

VISION DAY SUMMARY 2022 Benefice of Flitton, Pulloxhill and Silsoe

- 25 attended for the morning Saturday 24th September 10am-1pm
- Lectionary Reading for the day was Luke 9:43b-45, let's not be afraid of asking God to explain and lead us into the future, even when we're confused.
- We discovered that people in the room were connected with the Benefice over 60 years, from someone born here to Louise and Simon coming in July.
- The timelines of the three churches were drawn over the last 70 years with major mileposts in activities, personnel, sorrows and joys. The main points from this were.....
For the Benefice, different clergy have been good and not so good, we need to do more together, choices need to be made according to priorities, church can be an obstacle to some.
For Flitton, people have come and gone, history of the building is significant, fundraising is a challenge.
For Pulloxhill, is an open, friendly welcoming love.
For Silsoe, ongoing engagement with the school, some difficult experiences, has been welcoming to children..
- We spent some time considering what we could call the Benefice. 3J's, Flitvalley, De Greys, 3 Churches Bedford, 3 Churches FPS, Three Towers, 3Churches R US, Greensand, James and John, Welcome, Heritage, Love and Service, Garden, Three Paths, Rural 3 Churches, Flitt Hundred, Upbury, Sipufl, Triangle, FPS3Churches, United Flit vale, Siltonhill, Flitsilhill, United Flit vale, Bedfordshire, John Bunyan, Home Counties, Variations on village abbreviations.
- Spending time in listening to God we heard, use the buildings to serve the community, where are the young people/children, offer new /different/accessible opportunities for people to come close to God, what are the community needs, outdoor services, loving, warm, reassurance, calm, joint meetings being more together, use our history, welcoming and hospitality, inclusiveness, nourishing the body as well as the soul, contrasts in events BCP and then school service, Revelation 3:20 , Be thou my vision, how do we communicate with God?, time to think and be quiet, services elsewhere apart from church, men's breakfast club, ecumenical enterprises, midweek church, introducing the young to Jesus, church to be more approachable and less intimidating, flexibility, fluidity and freedom in services, church cinema, repair café.
- What one thing could we start to do? All age services (x3), review and meet together as parishes for common causes (fundraising), outdoor worship, open coffee mornings, midweek services that work for families (x2), open time, church hall extension, young friends of church group, reach out to community, teaching us to pray, open cleaning date, people able to interrupt services to ask things, Saturday lunch club, youth church, social Sunday, simpler services, boards advertising events/services, welcoming course (x2), PCC's active members of church, projects that connect church and community.
- What one thing should we stop doing? Less admin (x4), letting history and grievances cloud our judgement and feelings, baptisms outside services (x2), fundraising, the peace, worrying, attending meetings not directly related to church activities, non-inclusive activities.
- One thing we'd like to see more. Social events, music variations, Benefice café church, welcome letter to newcomers, family services (x2), all church members contributing, food events, hospitality events (x2), enabling aged to attend worship, church decorators, people coming to faith, zoom meetings on God stuff, Benefice events, pastoral visiting (x2), Bible Study, Prayer Group, sharing faith, coffee mornings, confidence in sharing our faith, unity (x3), small groups, vision days, joint prayer meetings, Alpha course.
- What difference would you like to see in a year? Looser structure in services, more activities for children, new people, less triplication, larger congregations (x2), openness to change, all age services (x3), larger all age church family (x2), more villager invites, more charitable giving, more community feel, more community support by the church (x2), more united churches (x2), café church, wider worship styles (x3), God mentioned at social and fundraising events, contemplative

moments, people coming to faith, Benefice rather than Parish focus for the totality of the population.

- People were encouraged to go away and pray over what their role and response to the day was.
- What next? Review in 6 months, annual vision day, occasional joint PCCs to discuss.

And.....

Please pray, reflect and comment back to Simon and Louise.

Blessings

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