



# LET'S TALK – response from St Peter's Church, Shaftesbury

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## Key questions from the Bishop's consultation document (previously distributed)

### *a. What is the 'Personality and Character' of your local church?*

Warmly welcoming, loving, enthusiastic, Spirit-led, broad, growing, giving, serving. A church for all ages with a strong and varied musical tradition.

We take some of the best from all traditions

- we are liberal, in that we are free from narrow religiosity
- we are charismatic in that we are committed to pray and live in the Holy Spirit
- We are evangelical in that we value an informed understanding of the scriptures and so come to know Jesus Christ and live out our lives for Him
- We are traditional in that we follow the traditions of the Church of England
- We are informal in that we are prepared to be led by the Holy Spirit into new ways of engaging with the gospel, the kingdom and our fellowship and our wider flock

### *b. What are the priorities of your local church?*

Mission (outreach), growth, pastoral care, serving the community, worship with others, prayers for healing.

Being a church that is open to all – both the building and the fellowship community – valued by all

A new priority has become working with the homeless that have gathered in Shaftesbury. Over the winter 5 different homeless folk have at times slept overnight in St Peter's and we have fed and clothed them.

Our mission statement reads

To worship Christ with others      To serve Christ in others

To take Christ to others              To bring others to Christ

*Because God says you're worth it...*

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Revd. Clive Thomas, Team Rector, The Rectory, 10 Heathfields Way, Shaftesbury, Dorset. SP7 9JZ

Tel: 01747 855375

Email: [clive@stmin.org.uk](mailto:clive@stmin.org.uk)

Web: [www.stmin.org.uk](http://www.stmin.org.uk)

*c. Can you think of one thing you would like to take on or develop in the coming year (recognising that may mean you may need to stop doing something else)?*

The Alpha course this summer, which follows on from Youth Alpha in the spring

We also need to take on some new way of fundraising – either increased stewardship or active event organisation - to fund all the things we are doing!

*d. Are there ways in which we can work together with neighbouring churches to achieve more? What are they?*

We do work with Churches Together in Shaftesbury in many ways, eg

Healing on the streets in partnership with a local free church.

Some aspects of working with the homeless with our local free church

Christmas and Easter card deliveries to every house,

Easter and Christmas outdoor worship

Christian Aid lunches and collections

And we also work with the other 8 churches in our team

We can always be more effective in what we do together – that is our aim

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

Size and growth of church membership – we now have 100+ worshipping regularly at our main act of worship with a better balanced aged profile than ever before. The more people are drawn into our community – and who stay with us – the more confident we are that we are doing the Lord's will

Quality of worship – our vision is for a church where all feel their lives are uplifted by the worship offered, where all needs are met, where all can feel valued.

Our impact on the community – St Peter's sits at the heart of our town – is the Civic Church. It is where major town acts of community life are celebrated. The more we are involved and active participants, the more we are living the life of Christ where He has placed us.

Our involvement in the community – so many of our members are actively involved in the community organisations and events within the town. The less we are only involved in church life and the more we take Christ to others the more we bring the kingdom to reality amongst our parish

And feedback from the community. The more folk regard us as being of some use within the town, look to us for a lead on issues, see us involved in the important issues, the more we are witnessing to Jesus Christ amongst us.

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