

The questions being asked are:

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

We have 6 churches in our benefice so the answer depends on what we mean by 'local church'. Discussions were held at various PCC meetings about this and opinions varied widely, ranging from the building itself to the body of Christ represented by believers. This was quite revealing in its own right. Given that all 6 of our church buildings and our church communities are geographically far apart, then one answer to the question must be 'fragmented'. On the assumption that the question means more than simply the building, some of the answers given were: Open and welcoming, Always open, Cold, forward thinking, not forward thinking (!). The most often used phrase was 'at the centre of the community'

2. What are the priorities of your local church?

I think it is fair to say that for some of the smaller churches the priority is often survival and finance. What was good about the discussion however was that though this came up, it wasn't the first thing to be said and it wasn't where the discussion focused. Worship was a priority, the needs of youth and elderly were considered important as well.

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)?

Finding ways to reach out to folk who are not church and have no tradition of being so. This is very hard to do in its own right, but is made more so by the amount of time it takes to run the institution of church in a benefice of 6 churches. We think we are quite efficient at this, but it still takes time!

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

Perhaps address the above.

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

Answers given by PCCs and others... By how long people stay for coffee after church; by which offices/jobs are easy to fill (helping with the fete, grass cutting, youth work and sick visiting as examples) and which are not (church warden, treasurer, secretary as examples). By whether the church is invited to be part of other community events.