

# Mission Action Plans

## Summaries from Fordham and Quy Deanery

February 2010

### FORDHAM AND QUY

#### Ashley

- ✚ Weekend Festival to build links with the village. This was a wonderful event involving a flower festival, childrens art competition and exhibition, a Summer concert and a Songs of Praise. Many local people came and enjoyed visiting the Church and getting involved.
- ✚ Outreach to local young families. We held a Teddy Bears picnic this Summer – over 30 people came and enjoyed a treasure hunt, parachute games, puppet show, action songs and stories – and a picnic with our teddies. It was a happy and relaxed occasion and has already led to more contact with these families and two children coming for a Thanksgiving service.
- ✚ Nurturing Christians. We held an Emmaus based course in the Spring and two members of the congregation attended and were later confirmed in their faith by Bishop David.
- ✚ Promote the church for prayer: the Church is now open every day and a prayer corner established, and prayer cards etc available. A walk around guide is in its final draft.

#### Bottisham

'Messy Mondays' toddler's messy play group well established in Church every week.  
RE:NEW 'Sunday Club' attracting 80+ every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Bottisham Primary School.  
Family Service restyled to be more child friendly and led by joint clergy/lay team.  
Morning Prayer Service introduced once a month to replace Hoy Communion.  
'Bottisham Meeting Point' meeting every Wednesday morning in Queens Court.  
Initiated project for removing pews from north aisle and replacing with chairs.

#### Brinkley

We have provided a large clear notice board outside the church gate advertising the times of services.

#### Burrough Green

We have opened the church during daylight hours  
Provided a children's corner with toys and books.  
Improved the notice board  
Provided literature to facilitate prayer

#### Burwell with Reach

Youth Work - First Youth Alpha and Youth Festival

St Mary's Neighbours - over this past year we have helped by providing meals, doing gardening, walking a dog, sitting with someone to give the carer a break, driving someone to visit their husband on a weekly basis & putting out the rubbish!

Re-ordering of building – Statements of Significance and Need accepted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Overseas outreach – Continuing support for our CMS partners during a difficult year for them; increased support for the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal and another successful youth programme with our friends from Germany and Hungary.

### **Carlton**

We have continued to offer Family Worship with great refreshments afterwards 5 times a year.

We have enjoyed a wonderful Choral Evensong.

We have replaced the old altar cloth and linen.

### **Cheveley**

Welcome

*The Church* – Now open every day throughout daylight hours. Church and village information is displayed. There is a specific prayer corner for quiet prayer and contemplation. A 'walk around' church guide and visitors welcome cards are provided.

*Services* – A member of the congregation is always available to welcome people to services and refreshments are served afterwards.

*Communication* – Our new partnership website is up and running [www.cheveleygroup.org](http://www.cheveleygroup.org) – giving full details of all services and social events.

The annual partnership yearbook is delivered to every household and the partnership magazine, available monthly by subscription, is full of information both secular and religious.

### Pastoral Care

A new pastoral care group has been formed within the partnership and authorized by the PCCs. The group has established its policies, received training in bereavement, working with vulnerable adults and listening skills.

Members of the group visit the bereaved and the sick, at home or in hospital and meet regularly for supervision.

It is hoped that other people may be encouraged to join the group in due course.

### Outreach

Pre School Children + Parents/Carers

The Ark for pre-schoolers and carers restarted in January 2009. Each session has a theme with story, songs, crafts and activities. The stories are often told in the manner of Godly Play or through using drama and movement.

This term we have focussed on harvest and the story of the Lost Sheep. The children enjoyed going round the church to gather the fruit and vegetables and being the lost sheep by hiding around the church.

The children have opportunities to play with our faith based toys including Noah's Ark, large rainbow, Bible animals, wooden Jerusalem and Bethlehem and felt colours of the church year.

The service ends with an opportunity for the children to draw or say their own prayers, followed by a drink and a biscuit.

### **Primary School Children+ Parents**

With the delay in the appointment of the Deanery Youth and children's worker and a shortage of volunteer help, it was decided not to start the after school club this September. We hope that it will be resourced next year. Meanwhile our Priest has doubled her time commitment to primary school activities and school services in the church (with parents) are being doubled too.

### **Chippenham**

One of our pressing and identified needs is to provide improved facilities (wc, kitchen, even running water!) in our beautiful church, celebrating its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Nationally important individuals have contacts with Chippenham, including Erskine May, who lies in our churchyard, writer of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for the Houses of Parliament and other parliaments using the Westminster Model of Government. The "Rules" are about to be republished in the 24<sup>th</sup> Edition since the original in the 1880's. Admiral Russell, Lord Orford, who lived in Chippenham Park, and who was the "Nelson" of his century and victor at the Battle of La Hogue, both invited and welcomed William and Mary to the throne of the United Kingdom.

Our Biannual "Music in the Park" fund raiser (10k- desperately needed), in Chippenham Park, the home of our Patron, both draws together the whole community and the local area, and melds the church community into a formidable force in the village.

Our mission for the church is to continue its excellent musical tradition, which enhances regular worship and draws in 450 people each Christmas; but to also make the building comfortable and usable by and for the whole community.

### **Dullingham**

[We have improved the notices on the board.](#)  
[Put literature in the church to facilitate prayer](#)  
[Started to plan the After School Club](#)

### **Fen Ditton**

#### **Fordham**

The church has identified the need for increasing and deepening links with our outstanding church primary school. Already church members serve as Foundation Governors, and volunteer at the school in a variety of capacities. Our Nature Pals, environmental group meeting twice a month after school, provides links with parents and children, as well as answering a need in the village for after school clubs. Recently the whole school formed up on the playground for an assembly when the whole school community made a "smiley face" for God.

Our links with children and young people include a rejuvenated Sunday School, a growing Junior Choir, and a newly formed Youth Group, Sundays@6 (more on our Isleham page).

We have also just begun a new monthly 'baby and toddler' service, which is encouraging the pre-school in the village and many of our Baptism families into church; and in their faith.

Much of the mission of this church is based on our continued engagement with the village community and we continue to think of, and pray for, new initiatives to grow the church in terms of both people and in terms of growing our own faith. We have revitalised the Parish Magazine which now goes, free of charge, to every household – every group and organisation contributes and it is a real service to the village. We have also formed good relationships

with the Congregationalist church in the village and we now work together for Christian Aid and we share more worship together – it has been and continues to be a blessing.

*Our beautiful church stands at the heart of the community –  
we strive to engage the heart of the community in the church.*

### **Fulbourn**

We have established our church website which is constantly updated. This makes it much easier for visitors to find out about us.

We have installed a new sound system, much more welcoming for all.

We now have Bibles in every pew and new easier to navigate service booklets for most of our services.

We have begun a new ‘School of Theology’ meeting on Sunday evenings in our church shop, to help people who want to learn more about the Christian faith.

We now have our first ALM, trained in evangelism and mission.

Children are now welcome to receive communion in our churches and several enjoy doing so.

We have established links with our local village toddler group and volunteers from the church now help to run the group providing fantastic links with local families.

We have reordered our South Transept to provide greater space for our new Worship Group and more milling space for people to get to know each other after the service.

We have employed two new Pastoral Assistants to care for others.

### **Great Wilbraham**

Our informal monthly Sunday afternoon service in the local school – ‘Xpression’ is continuing to grow and bring in many new families.

Children are now welcome to receive communion in our church and several enjoy doing so.

We have a new LLM and a member of our congregation preparing for ordination.

We have raised enough money to repair our church roof and it is now looking amazing! No more drops of rain on the congregation during services!

We are in the process of drawing up plans to reorder our kitchen and toilet facilities to make the church a more welcoming place for future generations.

We have installed a new, sixth bell, in our bell tower which has attracted more bell ringers to the church and the Reception class at our local church were thrilled to be on Anglia News the day the bell was installed.

Our local church school have always been regular visitors at the church but now they are coming twice as often.

### **Horningsea**

#### **Isleham**

Our new Youth Group Sundays@6 is based here in Isleham. And this month we are holding our first ‘Mini Rave in the Nave in the Styx’ – 3 live bands, balloons, bungee run, disco and BBQ! We pray for 200 young people to fill the church.

This venture was made possible by the continued development of our stunning building.

Completed this autumn, the new paved area at the back of the church around the font, with the inclusion of many ancient gravestones uncovered during the restoration work here, has enhanced the building and begun the process of making it user-friendly AND available for use by the community. For our Buildings group, with an increasingly clear vision for the future, it’s a never ending task, but we are determined to see the church as a springboard to mission and service rather than a millstone which weighs us down. Our future projects

include, re-decoration, new screen door, kitchen and wc and heating (there is non at present!) our overall vision remains to have a building which is both fit for service and comfortable – and which gives us all heart for worship and lifts our spirits. The new floor has certainly begun this process. Our links with the school are developing strongly and many church members serve as governors, and the school visits the church termly for worship. This ancient and beautiful church proves to be a real delight to the many who visit and to those who come for the occasional offices, the 500 or so who worship at festivals and we hope and pray that by its beauty and stature its witness to Christ and its beacon of prayer are brought nearer to God.

### **Kennett**

Our small but faithful congregation took the brave step to meet for worship just once a month on Sundays, thus making each service a ‘bumper’ service, rather than ‘burdensome’ (for an 82 year old churchwarden, and similarly aged congregation) weekly service. Already vastly increased numbers at these special services have given us new impetus to worship and serve. The church, realising the crucial nature of regular prayer, decided to meet weekly on Monday afternoon, and our strong links with the community school, have meant that we now meet for worship at the end of the school day, and in holiday times, in the home of one of our parishioners. A Fresh Expression for a tiny village on the boundary of Diocese, County & Parish.

### **Kirtling**

Installation of toilet and flower vestry to area at base of Church Tower.  
Disability Audit carried out – actions to be taken in due course, progressively  
Establishment of arts event (*successful concert held with the Fairhaven Singers*)  
Church walk-around guide leaflets (*initial leaflets produced and available*)  
Faith and Prayer Literature now available in free-standing glazed oak cabinet.  
West end of church showing doors from the church to Flower Vestry and Toilet facilities beyond.

### **Little Wilbraham**

We have had several successful concerts in the church, which have encouraged locals who don't come to church to step inside the doors.  
We have increased the scale of our Church Fete to become a major village event involving the whole community.  
Children are now welcome to receive communion in our church.

### **Lode with Longmeadow**

[Coffee Morning in Social Club every Wednesday.](#)  
[Family Communion Service introduced once a month.](#)

### **Quy**

Coffee Morning meets in Village Hall every Tuesday morning  
Introduced a Morning Prayer Service once a month in place of communion.  
Family Service restyled to be more child friendly and led by joint clergy/lay team.

### **Six Mile Bottom**

### **Snailwell**

In seeking to co-operate with God's mission here, our doors are ever open to all.

Our porch, has on occasion, become the home for the night for some who pass through. The new path and the new door to be installed (very soon we hope!) in memory of three long time residents, worshippers and contributors to our village will enhance our building, making it even more attractive to those who visit and those who worship regularly. The challenge of the small, rural church is met in our service of others; our outreach in events, both old and new, (Snail racing was seen here first!) seeking to bring the whole community together. The challenge of the Gospel to go out and make disciples is at the heart of our worship and we also take seriously the call to deepen our own discipleship, through prayer, study, discussion and sacrament.

### **Soham**

- 1 Review of work with children and young people
  - *The Junior church is to be restarted after a gap – a new leader has been found.*
  - *Our provision for the very young has been reviewed and plans drawn up to meet their needs. Resources have been identified.*
- 2 Review our services to the elderly – especially in helping them get to church.
  - *A transport scheme has been set up with leaflets to be distributed in the library, surgery etc.*
- 3 Improve our welcome to new worshippers and other visitors.
  - *We have devised a new Visitors' pack for distribution on Sundays and are working with the primary school on a new Visitors' guide for young people.*

### **Stetchworth**

We have improved communication with the village by:

Erecting a new bigger notice board, lowering the fence to make the church more visible.

We have made the church more welcoming by:

Putting up a welcome board with pictures of PCC and news of events on it.

Providing a new smart curtain for the entrance. Providing literature for visitors to facilitate prayer.

### **Swaffham Bulbeck**

Introduced the 'Good News Service' on the first Sunday of every month.

Introduced the 'RE:NEW' outreach service on the fourth Sunday of each month in the primary school.

### **Swaffham Prior**

Strengthened links with Primary School by inviting school choir to sing at Christmas Carol Service, inviting school displays in Church and arranging for the monthly Family Service drama to be put on in school assembly.

Introduced the monthly Family Communion Service.

Agreed to install a toilet/kitchenette in conjunction with the Churches Conservation Trust in St. Cyriac's to serve both St. Mary's and St. Cyriac's.

### **Teversham**

#### **Westley Waterless**

We have kept the services going despite limited support.

Started to plan Children's Altar area.

## **Wicken**

To produce a fresh interpretation of St Laurence's for visitors

- *We launched our new interpretation scheme at our August Flower Festival. New displays have been placed around the building to explain the history and the function of the building and its contents. A superb new display table was commissioned.*

To carry out an audit of church-goers' views

- *This is still a work in progress as the key person identified in the MAP left during the year.*

## **Wood Ditton**

1. Porch – new glazed outer doors installed, creating usable space  
Increased number of Baptisms at Woodditton
2. Successful Ceilidh held to try to attract people new to church  
Annual Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal continues
3. Wider Advertising of Mid-Week Praise
4. Disability Audit completed – action to be discussed  
Temporary toilet installed – feasibility or permanent WC being explored.