

A Report from the PCC Away-day held on 14 May 2022 at The Comrades Hall, Broadwindsor

VISION DAY

The Revd Canon Deb Smith held the chair, but the content of the business was facilitated by the Revd Keith Elford. Seventeen present and past members of the PCC were in attendance together with three visitors from the Ministry Team.

At the previous PCC meeting we'd watched a video recorded by Keith Elford in which he'd posed two questions for us to consider in advance of our away-day. They were:

1. *Who are we and what's going on in the world?*
2. *What is God calling us to, that is both relevant but also allows us to remain ourselves, but move forward with integrity?*

VISION DAY agenda:

We shared our **Expectations** for the day and agreed the **Ground rules** for our discussions.

We were given the preparatory material from the Ministry Team's away-days held previously and which were the starting point for our discussions. We were free to agree, amend or disagree with each point. However, it was a good basis from which to begin and many of their points were generally agreed to be relevant and correct.

In four, small mixed groups we talked about each activity and then shared our comments and displayed the flip-chart sheets on which we'd recorded our ideas. The groups were re-mixed during the day to model cross-parish collaboration.

ACTIVITY ONE - *What is happening in our world/what will happen if we do nothing? - future we're currently in?*

ACTIVITY TWO - *Who we are/what do we stand for/what is our mission and role is/how do we need to work?*

ACTIVITY THREE: *What does a better future looks like?*

For this third activity we looked to **2030** and tried to imagine what our parish would be like and how it would be functioning. We anticipated fewer churches, more eco-credentials, and a wider community use of our buildings.

This is where the discussions involved everyone and where new ideas were shared, and the Vision Day addressed the title.

We highlighted:

- ◇ the reduction in our worshipping community,
- ◇ the need for teaching/feeding of ourselves in order to go out in Mission,
- ◇ Training, resources,
- ◇ the burden of responsibility for six buildings,
- ◇ our 'busy-ness' and time spent on the practical maintenance of the buildings and of preparing for worship,
- ◇ how the project at St Swithun's can become a common project,
- ◇ our expectation of more collaborative working and sharing,
- ◇ which things we can do better by adopting a centralised approach,
- ◇ Sacred spaces both indoors and outdoors,
- ◇ Worship in new ways,

At the conclusion of the day, we agreed to review the full notes from the meeting at the next PCC meeting (7 June) from which we will turn them into a proposition including a Mission Statement, to be shared with a wider group. (The expectation is that this will be with each congregation.) How and who that will involve is yet to be agreed by the PCC, but will incorporate identifying the concrete planning stages for the next five years and the people who it will concern.

Bridget Trump
PCC Secretary