, working, members of populace
2. Having one Sunday morning service instead of two. BCP communion one week and the modern version the alternate week
3. We joined the church when we moved here 16 months ago, and it seems that St. Peter's is working hard in that direction
4. Dialogue over finance and sustained growth of parishes. Anglican education?
5. Small sub-committees/action groups e.g. Fabric, Youth, Charitable giving/mission, Stewardship and one or two others
6. Possibly by forging ecumenical links with other local churches
7. Identify skills available and work together based upon these skills. Benefice working rather than trying to condense all churches into one; thus recognizing different emphasis in individual churches
8. Dorchester involves several churches with combined services from time to time.

Question 5 – How can we best measure the quality and impact of church life?

1. Size and growth of weekly congregations. Success of and initiatives in fund-raising and local charity involvement
2. We measure ours by the effectiveness of our vicar in engaging local schools, increasing the congregation, enhancing the musical standard and making the worship more joyful
3. Relationship between members of the church and the rest of the town
4. Difficult to measure – we just do our best
5. Speaking with and listening to each and every parishioner on a regular basis
6. By and expanding congregation, especially by attracting young families. By becoming "the talk of the town"! By changing attitudes to church attendance of a life of service to others
7. Numbers in regular congregation. Level of voluntary financial support to local churches. Number of baptisms, weddings and funerals held in church
8. Involve schools (which we do here) but I'm not sure what else.
9. Local recognition of the impact of the church on the local community, making a difference