**YOUR ARCHDEACON’S PARISH VISITATION PARISH INFORMATION FORM**

**Your Church’s Vision, Mission and Ministry**

*Please would clergy and churchwardens complete this form (consulting others as appropriate) and return it to your Archdeacon or Area Dean (whichever is to carry out the visitation) at least* ***two weeks*** *beforehand. Please print copies for your own use at the Visitation.*

*You should also send a copy of your* ***MAP****, your most recent* ***PCC Annual Report and Financial Statements.***

*You can enter your answers and comments on this form and submit it electronically. Please feel free to add further comments wherever you feel they are necessary.*

**GROWING**

1. How would you assess the health of your congregation?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alive and growing? |  |
| Alive and static (those leaving balanced by those coming)? |  |
| Ticking along happily? |  |
| Struggling, but can be saved? |  |
| Struggling, with little hope of revival? |  |
| Your own description: | |

1. Very roughly, on an average Sunday, what are the numbers in the following age groups:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0-16 years |  | 60-80 years |  |
| 16-25 years |  | 80+ years |  |
| 25-60 years |  |  | |

1. Again very roughly, on an average Sunday, how many members of your congregation might be from a minority ethnic group (e.g. Asian/Asian British; Black/African/Caribbean/Black British; Chinese; Mixed race etc)

1. What do you feel are the most encouraging **growth points** in the life of your church?
2. Can you think of one thing you could do over the next 12 months that would help your church to grow?
3. **Baptisms**

How would you describe your **baptism policy**? Open / Conditional?

What is the approximate average number of baptisms per year?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Infants: <1 year |  |
| Children: 1-4 years |  |
| Children: 5-12 years |  |
| Youth/Adults: 13 years + |  |

Is that trend: Up / Down / Level ?

When do most baptisms take place?

Briefly, how are families prepared for the baptism of their children?

1. **Holy Communion and Confirmation**

Do you receive children to Holy Communion prior to Confirmation?

At what age? -

How are children prepared? -

How successful is this policy? -

What is the approximate average number of confirmations per year?

Children under 16 -

Adults -

Is that trend up? down? level? -

1. **Fresh Expressions**

Have any **Fresh Expressions** of church been developed in the parish?

What opportunities might there be?

1. **Worship**

Which of the following services are held on a regular basis (i.e. once a month or more?)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sunday | Midweek |
| Holy Communion (Common Worship) |  |  |
| Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) |  |  |
| Morning/Evening Prayer (Common Worship) |  |  |
| Morning/Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer) |  |  |
| Service of the Word |  |  |
| Healing Service |  |  |
| Taizé Service |  |  |
| Café Church |  |  |
| Messy Church |  |  |
| Others: | | |

When was the last time a critical look was taken as to whether the pattern of worship here is relevant today?

Which of the following do you have?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organist - paid |  |
| Organist - voluntary |  |
| Music Group |  |
| Youth/Children’s Music Group |  |
| 4-part choir |  |
| * If so, normal size |  |
| * Approx. age range |  |

1. **Children and Young People**

Which of the following do you have?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Child-Friendly Church Award |  |
| Creche |  |
| * If so, average size |  |
| Sunday School (or equivalent): Primary age |  |
| * If so, average size |  |
| Youth Group (or equivalent): Secondary age |  |
| * If so, average size |  |
| Uniformed Groups |  |
| Crucifers or servers, under 18 yrs |  |
| PCC members aged 16 – 18 yrs |  |
| Other groups/activities for children/young people | |

1. **Other organisations/activities (adults)**

Which of the following do you have?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mothers’ Union |  |
| Other group for women |  |
| Men’s Group |  |
| Evangelistic events in the community  (e.g. pub evenings) |  |
| Sports/games team or activity |  |
| Other groups/activities for adults | |

1. What training, if any has been undertaken around Unconscious Bias?

**NURTURING**

1. **Lay Ministry**

In which of the following ways are lay people exercising ministry?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Approx no. |
| Authorised Lay Ministers (ALM) |  |
| Eucharistic Assistants |  |
| Leading intercessions |  |
| Crucifers or servers |  |
| Home Group Leaders |  |
| Children’s/Youth Group Leaders |  |
| Baptism Visitors/Assistants |  |
| Administrator - paid |  |
| Administrator - voluntary |  |
| Readers  Other significant roles | |

Which of the following apply?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The parish is accredited for collaborative ministry |  |
| The parish has a ‘Vocations Champion’ |  |
| The parish has one/more members in training to be a Reader |  |
| The parish has one/more members in training for ordination |  |
| The PCC has discussed how to foster vocations |  |
| The parish has used Diocesan Vocations Strategy Materials |  |

1. **Christian Nurture**

Which of the following do you have?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Weekly | 1/month or more | Occasionally |
| Fellowship/Bible Study Groups |  |  |  |
| Prayer Groups |  |  |  |
| Central Prayer Meeting |  |  |  |
| Evangelism/Nurture Courses | More than once a year | Once a year | Occasionally |
| * START |  |  |  |
| * Christianity Explored |  |  |  |
| * Alpha |  |  |  |
| * Emmaus |  |  |  |
| * Pilgrim |  |  |  |
| * Other: |  |  |  |
| * Other: |  |  |  |

1. How would you describe the congregation’s **financial giving**?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weak |  |
| Average |  |
| Generous |  |
| Sacrificial |  |
| Your own description: | |

1. How tax-efficient is regular giving?
2. Do you use: Diocesan ‘Gift Aid Lite’ / Your own claim system?
3. When were your Gift Aid arrangements last audited?
4. When did the Diocesan Stewardship Officer last visit your parish?
5. When was your last Christian Stewardship Campaign or Programme?
6. Roughly what increase in annual giving did it bring (including Gift Aid claimed)?
7. When do you expect the next one to be?
8. **Parish Share**

Your Archdeacon/Area Dean will have details of your Parish Share payment record in the current and recent years. Please use the box below to add any comments of your own about Parish Share payment

1. What is your policy on giving money to mission agencies or other charities over and above the parish share?

**SERVING**

1. How would you describe your church’s place in the local community?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| At the heart of the community |  |
| Important to the life of the community |  |
| “Just there” - no pluses or minuses |  |
| Irrelevant |  |
| Your own description: | |

1. Roughly what percentage of your normal Sunday congregation lives outside the parish boundary?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| < 25% |  |
| 25%-50% |  |
| 50%-75% |  |
| > 75% |  |

1. **Schools**

What links are there with local schools?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME OF SCHOOL | Assemblies | School visits to church | Parish priest on Governing Body | Lay church members of governing body |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. How fruitful are these links
   * for the church?
   * for the school?
2. **Ecumenical Links**

What links are there with other denominations?



Are you seeking to develop these links and if so, in what way?

Does any other congregation use your church building or church hall?

1. **Local Partnership**

What other local institutions, agencies or organisations do you work in partnership with?



What other community groups use your church or hall?

Are you involved in any projects to support people who are vulnerable, deprived, or excluded? If so, please describe them.

1. **Publicity etc.**

* Which of the following do you have or make use of?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parish Magazine/Newsletter |  |
| Occasional neighbourhood leaflet distribution |  |
| Website |  |
| Church ‘Welcome’ pack/leaflet |  |
| Details on ‘A Church Near You’ |  |
| Facebook page |  |
| Church Twitter account |  |
| Other social media presence: | |

1. Do you have links with a **mission agencies** or **mission partners** overseas?

**THE FUTURE**

1. What is the **mission statement** of the church? If you don’t have one what do you *think* it is?!
2. How far do you feel the life of this church meets it’s mission statement?
3. What are your greatest hopes and dreams for the future?
4. What do you fear most about the future of the church here?
5. What are the greatest frustrations for you?
6. What do you do really well and feel that you could share with other churches?
7. What do you feel you are weak at and would like others to help with?
8. How is the parish preparing for any pastoral reorganisation envisaged in the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan?
9. Can / should this church continue to exist here? Might there be other options?
10. Where, realistically, do you see this church being in the next 15-20 years?
11. **GDPR**

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will took effect in the UK on 25 May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used by organisations. Parishes must comply with its requirements, just like any other charity or organisation.

Information and resources have been developed for parishes to help ensure you are compliant. They can be found at [www.parishresources.org.uk/gdpr/](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/gdpr/)

***Please add anything further you would like to talk about so we remember to cover it as well.***