

What is the 'Personality and Character' of your local church?

We believe that our rural churches are caring, sharing, welcoming and friendly, with relatively small, sometimes tiny congregations of predominately older, dedicated and supportive members. They work hard and successfully to care for and maintain our beautiful churches

Whilst we are consistent and reliable, we can sometimes become parochial and conservative. The distances between our churches mean that we can easily become insular.

Our church services reflect the diffuse nature of our context by being very varied, even within a church.

What are the priorities of your local church?

All our churches long to see growth in numbers, and in transformed lives, as we seek to internalise the truths of our faith which sometimes seem external to our lives. We spread the Good news through mission and, outreach, telling stories, both God's and ours, though this is often spasmodic.

Much of our time and money is spent on maintaining our historic buildings, and raising the funds to do so. It would be good to find new uses for our buildings, such as for community use.

Organisationally, we see the future in a variety of ways, from those who would like to see just one church serving the whole team, to those who seek to maintain the status quo.

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)?

We see the Energising Local Ministry Project as a vehicle to help us discover new ways of worshipping and serving in this Team. In particular, we wish to see a greater use of people's gifts in the ministry of our churches.

We would all like to see Children and Young People's work flourishing in more churches. The Sherborne Deanery has become part of the CYP Strategy Pilot Project to help us discern the best way forward to reach them and the 'lost generation' of their parents..

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

As a Team, we see the possibility of working together and supporting one another in Children and Youth work.

The number of churches and services mean that we can offer innovative services to reach a greater number of people.

In such a scattered place, we can work better at communicating with one another. The Chimes and Sunday Chimes and Team website offer vehicles through which our communication can improve .

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

We would measure the quality and impact of our churches by the number of people who come to worship, and the number who gather together to learn and share their Christian life in small groups between services; by the health of our church finances and the amount we are able to give away; by the diversity of congregation and their hospitality to one another and their communities; by the testimonies of God's work in people's lives, by the openness of our channels of communication with each other, and the quality of fellowship after services.