

# Mission Action Plans

## Summaries from Ely Deanery

February 2010

### ELY

#### Chettisham

#### Coveney

Harvest Playday: involving 31 kids and 12+adults. Activities included: corn dollies; bread making; plate decorating; how the organ works; bug hunt in churchyard and much more. So successful that plans are in hand for a Christmas countdown morning plus another Harvest Playday next year. A great achievement for a tiny rural parish!

#### Ely

##### *Prayer*

New 'open to God' Parish Prayer Meeting

Home Prayer Warriors set up

##### *Worship*

New Worship Patterns for Sunday Morning developed and implemented.

##### *Mission*

Easter Prayer Labyrinth in Holy Week

Children's Holiday Club

##### *Global Mission*

£4,900 raised for a Water Project in Kigezi

##### *Communication*

New Notice boards

Entire Parish Leafleted twice

##### *Pastoral*

2 New home groups created

New Structures for Youth Ministry.

#### **Ely Cathedral**

PA system overhauled and hearing loop extended to improve audibility.

New style summer holiday activities for children well attended

Edward Bear Club, a story, sun and worship group for Parents and Toddlers on Fridays, is growing.

New Sunday Worship Group for Parents and Toddlers started in September.

Exhibitions to highlight Fairtrade, Holy Land Conflict held and Environment Exhibition planned for November.

New 'easy to read' Prayer Books purchased.

#### **Haddenham**

- developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010

- Haddenham History Project, celebrating the history of the village, and Haddenham and Wilburton Timetravellers 1109 Holiday Club, exploring life in our villages 900 years ago
- continued to work on Wilburton 21<sup>st</sup> Century project
- developing an understanding of 'Sacred Space' for all age groups and for visitors to the churches
- Bible studies planned for the coming year
- weekly ½ hour of prayer
- Creation Time – 5 weeks of sermons, prayers, children's work, school assemblies, after school clubs etc looking at creation and the environment

### **Little Downham**

#### **Little Thetford**

Linking in mission with the Baptist Chapel, for example through Girls Brigade, monthly All Age Worship, and special events

Each Tuesday an informal Singing Evening, with band, to learn new worship songs for all ages.

Developing links with Church of England Primary School in the village, especially through assemblies, visits to the church and school and special occasions.

### **Littleport**

#### **Mepal**

##### Capital Project

Improve access to new burial ground which floods during the winter months. Approval for a drainage scheme has been successfully sought from the DAC and a faculty has now been granted. Funding has also been sought from the parish council who have made a grant of £800 enabling the works to be undertaken.

##### School

We continue to build on developing links between church and school. A much appreciated service was held in school on the last Sunday of August followed by a hog roast. A whole school visit to the war memorial on Armistice day has become a part of the school calendar, with the school also laying a wreath in the presence of the wider community during the Sunday service.

##### Social

An initiative was undertaken by the PCC to have a fellowship time after the 10:30 service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. This has not been straightforward owing to the lack of facilities in the Church but members have been committed to this and have made it happen, by such means as bringing bottled water and taking a crate of mugs home to wash. Their efforts have been rewarded by the appreciation of the congregation. Useful discussions have taken place pastorally during this time.

### **Prickwillow**

#### **Stretham**

Making links with young families, through 'Little Bears' Parent and Toddler Group.

Holiday Bible Club for children each summer, and Sunday Club each week.

Developing links with the village primary school.

Coffee at the Lion each week, followed by BCP Morning Prayer in Church.

### **Stuntney**

Development of links with Fenland Lodge Care Home, including a new Service of Worship each month.

Going out into the community, by holding the Harvest Supper in the Village Social Club.

Introduction of a new, more accessible hymn book in Sunday worship.

## **Sutton**

### Worship and Prayer

Furniture in Lady Chapel re-arranged to provide less formal Prayer Stations holding crosses, prayer dice as well as simple literature on techniques of prayer and meditation.

A Wednesday Evening Prayer Group has started this year as well as an Old Testament Bible study group. Pew bibles (NRSV) have been provided. Diversity of styles of worship is being explored to enable us to engage with as wide a section of the community we serve as possible

### Fellowship & Hospitality

Hospitality table provided with facilities for mid-week visitors to make a drink

Increase diversity of church usage to the wider community by bringing social events such as Harvest Supper, Youth Disco and refreshments after funerals into the Church.

Parish quiet day and conference booked for early 2010

### Mission and Outreach

Conversations are taking place for major re-ordering (New Heating, flooring and removal of remaining pews) to maximise flexibility of the building for both worship and community use. DAC have given informal consent for this but a lot of work to be done before we are in a position to submit a formal application. As with many other churches the lack of toilet facilities within the building is a major problem, this that can only be addressed as part of a far larger scheme, which is the direction we are now taking. This will be dependant on support from the wider community as the financial implications are beyond the means of our regular congregation who must retain their priorities as parochial expenses such as the Parish Share, utilities, insurances and charitable giving.

Our plan to raise awareness of the Church's presence in the community by means of ringing the bells has made no progress. Despite evidence of people coming to church because they heard the bells on the few in the previous year when a digital recording was used, the bells main have only been rung for one service so far this year owing to the lack of ringers. The Diocese have refused to sanction the further use of digital substitute, on the grounds that we have a band of ringers! This remains a cause of frustration to the PCC.

Tiny Praise a midweek activity for pre-schoolers had been planned to start in the autumn. This has been deferred to spring 2010 owing to the work commitments of some of the leaders and the temperature within the church during the winter months. This will follow on from the Wednesday Eucharist and Lunch, with the aim of using the lunch as a fellowship opportunity for young and old alike and encouraging a wider age group attendance at the Eucharist.

### Financial

Plans for a 'Stewardship year' based on 'All God's Gifts' have been put back a year following a three parish study day led by the chair of the diocesan stewardship advisory group. This now has to be a priority for 2010.

## **Wentworth**

- Fairtrade status achieved
- Developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010

- Holiday Club for Witchford and Wentworth – Timetravellers 1109, looking at life in the villages 900 years ago, and celebrating the Psalms
- Lent study 2009, Bible Studies planned 4 times for coming year

### **Wilburton**

- developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010
- Haddenham History Project, celebrating the history of the village, and Haddenham and Wilburton Timetravellers 1109 Holiday Club, exploring life in our villages 900 years ago
- continued to work on Wilburton 21<sup>st</sup> Century project
- developing an understanding of 'Sacred Space' for all age groups and for visitors to the churches
- Bible studies planned for the coming year
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- Creation Time – 5 weeks of sermons, prayers, children's work, school assemblies, after school clubs etc looking at creation and the environment

### **Witcham**

We wish to develop

A higher profile for the parish church in the life of the local community.

An efficient and comprehensive communication system with parishioners including database of contacts, including e-mail addresses

We aim to

Prepare a welcome pack for people new to the village.

Prepare a photo board of the key people in the Ministry with contact information.

A shared diary with the Village Hall and Church to avoid events clashing.

The monthly 'call in for coffee' is proving to have a very beneficial result in developing relationships with the community and as a result the Church seems to be viewed with greater affection and/or understanding of our needs by the no churchgoing attendees. Currently this attracts some 24+ people even when the temperature is severe. It can be quite encouraging to enter the church and see them all huddled in their coats but enjoying each others company proving that this is meeting a real need and establishing the church as a meeting place. A recent grant has enabled us to provide better facilities.

### Survey

The PCC distributed a card last Christmas to every house in the village and during the course of the year a survey to find out how much people valued the church by means of some direct (no feelings spared) questions. Although the written responses were poor the subsequent reaction and conversations in the village show it to be a worthwhile exercise and that people who have been very complacent about the role of their parish church do value it and are prepared to support it

### **Witchford**

- Developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010
- Moving forward with plans for the Church extension
- Open Church – church is open regularly, plus open day and open evening with welcome, explanation and refreshments

- Use of the Bible – Lent study 2009, 4 Bible studies planned for the coming year