

Let Us Talk

a response by the Forest & Avon Team Ministry

1. **What is the ‘Personality and Character’ of your local church?**

We are six churches with disparate histories and stories. We believe we are friendly and welcoming. However on the whole our regular congregations are getting older and just about holding our own as far as numbers are concerned, which means that we have fewer people willing to take up roles within the church structure.

What matters to us is that:

- our traditions are important;
- we are trying to reach out into our scattered communities;
- and are struggling with the idea of being a Team (although some would say we are beginning to see the benefits of being a Team, albeit gradually).

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

- Reaching out and exploring new ways of doing this.
 - Identifying the resources we need to be able to do this outreach.
- Nurturing and sustaining what is there:
 - What do we really want to keep?
 - What is using the resources we need for outreach?

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)?**

Encourage ourselves to “look in the mirror” in each of our mission areas (see Q.4), and ask how do we move forward from here?

Having tried this in Redlynch, we have found an exciting step forward there with Church in the Hall (CitH).

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

We want to develop working in and with our Church Schools.

We need to define our mission areas, and ask:

- Who are the people we should be working with, including our Anglican churches and ecumenical partners?
- How can we do more?
- What are our limits and constraints? e.g. age; numbers etc.

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

Unprompted feedback from others in our community.

Do people who come once come back? If not, why not?

Community conferences to establish what is wanted by the community.