

SHARNBROOK DEANERY
MISSION SUPPORT PLAN 2018

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Sharnbrook Deanery, within the Diocese of St.Albans, brings together 30 rural parishes in the Borough of Bedford with a total population of around 30,000 people. Throughout 2014-2016 20 (2/3) of these parishes were in vacancy mainly because of 6 retirements, so the majority of our parishes have undergone a period of extensive change. The most significant has been the formation of the Chellington Team Benefice, serving 7 parishes plus the United Reform Church (URC) in Harrold which has a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) arrangement with Harrold & Carlton Anglican churches. A map of the Deanery and a list of the parishes, clergy and lay officers is attached as Appendix 1.

The present Rural Dean Canon Rev'd Stephen Liley, and Assistant Rural Dean Rev'd Christine Clark were appointed in May 2015; Mr Keith Williams was elected as Deanery Lay Co-Chair in June 2017 (*replacing Mr. David Fraser who retired with effect from February 2017*). Mrs Caroline Edmundson serves as Deanery Secretary, and Mrs Geraldine Skinner as Treasurer.

Deanery Chapter meets 10 times a year (avoiding Christmas and Easter).

Deanery Synod meets 4 times a year – meetings are open with voting restricted to elected Deanery representatives. Highlights over the last couple of years includes:-

- Celebration evenings (Sep 2016 & 2017)
- Presentation by 'Germinate'
- Developing the Deanery Mission Support Plan together

The Deanery Standing Committee, which also serves as the Deanery Pastoral Committee, meets 4 times a year (or more frequently if needed) and includes:

Clergy

Rev'd Stephen Liley (RD)

Rev'd Christine Clark (ARD)

Rev'd Jane Bass

Rev'd Martin Bailey (*resigned with effect from January 2018*)

Rev'd Stephen Holroyd

Laity

Mr Keith Williams (Lay Co-Chair)

Mrs Caroline Edmundson (Secretary)

Mrs Geraldine Skinner (Treasurer)

Mr Clifton Ibbett

Ms Krystyna Oborn

The Deanery is currently growing into an enhanced role to support and develop at Deanery and parish level the Diocesan vision 'Living God's Love 2020 - with a particular focus on doing so with generosity and joy, imagination and courage.

For the first time, the Deanery is sponsoring a 2018 mission event, the Saltmine Theatre Company's production 'Darkness Falls' a re-imagining of the Gospel of John, which mixes vivid storytelling with beautiful live music. Taking place in Sharnbrook School on Passion Sunday 18th March, congregation members in all our churches are being asked to invite, pray for, and bring along one or more guests. We will be planning optional follow-on events for those who express an interest after the show.

Where's the Growth?

Because of the 20 vacancies between 2014-16 the Deanery has been through a period of instability. By October 2016 all vacancies were filled, but a further 3 became vacant in June 2017, and two more just recently in January 2018. Despite this a surprising amount of good things have been happening, even in the smallest of our churches, creating potential for growth in creative and imaginative ways. The Living God's Love values, generosity, joy, imagination and courage have been very evident in these new initiatives.

The formation of the Chellington Benefice Team, bringing together eight very different churches, three of them already in a well-established LEP, was an exciting development from which we learned a great deal. There were many issues and practical details to work through, and for the most part this was achieved by working prayerfully and collaboratively. Much credit is due to Rev'd Christine Clark for the thorough preparation carried out beforehand. Under the wise and careful leadership of Rev'd Jacqueline Curtis and Peter Turnbull, the team celebrated its first anniversary in October 2017.

The role of the Deanery has changed quite markedly over the last two years. Our quarterly Deanery Synod is now an open meeting (though only elected Deanery Representatives can vote or stand for election to Standing Committee, Diocesan Synod etc). Lively group discussion has been encouraged as part of our meetings, helping to shape our Deanery Mission Support Plan, as together we have identified and agreed aims and priorities. Deanery reps have helped with research and fact-finding which has fostered a growing sense of ownership, and we are now looking to develop this partnership role, particularly in improving and extending communication channels not only within the Deanery, but between Deanery and parish.

A list of growth and potential growth opportunities in each parish/benefice is included as Appendix 2.

Celebrating 'Good News' within the Deanery

Following the LGL celebration with Bishop Richard in September 2016, by popular request we dedicated the September 2017 Synod meeting to celebrating a further year's Good News stories.

Highlights over the past 16 months include:-

Pavenham new format for All-Age worship 'Sunday2gether' (monthly) is attracting

Sharnbrook	new people/mixed congregation Study/Quiet Day focusing on each of the Gospels (quarterly) A new weekly Christian meditation (midweek)
Bromham Benefice	Young mum's team now regularly plan monthly All-Age worship/drama & took a lead in planning & presenting three lay-led Christmas Crib services which were very well attended.
Bolnhurst	PCC involved local history society in planning 2017 Harvest Service which 56 people attended. Usual Sunday Attendance (USA) =6 the service. 'Friends' now running regular social outreach gatherings in the Old Village School, including a monthly coffee-morning.
Clapham	New homegroup formed Lent 2017 (Living God's Love values), continued with 'FaithPictures' (how to share faith) and now exploring Leading Your Church Into Growth (LyCiG) Alpha course began January 2018 with 7 participants
Stodden Group	2017 focus on stewardship saw an increase in giving and volunteering, and a new organist stepping up to serve.
Chellington Team	4pm All-Age monthly service/refreshments begun in Harrold URC

Clergy & lay people from Sharnbrook and Clapham churches attended LyCiG residential course in September 2017.

Local training and/or workshops

Requested and provided from Oct 2015-Dec 2017 included:-

- 'Surviving the Interregnum' – advice & information for churchwardens in vacancy (Oct 2015)
- First Aid training (Jan-Feb 2016)
- Workshop based on Diocesan toolkit "Where have all our Children Gone?"
- 3D Coaching workshop for the 8 churches that became the Chellington Team Benefice, followed by monthly meetings to prepare a joint profile and to pray together (Jan-Sep 2016)
- Treasurers' meetings to agree allocation of parish share across the Chellington Team Benefice (Jul-Nov 2016)
- Pastoral Care (2 courses in 2016)
- 'Growing Leaders' - 2015-2017 Riseley and Bletsoe churches joined with Milton Ernest, Thurleigh and Pavenham to pilot this CPAS course. There are plans to extend this to other churches in the Deanery from September 2018.
- Monthly meetings with Bromham Benefice Vacancy Steering Group to identify shared vision for the next 5 years, prepare Profile, advert etc.(Jun-Dec 2017)
- Mission & Ministry to Older People – workshop (Oct 2017)
- Pastoral Care (3rd course Oct-Nov 2017)
- 'Taking the lid off' – workshop for existing & potential Churchwardens (Oct 2017)
- Safeguarding training (provided by the Diocese but hosted locally)

In addition, individuals from a number of churches have completed the Diocesan 'Lay Leaders of Worship' course, one person is in reader training two are training for ordination and one is currently exploring a vocation to ministry.

In the pipeline:-

- First Aid training (Feb-Mar 2018)
- Further support for Bromham Benefice Vacancy Steering Group (shortlisting & interview planning)
- Deanery mission event – Saltmine Theatre Co. performance at Sharnbrook School, 'Darkness Falls' a dramatic re-imagining of John's Gospel (Mar 2018) – plus other follow-up events.
- Lay Leaders of Worship training, a 2-day Diocesan course to be held in Clapham (April/June 2018)

Fresh Expressions

There are a number of wide ranging activities within the Deanery which have been set up to reach new people in new ways, and which have been reported as Fresh Expressions. These include:

Bromham	Messy Church (age 0-4/weekly) & Bromham Brunch (Family/monthly)
Colmworth	'Coffee Stop' (age 18-39/monthly)
Oakley	Messy Church (age 0-4/weekly)
Pod/Wymington	Messy Church age (All-age/6 times a year)
Riseley	'All Dads and Me' (for young children and dads (monthly)
Sharnbrook	Messy Church (age 0-4 weekly) & Christian meditation (All-age/weekly)
Stagsden	'Open Door' (All-age/weekly)
Thurleigh	'The Meeting Place' after-school drop in café/crafts (All-age/fortnightly) now includes an act of worship
Yelden/Dean	Café Sunday' (monthly) held in Yelden Village Hall

Ecumenical links

A mixture of formal and informal links have been established. The most fully developed, including financial commitment, being the Harrold & Carlton LEP (2 Anglican + 1 URC) within the Chellington Team of 8 churches, who share services and run a number of joint activities, both spiritual and social.

Oakley have just celebrated 20 years of 'Churches Together in Oakley' (Anglican + Methodist) monthly & other joint services, joint working for Messy Church & various social activities.

In 2017 Thurleigh Baptist & Anglican church combined to become 'Thurleigh United Church'.

Keysoe church recently initiated a Friday evening monthly service led by a local RC priest to cater for local RC worshippers.

Bromham, Clapham, Odell, Sharnbrook and Wymington parish churches share activities and work informally with other local non-conformist churches, and All Saints' Turvey with the community at Turvey Abbey.

Buildings

Most are in good repair with Cat 1 works completed within 2-3 years of Quinquennial. Generally this work is financed through fund-raising, 'Friends' often taking the lead on this. Bigger problems currently being faced by:

Colmworth Death-watch beetles in chancel roof. South east stained glass window needs major repair.

Melchbourne Cat.1 items outstanding from 2013 Q as PCC have been focusing on plans to install toilet/kitchen facilities. Georgian boxed pew in poor condition, including flooring. Funding continues to be an issue.

Building projects (*including proposed*):

- Bletsoe – re-ordering chancel area, including installation of facilities
- Bromham – re-ordered south entrance & building extra meeting room as an extension
- Melchbourne – plans to install toilet/kitchen facilities
- Milton Ernest – would like to re-order rear of church to host events/meetings, but there are issues of space, drainage and water supplies to be resolved
- Riseley – work in the vestry to upgrade the toilet for disabled access and provide more storage space.

Those still without toilet/kitchen facilities are the 6 churches in the Stodden group, Bolnhurst, Stagsden, Podington, and Wymington.

Finances and Future Viability

The Aged Analysis of Outstanding Parish Share at 31st December 2017 showed an overall collection level of 92% for the Deanery, with shortfalls from eight parishes, some of which have subsequently been paid.

There are some particular challenges faced by the Deanery because it covers a rural area with low population density. It has many small parishes and significant travel costs are incurred traveling between churches in multi-parish benefices. The calculation of the parish share also penalises multi-parish benefices where a team provides joint benefice services in different churches.

Bolnhurst managing to maintain fortnightly services led by retired priests. However, the small congregation/PCC assisted by the 'Friends' are thinking creatively, particularly in

developing the role of the Old School House in the centre of the village, and involving non-church people in Festival services.

Swineshead & Pertenhall

currently under review as part of the current Stodden Group consultation exercise.

Mission Action Plans (MAPs)

MAPs covering 26 of the 30 parishes have been produced and uploaded to the St Albans Diocese website. MAPs covering 15 of the parishes have been updated and uploaded, although we are aware of some MAPs that have been refreshed/updated but not yet uploaded.

What the Statistics for Mission have shown us

Analysis of the Statistics for Mission for all the individual parishes in the Deanery has been completed and this has shown that:

- Half the churches are in parishes with a population of less than 500 people, and with usual Sunday attendance of less than 15 adults
- Usual Sunday attendance by adults across the Deanery has gone down by 10% in the last 4 years (2013 to 2016), and the percentage of adults over 70 years old in the worshipping community has increased from 40% to 47% during that period
- There are nearly 7,000 children living in the Deanery but half the churches have no children at all attending on Sundays, and the total usual Sunday attendance by children across the Deanery is less than 100
- There are, however, a number of Fresh Expressions across the Deanery which are not included in the numbers.

SHARNBROOK DEANERY MISSION SUPPORT PLAN 2018

Our vision

- Living God's Love so that God's Kingdom might grow in our world.

Our aim

- Our overall aim is in line with the Diocese of St Albans Living God's Love Strategic Plan - to see flourishing Christ-centred communities inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to discover God, to grow in their relationship with him and to respond to his transforming love, through serving others.
- To achieve this we will work together across the Deanery to facilitate and support spiritual and numerical growth with imagination and open-mindedness; engaging and encouraging the Parish churches to create collaborative communities by accessing the wide range of available networks and resources (Note 1). to help us proclaim the Gospel in ways that are relevant, inspiring and compelling.

Our priorities

After consultation across the Deanery and careful analysis our priorities are to:

- improve communications, information-flow and collaborative networks within the Deanery
- explore ways to reach young people and families, including growing closer links with the local schools and working ecumenically.
- grow individuals by developing their talents to better equip them for mission and ministry
- increase accessibility and use of our buildings.

SMART goals

- By the end of 2018 to have enabled all local churches within the Deanery to explore how they communicate and make the Gospel accessible; and improve and extend this by sharing best practice and providing access to a range of available resources (Note 1).
- By the end of 2019 to have facilitated and supported all local churches to build on and further develop relationships with families and children, by increasing opportunities for more family-friendly worship; strengthening links with schools, head teachers and governors; and actively networking with our ecumenical partners (Note 2).
- By the end of 2018 to have delivered the training already 'in-the-pipeline', and to have identified ongoing training/development needs in the parishes; communicating effectively what is available locally, within the Diocese or elsewhere.
- By the end of 2019 in partnership with our local churches, to identify opportunities to increase public access and/or use; supporting and enabling discussion and consultation that will maximise the use of our resources.

Notes: 1. e.g. the newly appointed officers for Fresh Expressions Development and Church Growth within the Diocese; Mission Shaped Ministry and Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) courses; the Germinate toolkit for rural churches (The Arthur Rank Centre); Alpha and others.
2. eg. IMPACT (Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust), Open the Book.

SHARNBROOK DEANERY MISSION SUPPORT PLAN – 2018 WIG

Develop and implement new communication channels by the end of the year.

Lead measures (LM) (drivers)

1. Develop Deanery website by mid-May 2018
2. Invite Deanery reps to be new communication channels who will ensure info gets to the people in their church who need to hear it
3. Conduct a review of parish/benefice/Deanery communications by mid-May 2018

LM1 – levers

- Deanery Standing Committee (DSC) to agree logo & approve spend to set up web-site at meeting on January 25th.
- KW's daughter (Sarah Williams) and Ken Shrimpton to co-develop & report to DSC by March 2018.
- collect info on what people would like to see included on the web-site/links etc.via survey questionnaire (*see below*)

LM2 – levers

- write to Deanery reps (see test cases below) and discuss at Deanery Chapter on 19th February inviting them to take on role of being communication champions

LM3 – levers

- CC & KW to design survey questionnaire & send to PCCs/Deanery reps to complete by March 2018
- summarise results by Easter 2018
- agree extra DSC meeting after Easter to review survey results & plan next step.

Test Cases to measure success

19/02/18

- Visit of Margaret Pritchard-Houston to Deanery Chapter
- Publicised by flier (designed by Jane O'Connor) e-mailed to clergy, but also posted to Deanery reps asking them to ensure info reaches those in their churches who are involved or interested in working with children.

18/03/18

- 'Saltmine' mission event 'Darkness Falls' – a re-imagining of John's Gospel.
- Contact Deanery reps to see if they are willing to co-ordinate flow of information, publicity, recruit helpers and co-ordinate bookings by people in their churches.

SHARNBROOK DEANERY – AN OVERVIEW



As at January 2017 there are 30 parishes in the Deanery:

Bromham Benefice

Incumbent *vacancy*
Assistant Curate/SSM Rev'd Di Harpham; Rev'd Paula Vennells
Administrator Ms Joanne Lee

St.Owen's Bromham

Churchwardens Mr Edward Jones; Mr Ian Frankish

St.Mary's Oakley

Churchwardens Mr Graham Palmer ; Mrs Hilarie Worley

St.Leonard's Stagsden

Churchwardens *2 vacancies*
Church reps Mrs Caroline Heaton & Mr Nick Edwards (Vacancy Steering Group)

Clapham

St.Thomas à Beckett of Canterbury

Incumbent Rev'd Canon Stephen Liley
Churchwardens Mr David Nightingale; Mr David Clark

Chellington Team Benefice

Incumbent (Designate) Rev'd Jacqueline Curtis
Assistant Vicar (Designate) Rev'd Peter Turnbull
Curate *(due to join the Team in summer 2018)*
Reader in Training Mrs Lindsay Hall
Administrator Ms Cindy Woods

St.Mary's Carlton

Churchwarden Mr Martin Barratt
Mrs Hilary Tuoy

St.Peter's Harrold

Churchwardens Mr Duncan Gray
Mrs Sue Campbell

Harrold United Reform Church

Deacons Mr David Elwyn; Mr John Sunderland

All Saints' Odell

Churchwardens Mr Martin Eshelby; Mrs Jill Cheadle

St.Mary the Virgin, Poddington with Farndish

Churchwardens *2 vacancies*
(PCC Secretary Mrs Alison Hodgkiss)

St.Lawrence, Wymington

Churchwardens Mr Roy Robinson; Mr Colin Bramley-Robins

St.Mary's Stevington

Churchwardens Mrs Jane O'Connor; *1 vacancy*

All Saints' Turvey

Churchwardens Mr Rod Petty; Ms Cindy Woods

Milton Ernest, Pavenham & Thurleigh

Incumbent Rev'd Peter Kay
Reader/Associate Minister Sue Ives
Administrator Sarah Croft

All Saints Milton Ernest

Churchwardens Jean Coplin; *1 vacancy*

St. Peter's Pavenham

Churchwardens Pat Byatt, Terry Horsman

St. Peter's Thurleigh

Churchwardens Richard Singleton; *1 vacancy*

St. Mary the Virgin Keysoe

Bishop of St. Albans Contact for Keysoe

Rev'd Jane Bass

Churchwardens Jenny Carter; *1 vacancy*

St. Dunstan's, Bolnhurst

Incumbent *vacant*

Churchwarden Judith Norfolk; *1 vacancy*

Riseley with Bletsoe

Incumbent *vacant*

Readers Richard White; Lynda Simister

Administrator Karen Houck

All Saints' Riseley

Churchwardens Mark Eddon; *1 vacancy*

St. Mary's Bletsoe

Churchwardens Mike Gibbons;

The Sharnbrook Benefice

Incumbent Rev'd Fr. Reuben Preston

St. Peter's Sharnbrook

Churchwardens Roland Carpenter; *1 vacancy*

St. Mary's Felmersham

Churchwardens Jane Wells; Susie Whitehouse

Knotting with All Saints' Souldrop

Churchwardens Nick Wells; Donna Rawlinson

The Stodden Group

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd Stephen Holroyd

All Hallows Dean

Churchwardens Lindsay Langley; Jeanette Dormer

St.Mary Magdalene Melchbourne

Churchwardens James Stewart; William Tusting

St.St.Peter's Pertenhall

Churchwardens David Eddowes; Julie Botterill

St.Mary's Shelton

Churchwardens John Wells; R M Green

St.Nicholas' Swineshead

Churchwardens 2 *vacancies*

St.Mary's Yelden

Churchwardens Mike Pond; *vacancy*

The Benefice of Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden

The Benefice of Wilden, Ravensden and Colmworth have entered into a pilot project, overseen by the Bishop of Bedford, working in partnership with St Mary's Eaton Socon in order to explore ways in which rural Churches can create time and space for mission and ministry. Rather than have a halftime rector, this means the vicar of St Mary's Eaton Socon is Priest in Charge and Madeleine Albert is Mission Minister. Part of this project is to look at ways that Church can be done differently and, with the support of St Mary's looking at how we structure management and share expertise, resources and people in order to focus on mission and ministry.

Priest-in-charge

Rev'd Tim Robb (*also Vicar at St.Mary's Eaton Socon*)

Mission Minister

Rev'd Madeleine Albert

Reader

Mrs Geraldine Skinner

St.Nicholas' Wilden

Churchwardens Dionne Collins; 1 *vacancy*

St.Denys' Colmworth

Churchwardens Kate Abrahams; 1 *vacancy*

All Saints' Ravensden

Churchwardens 2 *vacancies*

SHARNBROOK DEANERY – GROWTH ... AND POTENTIAL GROWTH (updated January 2018)

Parish	Age profile	Activity
Bromham	All-ages	Regular Messy Church sessions for 0-4yrs continue in Br & Oak (Methodists help) + ' Messy Church After School ' for primary school children. Joint working with the Baptist Church on ' Bromham Brunch ' held monthly in Village Hall. Emerging youth worship initiated by Messy Church mums , and <u>3 Crib services prepared & led by lay-team</u> , who have also been taking initiative and <u>introducing drama at monthly All-Age services</u> . ' Coffee Pot ' in Stagsden Village Hall has been running for 20 years, providing good social/pastoral contacts. The weekly 'Open Door' after-school drop-in with children's activities continues, and a monthly Songs of Praise now replaces one of the Evening Prayer services.
Oakley	Families & adults	
Stagsden	Families & adults	
Clapham	All-age	New homegroup started Lent 2017 now on 3 rd course (LyCiG focus) ' Little Monkeys ' Mums & Tots group which includes bible-study. New Alpha group started Jan. 2018. Dorcas & Co monthly sewing/craft/friendship group (church & non-church) began Oct 2017. Sunday School, CYFA and All-Age services continue. Also RS2 a fortnightly Christian youth club. New Horizons , a weekly group for senior folks, offers friendship and faith including a brief time of prayer and an annual holiday club offering other Christian input.
	Young teenagers Senior citizens	
Carlton		These 8 disparate churches have made positive and significant steps towards working more closely as a team during 2017. As well as the occasional ' Pudding Party ', increasing numbers of people are supporting team events. eg. new monthly all-age ' service@4 ' held in Harrold URC which is also attracting new people. A Team Mission Group is planning future joint events eg. Ecumenical Lent Groups, a team Lammas Day service, and a 22m ' 8-Spires Walk ' that people of all ages can join at any point – stops at each of the churches for hospitality and for children to have cards stamped to show the journey they have made. Other highlights include ' Exploring Spirituality ' days in 3 local schools (Carlton, Pod & Wym), a new ' Holy Habits ' bible-study group, and a packed out crib service at St.Peter's Harrold (where numbers of families & children have been very low for some time). Messy Church continues in Wym (with Pod). Stevington hold 4-5 children's events per year in Church Room with the help of 'Friends'. At Turvey YP are involved in choir/bell-ringing/dramatic presentations.
Harrold URC	All-age	
Harrold (St.Peter's)	Families & adults	
Odell	5-8yrs	
Stev'ton	adults	
Turvey	3-8yr	
Wym'ton		

Pod'ton

Keysoe	Adults	New facilities enable coffee after church & occasional Sunday cream teas. Restoration of St.Thomas' chapel now complete and used to host monthly RC service . Monthly All-age eucharist.
	All-age service	
M.Ernest	All-age	Informal All-Age worship ' Sunday2gether ' (monthly) is steadily attracting new people/mixed congregation
	Adult	CPAS ' Growing Leaders ' course run jointly with Riseley & Bletsoe churches.
Pav'ham	Working-age	NEW 2nd home-group just started in Pavenham looking at Luke's Gospel – target invitees are working-age adults. 2017 a lady started a walking group which finish with coffee in a pub – good for building relationships/contacts.
	Adult	
Th'leigh	All-age	' Meeting Place ' fortnightly after-school drop in café/crafts in Thurleigh church brings young & old together ... and has led to ' 1-4-All ' a NEW half-hour service + cake at 4pm 1 st Sunday of the month (20 attended in January, including 3 families contacted through Meeting Place).
	All-age	
B'hurst	All-age	Partial pew heating installed 2017 2017 Harvest Songs of Praise involved local history society and included snippets of village history - 56 attended (USA 6) and 29 attended a 2pm Crib-cum-HC service on Christmas Eve.
	Adult Families/adult	Monthly Coffee mornings in the Old School House in village centre continue and other events organised by 'Friends'.
Riseley	6-11 years	' Aslan ' after school club at Riseley CofE Primary School with Bible stories, songs, tea, craft activities and tea. An annual Holiday Club
Bletsoe	9-15yrs	All Saints Youth Clubs with Bible study, prayers, games and crafts.
	Toddlers & Mums	ABC (monthly) mid-week activities with Bible story.
	Children & Dads	' All Dads & Me ' (monthly) Saturday morning breakfast and Bible story.
	Senior citizens	Mid week tea and lunch services (monthly). There is a Brook House Service (monthly) for residents.
	Adult	CPAS ' Growing Leaders ' course run jointly with Bletsoe, M.Ern.Pav & Thurleigh churches. Riseley Men's Group and ' GYM ' (God, You and Me for ladies) provide opportunities for fellowship and making new contacts.
	All age	The restoration of the chancel at Bletsoe has provided space to hold new activities e.g. Sunday School and activities for others of all ages.

Sharnbr'k	Adult	Sharnbrook Primary School – invited to do assemblies (never happened before! & termly assemblies in Felmersham School. Quarterly Gospel Study days with Richard Bauckham video, plus Reformation day (very well attended) 'Community Services' 4 times a year in Felmersham with a pitch to non-churchgoing.
Felm'sham		New Lent Group on the Joy of Being Anglican to be based in the Sports & Social Club over cooked breakfast on Saturday Mornings - get fat for Jesus!
Souldrop		2017 3 LLWs licensed (one to be ordained in 2018) Exploring LyCiG benefice-wide.
Dean		2016 focus on stewardship saw an increase in both giving and volunteering, and a new organist stepping up to serve. 'Café Sunday' informal all -age service + breakfast, held monthly in Yelden Village Hall is growing and attracting new people.
M'bourne	Families/adult	Innovative 'Cocktail Church' in the very small village of Shelton is popular, mixing a social gathering with a focus on a bible-story (usually dramatic re-telling); attracts some non-church people.
Pert'hall	Adult	Alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks plus posh nibbles.
Shelton		Lay people planned & prepared Carol Services in each of their own villages which saw record attendance (300+ in total) representing a high % of population.
Sw'head		Sunday sermons Jan-Mar to follow Alpha topics with opportunity given for people to discuss with incumbent during the week. Some interest from non-church enquiring about doing a mid-week Alpha course.
Yelden	Adult	Ongoing consultation to agree a new structure to better support future joint parish working . Question about the future viability of 2 churches in the group.
Wilden	Adult	Mission and Ministry Team is developing to provide a benefice-wide focus. PCCs all meet as a combined PCC and are growing in working together. Traditional Sunday services are shared and supported benefice-wide. DIY Summer Services gave lay people an opportunity to be involved in leading worship – potential for growth – 5 people are on the Mission-Shaped Ministry course run by the Diocese. 1 person is on a year-long Children's Ministry course, also run by the Diocese.
Col'worth	All age	
Ravensden	Adult	