

## **“LET US TALK”**

### **Response from All Saints’ Church Farley, Parish of Farley with Pitton**

#### **THE BISHOP’S QUESTIONS:**

##### **What is the personality and character of your local church?**

Although the community of Farley is proud of the historic building, and keen to maintain it, sadly most seem to have little interest in worshipping in it. Our style of worship is traditional, with Choral Evensong having the largest congregation. The small congregation is welcoming to non regular worshippers and people from other churches.

##### **What are the priorities of your church?**

Our priority is to keep the church open to preserve the spiritual heart of the village for this generation and for generations to come.

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

Better organised outreach, both in our own community to people who need support and outside our immediate community, for example the Trussell Trust, Morning Star, Tearfund. Farley Music holds recitals and concerts throughout the year and raises much needed funds. In the future we would like to spend less time on financial issues and concentrate on worship and pastoral care. We would like the clergy and lay ministers, as well as leading worship, to be involved with pastoral care when time allows.

We would like to see a focus on attracting younger people (under 50) into church, as without that shift there will be no future. This may mean a move away from the strictly traditional style which we are comfortable with, but we would need a great deal of support with this.

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

Pitton and Farley have been working well together in recent years, although it does seem that Pitton has been the ‘giver’ and Farley the ‘taker’ in recent years. The ‘share’ has increased year by year which has made us focus on finance leaving little time and energy to spend on our spiritual development. In addition to Pitton and Farley working well, it would be beneficial to all to work more within the wider Clarendon Team.

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

By its fruits – i.e. How many people does our church community help/support? What does our church do? How is the church perceived in the local community?

Under the leadership of Nils Bersweden, the clergy and lay ministers of the Clarendon Team provide endless support, inspiration and care, for which we are so grateful.