

LET'S TALK

The Five Questions

St Mary's, Marlborough

1. We hope we are an open and available worshipping community – open to change and available to serve others. This reflects something of the character of the building itself.
2. Overarching purpose is Making Jesus Known. This is done through the dual approach of a) deepening the life of the worshipping community and b) finding creative ways of engaging with the local community.
3. Dual priorities (see above) a) Developing Pastoral Initiative of work with Lay Pastoral Assistants and b) Involving Community in a Passion Play.
4. Such co-operation can be effective, but needs to be targeted at the right level – be it benefice, deanery or diocese. Always room to improve extent to which good practice is shared.
5. Very difficult to measure when so much of the church's work is unquantifiable. We struggled to think of new ways of measuring impact of a local church, but one approach might be to ask hard questions of everything we do. These questions might be along the lines: *Is what we do interesting rather than boring and how readily can we invite strangers to it? If it's fun, do it, if it isn't don't.*

Marlborough Deanery

1. The Deanery is rural and sparsely populated with parishes that are realistic about the challenges they face but proud about the way they are endeavouring to rise to them.
2. Developing the sense of the Deanery as a 'Unit of Mission'. Continuing to find ways where the Deanery can 'add value'. Training/Education role and work at St John's School fit this category.
3. Strengthening youth work probably through church presence in St John's, the Deanery's (main) Secondary School.
4. At Deanery level the chapter can become increasingly supportive. We could operate like a Group Ministry.
5. *Is what we do interesting rather than boring and how readily can we invite strangers to it? If it's fun, do it, if it isn't don't.*