

# Mission Action Plans

## Summaries from St Neots Deanery

February 2010

### ST NEOTS

#### Abbotsley

Outreach to mission

Raised awareness through prayer in services

Participation in services dedicated to mission in group of parishes

Participation in services at primary school involving children of the parish

Visit of Father Chad Gandiya from USPG now Bishop of Harare, Zimbabwe.

#### Buckden

*Buckden's Living Stones*

Work progressing well on the church extension comprising toilets, kitchen and meeting rooms, most of which is being built by members of the congregation – the whole church community has been involved.

*Stepping Stones*

The new monthly service is a place for young families to grow in faith

[www.A1church.org](http://www.A1church.org)

Resources 'for the journey' online and in church - prayer and care for those on journeys up and down the A1 who stop to rest in the village, and for those just on the journey of life and faith.

*Saturday coffee*

Coffee and cakes in church every Saturday morning is a great place to enjoy fellowship with friends old and new, and encourage local people and visitors to pop into church.

Parish: St Mary's, Buckden (Deanery of St Neots)

God is at work in Buckden! To find out what else is going on,

visit [www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

#### Diddington

Completion September 2009 of the 24/7 Project bringing new facilities into St Laurence for community use. Cost £38,000- funded by grants and local fundraising. Concerts and local history exhibitions are now being planned for 2010.

Dedication of the new facilities led by Bishop David September 2009.

Canon Alan Hargrave and Bishop David in a "Question and Answer Session" at Diddington Church September 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 as part of the Benefice Mission Week.

#### Everton

Recent innovations: Services for Toddlers and Young Families and Parish newsletter.

#### Eynesbury

Church Web Site Set Up

New Joint Magazine with St Neots Church

Party and service with St Neots Church for “Getting to know you” to establish closer links in work and mission together.

“Friends of St Mary” set up – developing contacts with the wider parish.

### **Gamlingay**

*Chat groups:* Open discussions on topical issues. Meetings are held in a local pub and at private houses.

*Communication:* Improve awareness of the Church in the village. Production of a leaflet covering the church’s activities and services.

*Community:* Get actively involved with the youth of the village. Provide more facilities for the elderly.

### **Great Gransden**

Encourage people attending All Age Worship Services to take a more active role in the daily life of the Church. Arranged a Church yard day and Church spring clean. Young family came forward to regularly cut the grass. Young mums came forward to help with Fairtrade stall.

Bring together a group of younger people with young children to share ideas. Arranged talk by Heather Dowman about the work done with children and young families in Warboys.

Encourage young people to attend. Assess feasibility of arranging Christian discussion meetings. Work ongoing – possibility of something across the group of parishes.

### **Great Paxton**

Work on the ‘Living Water Project’ due to be completed November 2009 – bringing new facilities into the Saxon Church and so making the church more available for community use. Cost £86,000, raised from grants and fundraising.

Termly Eucharist Service being held at the Church of England Primary School with all classes joining in and helping to lead the worship.

Bishop David visits the school as part of the Benefice Mission Week.

Village groups use the church more – such as Brownies and key stage year groups for project work.

Holy Trinity – a Saxon Church reaching out to the future.

### **Great Staughton**

*Theme of Hospitality*

Meeting group established; Welcome leaflet in use; Sponsors for Baptisms and Weddings in action; Good Friday Walk; ‘Time and Talents’ Service of Thanksgiving on St Andrew’s Day; Treasure Hunt in Church; Picnic for Tots.

### **Hail Weston**

*Theme of Hospitality*

Church Sponsors visiting and sending anniversary cards to the newly Baptised and Married.

Welcome leaflets have been improved. Church history printed and available in church.

800 year anniversary Church Festival weekend – 8 floral displays depicting 8 significant events (1 for each century) and 1 to celebrate Ely 900.

Harvest Supper and Service held in Village Hall.

## **Little Gransden**

Our aim was to invite all in the village into the church. Events held were:

Leaflet drop arranged for the family service held 1 March and welsh cakes served afterwards.

Invites issued for Mothering Sunday

Back to Church Sunday attracted some additional congregation

Heather Dowman talk arranged on 'Welcoming visitors to church'

All Age services held monthly.

Continued provision of Sunday School

## **Little Paxton**

\*St James Cares – the new pastoral care support group set up Easter 2009. 10 members offering pastoral care to the village of Little Paxton

\*Harvest Mission “ Back to The Future” took place 27<sup>th</sup> Sept- 4<sup>th</sup> October with Bishop David – including visits to local schools.

\*Plans prepared for re-ordering of Little Paxton Church “ CHUFT” – Church For Tomorrow. Launch to village community 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Work planned to start Spring 2011. Major fundraising campaign begins to raise £300,000. Preliminary repair work to drainage completed in October 2009

\* Christmas Tree Festival planned for December 2009 in church involving whole community.

\* Bishop David's visit to the local school furthered our progress towards setting up regular children's work complementing our existing Advent and Easter workshops.

## **Offord D'Arcy**

*Welcome to All Saints*

A new illustrated church guidebooklet has been produced, along with notelets and cards to raise the profile of the church in the local community, and for the first time, church keys are available at the Village shop so that visitors and local residents can have access to the church during the week.

We also have a new website (see below) and are in the process of putting up two new notice boards to advertise church and community events.

*Family Service – the kettle's on...*

For the first time ever hot and hold drinks and biscuits are being served after the monthly family service - lots of people have stayed and chatted and got to know each other better. The family service has been moved to 9.30am so that it is in line with other services during the month, and to make it easier for families to attend church and still have the rest of the day as a family – and to help create more overlap between the family service congregation and other services.

There are also plans afoot for a new 'lower threshold' communion service.

*Growing together in faith*

Two of the Girl Guides and some of the Guide leaders and other adults have been preparing for confirmation over the last year, and we are excited about hosting the first confirmation service in the church in living memory!

Parish: All Saints, Offord (Deanery of St Neots)

God is at work in Offord! To find out what else is going on,

visit <http://sites.google.com/site/allsaintsofford>

## **St Neots**

We are about to begin preparing children to receive communion from age 7 at church and in St Mary's VA Primary School

We are beginning a ministry to the new Love's Farm estate through work with the new Round House School, monthly fellowship meetings and in community involvement

We took part in Back to Church Sunday

We have held our first joint service with St Mary's Eynesbury and are looking at other ways of joining together in work and witness

## **Southoe**

### **Waresley**

*Encourage people to attend – particularly children and those in the 30 to 40 age group:*

Persistence with a monthly Family/All Age Service is finally beginning to pay off. At the September service we had eight children attend instead of the usual two. And with the children come both parents and grandparents.

*Financial Stability:*

The PCC appointed a new treasurer – how fortunate we are to find someone to continue the efficiency of our last treasurer and someone with fresh ideas and contacts. Gift Aid Envelopes were reintroduced this year with a positive result.

*Strengthen Life on the Community:*

A number of special services were organised this year in the attempt to appeal to a wider audience. All were well attended. With the completion of the Bell Project a team of bell ringers was formed. Joining the team are six newcomers to the art none of which are regular Churchgoers.