

Stroud Deanery Synod

Wednesday 16th February 2022

Flipcharts

(Number of 'supporting' coloured spots marked in brackets)

PEOPLE *(Ordained, Lay & Volunteers)*

- More use of lay people to take services, lead groups, training (4)
- Rural churches and Ordained personnel – How do you get around the fact that people do not want to be Ordained? Use of lay people is good, however they can't do certain things like communion

BUILDINGS

- Difficulty of insulating old stone buildings (Warm the stone ref. Minchinhampton) (1)
- Carbon net zero by 2030 (1)
- Can you/are you allowed to double-glaze stained glass?
- In rural areas it will be very difficult to change the heating system
- Carbon audit should be part of all Quinquennial Reviews (or may be even semi-quinquennial ones?) (2)
- Debunk myths about only heating buildings when in use (2)
- Find complimentary uses for our buildings (3)
- Step-up efforts to make buildings 'useful' as well as being a place of worship (Supports evangelism) (2)

FINANCE

- Make our Parish Share commitment or lose Stipendiary posts (3)
- How do other struggling churches survive? Importance of sharing experience/expertise
- Teaching on Stewardship and tithing (2)
- Most rural churches are often stretched to the limit with finances and often compete with other village needs
- Move to sacrificial giving (2)
- Don't wait until we have saved enough to give funds away! God is generous (1)
- Publish impacts of giving (like most charities already do) (1)

DISCIPLESHIP – Deepening Faith

- A real depth of Bible knowledge within regular church goers (2)
- Church of 'contributors' not just 'receivers'
- Have mentors to work/support newly Confirmed
- Have a quarterly church Newsletter – pop it through letter boxes & talk if possible
- Daily Bible Readings & Reflection (1)
- Diverse leadership, including local, simple levels of training/mentoring in lay leadership. Steps to develop a variety of leaders (1)

- Canvas the community – go out and talk to people about what they expect from their Church (1)
- Continue to extend training and mentoring for Lay Ministries (2)
- A commitment to read the Bible and pray outside of church services during the week (1)

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- If a school closes in our village or part of town, what happens to your ministry to those children & families (1)
- Involve the children in planning an outdoor service which suits them and get them to invite people (1)
- 2 or 3 central modern services for the young and young at heart
- Difficulty of getting children into churches due to so many sporting etc activities held on Sundays. Encourage schools to become involved in church is not always easy (1)
- Engaging with Sportily - but taking it to rural areas not just the larger areas of population. (3)

ENVIRONMENT & JUSTICE

- Green Audit to embrace local people with experience/expertise (not hard in Stroud!)
- Don't let cost and competition hijack our journey to caring for environment and each other (2)
- Green Audit to encourage/push 'green' challenges and goals (1)
- What can we do to encourage one another to live more 'eco' lives as church members? (2)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Church as the centre of the community – a place where **all** will go to church for support, and spiritual feeding. (3)
- In the towns & cities, how can churches feed into (almost literally) community hubs & centres? Aiming not to make the churches central – is this ok? (1)
- Every Church to have a Priest or Reader responsible for the community, however large the Benefice (2)

EVANGELISM

- Radical hospitality to spiritual seekers (4)
- Deeper experience of Christ at the Centre
- Check out what God's already up to (1)
- Being seen to support others affected by climate change and lack of social justice – links to African/3rd world communities
- Evangelism through community engagement by doing things for all community to participate in (2)

- Basic Bible and Theology Teaching over several weeks, equivalent to Adult Education Classes – where is divinity available after school? (1)
- Engaging young parents and avid career people into more commitment to their faith and church (1)
- Isn't there scope for 'tent' meetings post Covid? - 'drop-in' and family friendly.

NEW HOUSING

- Bring the church to the new housing areas (3)
- Imagine ways of worshipping using community spaces (1)
- Opportunity to engage with new residents at Rooksmoor development (1)
- New housing means: adjusting families, potential family loss/breakdown – challenges for Clergy and Lay ministers
- On new estates there needs to be more community spaces, hall/pub etc before more houses are built (1)

WORSIP

- Sharing worship with Christians of other denominations (2)
- Build ministry into service styles Not superimpose on to it.
(Go with the flow and turn the tap open)
- How do we communicate what diversity of worship is available?
- Different styles – Traditional, High or Low, maybe in a different place? (1)
- Doesn't have to be in a church building (3)
- Deanery outdoor service for Confirmation etc (3)
- Outdoor Worship (2)