

Christ Church, Emery Down

Our **Parish Mission Action Plan** is based on our **Vision Statement** which is of a spiritual, vibrant, worshipful, caring and adaptable church catering for the needs of the congregation and the community it serves. The following document includes statements from our response to the Deanery MAP questionnaire.

GROWING AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Demonstrating through our daily lives what it means to be a Christian.

RE-IMAGINING THE CHURCH

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Improving the profile of the church by offering it as a community resource through our *Fresh Expression* service 'Sunday at Six'.

Attracting pet owners to a Pet Celebration under the 'Sunday at Six' banner once a year.

Holding fewer services based on the Book of Common Prayer and introducing 'YouChurch' - a monthly lay-led service for all.

Invited local residents to help with churchyard upkeep through occasional working parties.

Liaising with the Lyndhurst Branch, Royal British Legion for a service of commemoration at our Lychgate on the evening of 4 August 2014 and holding annual service on 11 November.

Holding community days to monitor and record the memorials in our churchyard as part of the New Forest National Park Authority's landscape scheme *Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage project*.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO

Introduce a programme of 'events' to dovetail with 'Sunday at Six' on the months when it is not held. This might be called 'Sunday at Six Extra' and include a meditative or choral element. **Action:** to hold an introduction to our Stations of the Cross with a 'creative' service of Holy Communion as a pre-Lent activity and invite local churches to take part.

Evaluate our church as a structure in supporting the vision of the Stations of the Cross.

Produce a media package introducing The Stations of the Cross and encouraging reflection for use in the parish and nearby care homes.

Compile visual image catalogues of past life and events, from postcards, for residents at Hartwood House to help to release past memories of local life, in liaison with *How We Used To Live* (our local history group).

Encourage and support the introduction of Patronal and Dedication Festivals across the Benefice as a means of reaching out. **Action:** to hold our Dedication Festival on 20 June – Corpus Christi – as a Benefice Service.

Encourage the formation of a Benefice Choir by identifying possible members in the parish.

Finish researching the lives of the people named on our war memorials in Emery Down and Lyndhurst, in liaison with the Lyndhurst Branch, Royal British Legion, and to publish a record.

Explore ways to build on our current liaison with the Lyndhurst Branch, Royal British Legion.

Adopted by APCM 2019

BEING AGENTS OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Meeting the needs of vulnerable people within our parish through close ties in community and the system of lay pastor visiting. Bernard is the lay pastor for Christ Church.

Taking part in the five-monthly Churches' Together rota for 'Carers' Café',

Maintaining good links with Rwanda.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO

Improve our understanding of challenges faced by others and strengthen our links with our partner diocese. **Action:** Bernard to approach a church in the Newcastle Diocese with a view to establishing a prayer link.

Consider that mutual exchange visits would benefit all involved and raise profile of the partnership within the non-worshipping community.

Strengthen links with the local food bank in Totton and encourage the other churches in the Benefice to do the same and liaise to ensure local needs are met. **Action:** David to investigate.

BELONGING TOGETHER IN CHRIST PRACTISING SACRIFICIAL LIVING AND GOOD STEWARDSHIP

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Have introduced the *Parish Giving Scheme*.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO

Review our charitable support to reflect meaningful partnerships locally.

Review how we support people with dementia in the parish and Benefice.

Re-establish the Friends of Christ Church, Emery Down. **Action:** David to mention this in his letter to parishioners.

Reuse the altar frontals that we do not need to make an All Seasons Chasuble for David to wear at our services. This will involve finding and encouraging a sewing group.

Explore how the churchyard could be used to promote caring for God's creation.