

Answers to the Bishop of Salisbury's questions as presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish of St Barnabas, Stock Gaylard with Kings Stag, held on Thursday, 11th April 2013.

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

It was felt that the Church endeavoured to be open to all, offering both traditional and modern services to suit most needs, and tried to express a friendly and warm welcome to all who wished to come in.

What are the priorities of your local Church?

A few priorities were expressed amongst which were the need to lead acts of worship, the keeping of an open door and the encouragement for people to come in, the spreading of the Good News, concern for our villagers, both spiritual and material, and the maintenance of our two Churches as visible witnesses to a Christian presence in the neighbourhood. The circulation of The Bulletin covering news of the Church and Community activities within the Benefice was deemed to be most useful.

What would be the one thing to take on in the coming year?

At the present time The Bulletin is distributed by two people, the village being divided fairly equally into two parts. It was felt that it might be possible to recruit more distributors and that when this monthly magazine was delivered, perhaps an effort might be made to speak to the recipients, rather than just carrying out a posting. It was felt that visiting other people, something which is perhaps lacking at the moment, could be combined with the delivering of The Bulletin in this way. It was thought that more fund raising events could be staged, thus raising monies for the Church.

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

It was felt that a richness of fellowship was gained by joining in worship with other Churches from the Benefice and that opportunities to take part in Services, other than those of one's own Parish was to be applauded. The 5th Sunday of each month is dedicated to a Benefice Service and the annual Benefice Pilgrimage was an event which was much appreciated by Church members, affording as it did, time to meet and engage with people from other congregations.

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

The impact of Church life was perhaps indicated by the number of people coming to Services at the present time, which showed a considerable increase compared to a year ago, and it was felt that this was largely due to the quality of our clergy, their pastoral care, their teaching and guidance, and a relaxed atmosphere together with a warm feeling of fellowship and welcome within our Church.