

# St Mary the Virgin, Ivinghoe. Mursley Deanery

## SUMMARY MISSION ACTION PLAN

### 1. What is your current parish situation?

- We have 82 on the electoral roll. Ordinary Sunday congregations are typically in the range of 25 – 50 including some children and young people.  
Monthly cycle of worship: All-age worship, Holy Communion, Morning Praise, All-age benefice Holy Communion.
- Fortnightly service for pre-school children and carers. Coffee, Cakes and Crafts session each school holiday.
- Sunday afternoon Messy Church services on or near major festivals which draw in over 40 worshippers.
- Christmas and Remembrance services well attended by many outside the regular congregation.
- The Christmas senior citizens lunch in Pitstone is popular with many from the whole benefice
- We have around 12 baptisms, 8 weddings and 6 funerals per year.
- Two fortnightly Bible study groups meet throughout the year.
- The choir practices weekly and we host the Beacon community choir
- Regular bell ringing.
- Essential provisions are freely available in church through a food bank.
- The building is open daily. On selected Sunday afternoons in the summer we serve coffee and cakes. It is well maintained and structurally sound but we face an expensive project to repair stone work notably around the splendid west window. The church yard is cared for by a small but committed group.

### 2. Three things that our church does really well

1. We are welcoming and generous church and inclusive of children and families. The Worshipping Together service on the first Sunday is thriving as is the fortnightly Tots Praise. We are working to maintain links with these families and those we have contact with through baptisms etc. E-mail and Facebook are effective in drawing people into Messy Church.
2. Choir and music. The church choir includes a wide age range and is thriving. The Beacon Community Choir is based in the church and draws in widely from the village and beyond. It performs at concerts and community events throughout the year. A strong choir from Brookmead Primary School joins us at Christmas and occasionally at other times during the year.
3. Village fete and Christmas market. These are significant moments in the life of the village and draw the community together. They are successful fund raising events.

### **3. Our top three challenges:**

1. Young people. We celebrated the confirmation in 2018 of 6 young people from the village. We need to support children as they grow beyond primary school in their Christian lives.
2. Families. To see progression from Tots Praise to other forms of worship perhaps especially Messy Church.
3. Discipleship and service. Help adults to grow in their faith and to live out their faith in their daily lives. Promote increased involvement in Sunday worship and other church activities including Bible study groups.
4.
  - a. Funding the building project.
  - b. Regular income to secure our financial position

### **4. Our key priorities for the next 3-5 years are:**

1. Work as a benefice to support our young people and families.
2. Encourage discipleship in many forms including prayer, Bible study, and more active involvement in both the community Sunday worship.
3. The building project.

### **5. Our key actions for the next 3-5 years**

Vicar and LLM support work to

- a. secure Messy Church and All-age Communion in the worship life of the church.
- b. launch young people's worship.
- c. plan, prepare and promote discipleship work around the benefice.
- d. promote attendance at Bible study groups within St Mary's and around the benefice. Widen leadership.

Wardens to continue with Benefice Wardens Meeting.

PCC to establish sub-groups to

- a. lead on the fete and market
- b. investigate, plan, communicate with PCC, church and village and provide leadership in all aspects of the building project.
- c. encourage all existing regular givers to switch to Parish Giving. Inform those who give financially in other ways of the benefits of this scheme.

### **6. Our Bold Vision**

To better serve the community of Ivinghoe & Pitstone in new ways in a changing world.