

# Mission Action Plans

## Summaries from Huntingdon Deanery

February 2010

### HUNTINGDON

#### Abbots Ripton

At St Andrew's Church, there are Sunday services to suit all tastes each month; informal family worship, well supported by families in the village, Holy Communion and sung Matins. St Andrew's Church of England Primary School recently celebrated its Harvest Festival at the church, donating gifts to King's Ripton Court, a Salvation Army refuge for young homeless people in Huntingdon.

There are now twice termly end of school prayer times for parents and children.

Wood Walton Church (redundant) and its church yard have been lovingly reclaimed from the brambles and ivy by the Friends of St Andrew's Church, Wood Walton. Occasional services, most recently Harvest festival on a glorious autumn day, are well supported by villagers and many who have grown to love this building on their daily commute to London.

*Jesus said' "The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree." Mt 13:31-32a*

#### Alconbury

##### *1 church worshipping*

- ✓ Single 10am Sunday service achieved
- ✓ Joint Worship team had regular meetings
- ✓ Other teams active in children's work, communication, prayer.
- ✓ Services not advertised as 'Methodist' and C of E'
- ✓ All Age Services continue to flourish and grow

##### *Community Engagement*

- ✓ Brownies and others taking fuller part, eg in Mothering Sunday service
- ✓ Big cross design feature given to school for new foyer

##### *Community outreach*

- ✓ 'Time Inspired' production a runaway success
- ✓ Prayer cycle for roads in the village now in use
- ✓ Back to Church Sunday established, great answers to prayer, now annual
- ✓ Christmas carol service successfully revamped
- ✓ Holiday Club Apr 2009, > 50 children

##### *1 church building for the 21st century*

- ✓ Project 21 launched
- ✓ Anachronistic chancel furniture removed
- ✓ Chancel used as worship space – Maundy Thursday, Easter Day etc
- ✓ Plans for reordering commissioned, drawn, agreed and submitted to DAC. Currently under review

#### Barham

## **Brampton**

*Objective No 3* Established a Pastoral Care Scheme. First formal Annual Meeting held on Sunday 25 October 2009.

## **Brington**

Unfortunately the Community production of **Foreshadowings** has had to be deferred until 2010 because of sudden death of producer's husband.

In the meantime the Harvest Supper was the opportunity for everyone in village to come and eat for free. 60 people accepted and the Harvest Auction which followed raised in excess of £500 which was given to the East Anglia Children's Hospice

## **Buckworth**

## **Bythorn**

## **Covington**

## **Easton**

## **Ellington**

## **Fenstanton**

### *Pastoral Care*

- Form new House groups
- Maintain people contact
- Develop existing Visiting group

### *Community Links*

- Maintain Welcome
- Encourage events and services
- More publicity

## **Godmanchester**

Community outreach leaflet produced

Liturgical banners created

Moving towards Fairtrade status by serving and selling Fairtrade products.

Church 'taxi service' re-vitalised and expanded.

New home group set up.

## **Grafham**

## **Great Catworth**

*Objective 1:* Content and attendance of lay lead Worship4All services improving. Occasional post service lunches have been appreciated. The Back to Church Sunday service was particularly successful. We treated our Harvest Festival as another Back to Church service: attendance increased and the following supper and auction attracted strong support

*Objective 2:* Village lunches. Two lunch teams now recruited and in operation. This programme is a popular exercise in outreach.

*Objective 3:* Pastoral Care. A number of people have undertaken to look after every part of the village. So far they are monitoring comings ( delivering a welcome letter with useful

village information ) and goings; identifying needs ; keeping the P.I.C informed. It is hoped that this programme may be developed further

*Objective 4:* Efforts have been made to keep the congregation informed of progress via word of mouth, the notice board in church and the group parish magazine “ Village Matters “.

“Ely 900” : The PCC have undertaken a number of works in the church to make it more user-friendly and flexible, such as the removal of some pews, improved lighting and heating, installation of an audio system with hearing aid loop. To celebrate the Centenary therefore they invited the local amateur dramatic society to stage a production in the church The Revue “ St Leonard Strikes Back “ resulted, with enormous success. Over 150 people from a population of 360 spent a happy evening in the church and it is hoped that the potential of the building for community events is established.

### **Great Gidding**

The local post office eventually closed in mid July although the general shop remains open at present. Informal arrangements are in place to transport those who need it.

The Friends of St Michael’s is a very active group and this is acknowledged in the annual Friends Weekend which this year included the Harvest Festival on Saturday Evening followed by Harvest Supper at the pub and an Art Exhibition in the Church on Sunday ending with a short service of Compline. A couple who are not churchgoers are keen to repeat the event in 2010.

During the summer a number of concerts were held in the church which included Georgian Sacred Music, Music for Organ and Trumpet and Jazz from the American Songbook.

During the year another young family joined the regular congregation and whilst few in number there is an enthusiasm among the Mums to organise and hold Toddler Services. The PCC are very supportive of this initiative and have agreed to provide screening, localised heating and resources

### **Great Stukeley**

Great and Little Stukeley in the Huntingdon Team are looking at holding more functions in the Village Halls and holding open days for Patronal Festivals.

### **Hamerton**

#### **Hartford**

1. To develop our work with children and young people.

We have recently started a second (older) youth group and our young people planned and led a morning service which the congregation loved.

2. To develop the profile of the church in the wider community through advertising in various ways.

We have prepared welcome packs for those new to the community. Large banners advertising events are currently being made. 1000 postcards of the church have been printed for various uses.

3. To further develop the prayer life of the church.

We have begun monthly creative prayer times and have invited Jane Keiller to help us develop our prayer life.

### **Hemingford Abbots**

The installation of new heating was completed in November 2009 which has already made a difference to church attendance during the last winter and provided for a comfortable space to use during the week.

Our first priority was to establish a 'Prayer Corner' in the Lady Chapel with aids to pray for those frequent visitors to the church. This is becoming well established and the introduction of votive candles and added point of engagement for those from other traditions for whom lighting candles in prayer is a helpful engagement with God.

**Coffee Mornings** The acquisition of café tables and chairs has enabled us to create a meeting place by provided 'real' fair-trade coffee on one morning each week. This was begun in September when we were also able to host the Macmillan coffee morning when the usual venue became unavailable. So far this has attracted young mothers and their children as well as older members of the community.

The new space in front of the chancel created by moving some of the furnishings during the installation of the heating has provided a space which can be used for 'events'. The first of these was held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, a concert with the New Cambridge Singers I support of the aims of the Friends of St Margaret's

## **Hemingford Grey**

### *Refurbishment of Parish Centre*

This project has attracted a significant grant so that the initial idea of creating a coffee shop will lead to alterations and extension to provide a coffee shop and venue for *Fresh Expressions* of church

### *Repair and refurbishment of St James Church*

This major project is reaching completion of its exterior phase to weather-proof the building and provide new drainage. Preparation for internal works has begun.

### *Welcome of Disciples on the Way of Faith*

Two rites for the welcome of new adult Christians has been the fruit of sowing seeds of the gospel over years and through some new initiatives, for example 'Pints of View' which meets in The Cock on Sunday evenings.

## **Hilton**

### **Houghton w Wyton**

#### *Parish Centre Progress*

Our plan was to build a small extension on the side of the Church. However, just as we were about to start building, the URC offered us the opportunity to buy their Chapel Retreat Centre, a large two storied building sited opposite the Church. This exciting purchase will give us more space as it already has toilet and kitchen facilities and will enable us to develop the needs, not only of our congregation, but also those within the village community.

#### *God's Gang*

Our Sunday School continues to grow. We now have children aged from 2 to 14 years old, presently meeting in the village School. We have an enthusiastic core of older children whom we hope will form the basis of a Youth Group. Our purchase of the Chapel Centre will enable us to have a designated God's Gang/Youth area within the building. Already exciting equipping and decoration is being planned for this new venture. A new God's Gang Music Group has been formed and it is hoped that they will participate in varied Church Services.

#### *Parish Needs*

We had a very positive result from our Church Family with new volunteers coming forward to use their talents as their gift to God. These varied from administration, cake-making, church cleaning, computer skills, musicians, singers, servers and sidespeople.

## **Huntingdon All Saints**

All Saints' Huntingdon and St Mary's are involved in a dedicated Discernment Process facilitated by the Grubb Institute to give us a clearer overview of the town and greater understanding of the role of our Churches in this place.

### **Huntingdon St Barnabas**

1. Developing links with the uniformed organisations that meet in the church.  
We have met with the leaders of the Beavers and Cubs and have been invited to host a Carol service in church.
2. Developing links with the St Barnabas Learning Centre  
The relationship continues to strengthen – I was involved in raising £5,000 at a local grant funding event.
3. Putting on creative meditative services such as Celtic and Taize worship  
We have successfully put on two services open to the whole team which folk have found very helpful

### **Huntingdon St Mary**

All Saints' Huntingdon and St Mary's are involved in a dedicated Discernment Process facilitated by the Grubb Institute to give us a clearer overview of the town and greater understanding of the role of our Churches in this place.

### **Keyston**

### **Kimbolton**

### **King's Ripton**

At St Peter's Church, King's Ripton, there is one Sunday service each month, either morning prayer or a special service such as Harvest Festival or Remembrance. In addition, the church is now open on Tuesdays for morning prayer. Parishioners can pop in to pray or have a chat and a cup of coffee and there are plans to establish a book exchange in the new year. The church works alongside Abbots Ripton, with many parishioners attending worship at both churches. There is also a joint Bible study group which meets fortnightly.

After a period of neglect, new life had been breathed into this old building. The churchyard has been lovingly restored and is being maintained, and a programme of adaptations inside is under way to enable it to be more useful to the wider community. At the back of the church pews have been removed and flag stones laid. This enabled the church to host a highly successful harvest supper this year and other social events such as ballroom dancing and children's parties.

Plans to adapt the front of the church will create a more flexible space for less formal worship and concerts. More importantly, the ongoing process of fund-raising and renovation seeks to ensure that this church continues as a worship space for future generations of villagers.

*Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven." Matt.5:14, 16.*

### **Leighton Bromswold**

Music and Verse Evening held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July was usual great success. It is still hoped that this event might be extended in the future.

The Leighton Village Festival in September was organised by the church and the Village Social Committee and held in a marquee on the playing field. Events included a jazz

concert, evening entertainment with barbecue, Back to Church Sunday Service and Picnic in the Park. Donations received enabled £226 to be sent to East Anglia Air Ambulance

### **Little Stukeley**

Great and Little Stukeley in the Huntingdon Team are looking at holding more functions in the Village Halls and holding open days for Patronal Festivals.

### **Molesworth**

History of Molesworth Church is available. Ongoing efforts to promote church and other village links included Rogation Sunday Lunch at the pub and the Fun Day which accompanied the re-opening of the Village Hall following refurbishment.

Organising a joint Harvest Festival, Supper and Auction with Old Weston was agreed a great success and will be repeated in 2010.

### **Old Weston**

Planning group made up of regular church members and others organised a World War II Fun Day at the beginning of July. The event (including a flypast by the Red Arrows) was held in and around the Village Hall with many people dressed appropriately for the era. A great day thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Organising a joint Harvest Festival, Supper and Auction with Molesworth was agreed a great success and will be repeated in 2010.

### **Spaldwick**

### **Stow Longa**

### **Tilbrook**

### **Upton and Copmanford**

### **Winwick**