

## **NOTES ON LET US TALK DISCUSSION – 8 MARCH 2013**

### **WHAT IS THE PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER OF YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?**

A rural scattered community – geographically large parish – about 350 residents - no shop, pub or school – in balance between the majority of older retirees and the minority of young working families with children. Warm, caring, happy church dependent on a core of retired people who manage the church and carry out the associated religious and secular duties. 50/50 mix between those who prefer Common Worship and those who prefer the traditional service formats. Activities centred around the Sunday Services, bible studies and fund raising activities. Average attendance of about 25 -30 many of whom live outside the parish boundaries.

### **WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES OF YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?**

A general consensus that the priorities of our church are:

1. Maintain and develop our worship and encourage and enable wider attendance and involvement.
2. Maintain and develop the church building to support the above.
3. Support and be part of our local village community.
4. Look outwards and support other communities [Sudan, Burma, Women's Refuge, Toby's, RDA, Water Aid, Combat Stress etc]

### **IS THERE ONE THING YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ON IN THE COMING YEAR?**

We did not agree on one thing; ideas were:

1. Raise profile of church in community.
2. Develop form of worship that would attract and involve younger people.
3. More bible study groups to prepare the existing congregation to spread the word.
4. Concentrate on the church development plan [kitchen and lavatory project].
5. Mid week services.

### **ARE THERE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE MORE?**

Worship in other churches more.

Better access to Team Resources i.e. expertise in other parishes.

### **HOW CAN WE BEST MEASURE THE QUALITY AND IMPACT OF CHURCH LIFE?**

Do we need to measure these things; are they not apparent if present?

Is church attendance only measure that matters? General feeling that it was the core measure and the easiest to monitor; but there are others ie reputation of the church in the community.

More people = more resources [not just cash] = more activity = more people – start virtuous circle.

Ask for feedback from the congregation and community.