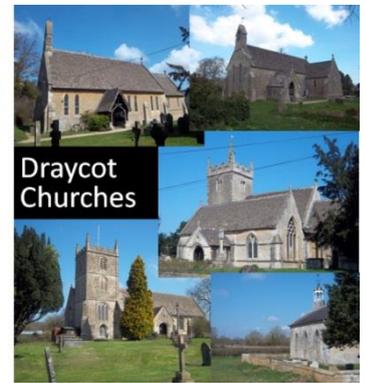


Creating Connections in Draycot Benefice

*We are 5 churches who have a vision to know Jesus
and make Him known*



Connecting with each other:

We are Celebrating:

In October 2015 we held a Benefice Vision Day and George Rendell came to talk to us about the new Diocesan Vision and Priorities. We discussed in what ways we felt connected to God, to each other and to our communities. During these discussions it emerged that those attending our five rural churches felt that they were very connected to God and to their own village but not to one another across the benefice.

Our vision:

To feel better connected to each other in fellowship

We will continue to:

We decided that the best way to become more connected was to spend more time together socially so after our United Benefice Services we now have Sunday lunch together in a local pub. In this way we get to know one another better and we are also a visible presence in the community. This is also a positive way to support our local endangered hostelrys.

We plan to:

Promote these opportunities across our benefice and invite more people to attend.

Connecting with our communities:

We are Celebrating:

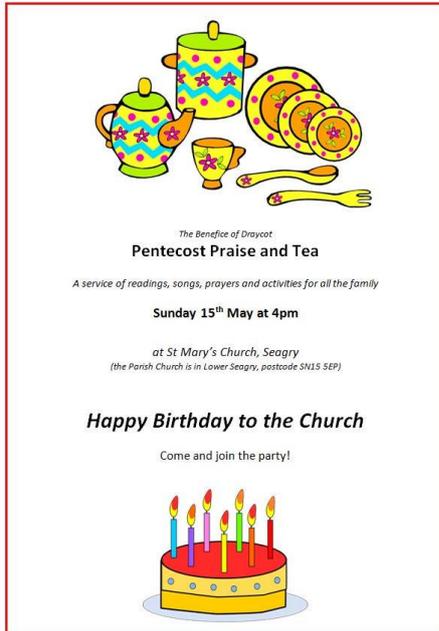
At the Vision Day we looked at how the new vision and priorities links with the Anglican Marks of Mission.

Each PCC decided on a new initiative which they would undertake during the year, to extend the mission of the church in our local community and linked with these Marks of Mission.

- **Christian Malford. “Coffee and Company”** (*respond to human need in loving service*). A monthly coffee morning offering hospitality to those in our benefice who would like a place to meet for fellowship.



- **Seagry. “Praise and Tea”** (*proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom with confidence*). A service of praise at 4pm once a month for young families. Followed by tea and cake and an opportunity for fellowship.



- **Tytherton Kellaways** (Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth). This tiny rural congregation had to focus on treasuring its building. Emergency work on the roof was required, supported by a generous loan from the diocese. We have established new connections locally and are grateful for the generosity of villagers, neighbours and friends from the deanery.



- **Kington Langley. “Pop-Up Praise”** (*proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom with confidence*). Building on the well-established “Carols on the Common” at Christmas, the PCC decided to hold more outdoor services throughout the year. We celebrated our community on Rogation Sunday and then booked the main stage at the village scarecrow festival in June, when we held a praise service in the heart of the village. Our small benefice children’s choir sang alongside the local school choir. Many parents attended the service, along with others from the village, who would not normally have been with us on a Sunday morning. We have an outdoor Harvest Festival planned for September at one of our local farms.

***Celebrating our Community
(Rogation Pop up Praise)***

Singing and praying around the village – responding to our young people’s challenge to be ‘more confident about being God’s Church’



Scarecrow ‘Songs of Praise’ – members of the Benefice worshipped on the main stage, drawing visitors in from the Festival weekend.



- **Sutton Benger. “Monthly Work Days”** (strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth). Involving those outside the regular congregation these work days are open to those with an interest in the preservation of ancient buildings and the care of the churchyard. They are well attended by those on the edges of our congregation who feel a sense of ownership of the building and of its surrounding churchyard.



Surprising Signs of Connectedness:

It has been interesting to see that outside the focus of our vision day agenda there have been some surprising signs of the work of the Holy Spirit among us. None of the following have been planned as part of our vision day agenda, but have sprung up through ideas put forward by members of our congregations. All can be linked in some way with the Diocesan Vision and Priorities.

- **“Hot Topic Thursday”** (*growing leaders*) Monthly meetings over a pint in the pub where we discuss an issue from current affairs. This initiative is led by regulars of the Sutton Benger congregation and attended by a mixture of those in and outside the regular worshipping community.
- **“Welcome Fest”** (*growing leaders*) hosted by the church, this very successful summer festival of welcome in Sutton Benger was open to newcomers to the village following a major new housing development. Village organisations were invited to attend to publicise their activities. All were greeted by friendly faces from the church and offered a glass of Pimms!
- **Pilgrim Course for Young Parents** (*making disciples/ engaging with the younger generation*) this group meets once a month in Kington Langley and engages with those on the edges of our congregations. It offers friendship and support to those with young children. Meeting in the home of one of our church families it is a warm and safe place to come, with plenty of laughter mixed in with a short Bible study. As a result of this course we have already had one young mum come to Baptism.
- **Benefice Children’s Choir** (*engaging the younger generation*) meeting weekly during term time this choir offers a free afterschool activity for primary aged children. Parents are encouraged to stay and are provided with refreshments and the opportunity to talk together informally. The choir sings across our benefice at services on Sunday mornings and parents bring their children along and remain with them. We hope that in this way they feel safe and comfortable stepping through the doors of our churches and that with time they may deepen their own relationship with our congregations who are very welcoming of them.

Moving forward:

During August we held a series of United Benefice Services in each of our churches where we gathered together and shared with each other the work we had done on our Marks of Mission in the context of "Creating Connections".

Our vision:

To become churches at the heart of our communities through intentional engagement and a growing range of community focused activities.

We will continue to:

Embed and strengthen all of the above ideas so that they become rooted in the lives of our churches.

We plan to:

In November 2016 we are holding our second Vision Day where we will celebrate what we have achieved this year and we will pray for discernment as to how we can deepen and develop our Mark of Mission further in the coming year. We particularly wish to engage with the Diocesan priorities - making disciples, growing leaders and engaging with the younger generation.

At our next round of PCC meetings we will then look at how we wish to develop what we have begun. This will form the focus for our work this year in each church and will then be shared at our August United Benefice Services next summer.

Connecting with God

We are Celebrating:

All of the above has been in addition to the regular work being done by our dedicated ministry team and lay leaders.

Our vision:

Through all we do, regularly through the year, we hope to build our relationship with God and discern what it means to be part of the kingdom of God in this place.

We will continue to:

We work tirelessly with our four C of E primary schools, leading Collective Worship and organising "experience" days throughout the year. We run school worship councils, and members of our regular congregations also take on the responsibility of serving as governors, and volunteering in school activities and clubs.

We plan to:

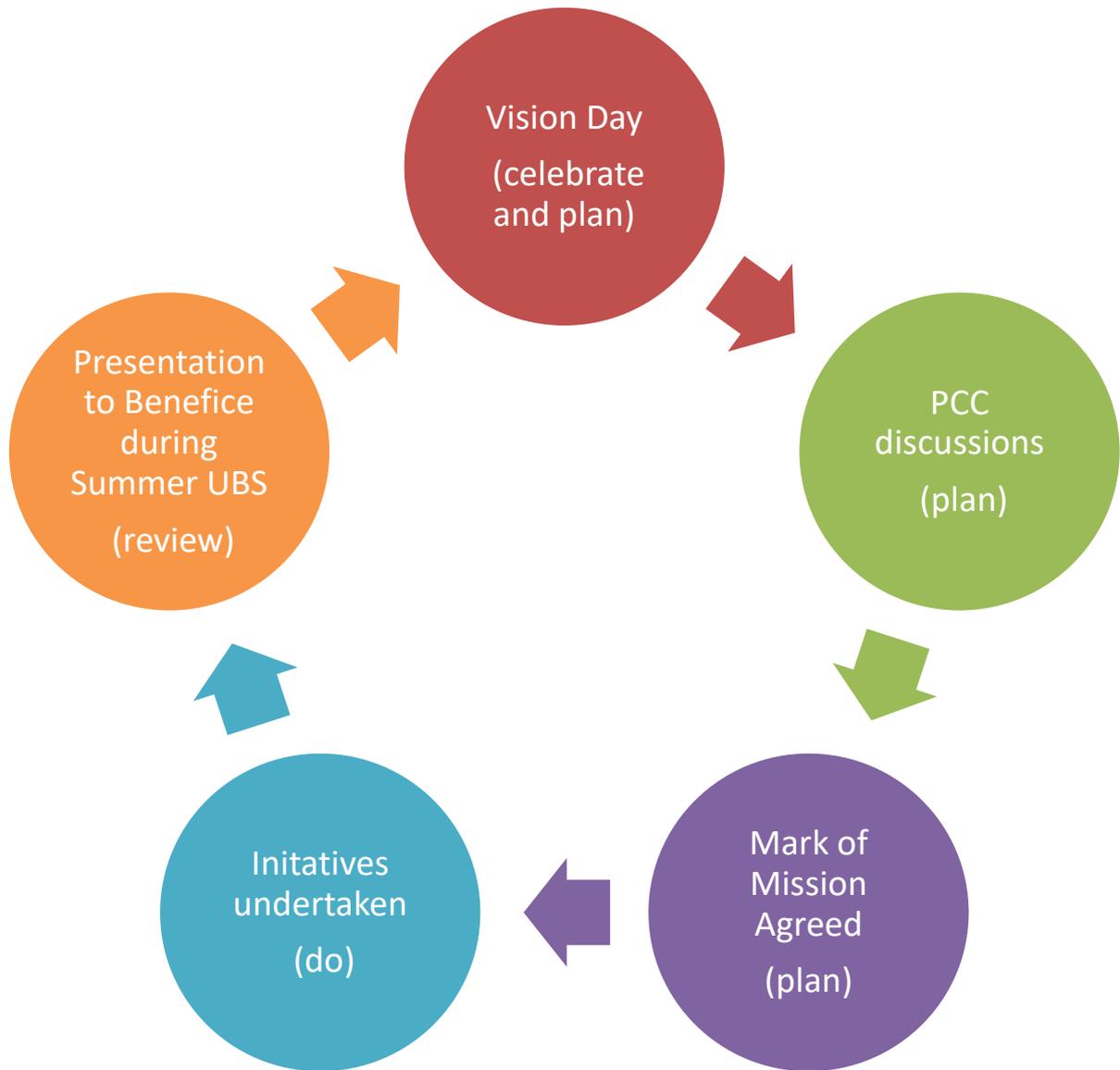
We are in the process of establishing Pastoral Care Teams in all our villages in order to support the needs of our residents. We are hoping with the help of these teams to change the culture of expectations around clergy visiting.

We trust that God will guide us as we seek to do his will. We trust that we are connected to him through our prayers and through our actions. We pray for discernment and inspiration to follow where God leads us. This will take place at our monthly prayer meetings, Church in the Week, and within our regular services.



Benefice Children's Choir taking part in worship at the Scarecrow 'Songs of Praise'

Draycot Benefice
“Making Connections” Vision Cycle



Creating Connections in Draycot Benefice(part 1)

Benefice Vision Day
October 2015

All Saint's Church
Christian Malford

St Peter's Church
Kington Langley

St Mary's Church
Seagry

All Saint's Church
Sutton Benger

St Giles Church
Tytherton Kellaways

TEND

TELL

TELL

TREASURE

TREASURE

'Coffee and Company'
Monthly coffee morning offering hospitality to those in our benefice who would like a place to meet for fellowship.

'Pop up Praise'
Outdoor services in the community to proclaim the 'Good News' confidently.

'Praise and Tea'
A monthly service of praise at 4pm for young families. Followed by tea and cake and an opportunity for fellowship.

Monthly Work Days
Work days aimed at caring for the church grounds, involving those outside the regular congregation.

Fund raising to restore the church

Creating Connections in Draycot Benefice (part 2)

United Benefice Services Summer 2016

All Saint's Church
Christian Malford

St Peter's Church
Kington Langley

St Mary's Church
Seagry

All Saint's Church
Sutton Benger

St Giles Church
Tytherton Kellaways

TEND

TELL

TELL

TREASURE

TREASURE

'Coffee and Company'
Presentation to Benefice
by Church Warden
Sunday August 14th

'Pop up Praise'
Presentation to Benefice
by Church Warden and
LLM
Sunday August 28th

'Praise and Tea'
Presentation to Benefice
by Church Warden
Sunday August 7th

Monthly Work Days
Presentation to Benefice
by Church Warden
Sunday August 21st

Fundraising
Presentation to Benefice
by Rector
Sunday July 31st

Creating Connections in Draycot Benefice (part 3)

November 2016
Vision Day II

Making Disciples, Growing Leaders, Engaging with the Younger Generation

All Saint's Church
Christian Malford

St Peter's Church
Kington Langley

St Mary's Church
Seagry

All Saint's Church
Sutton Benger

St Giles Church
Tytherton Kellaways

TEND

TELL

TELL

TREASURE

TREASURE

Questions for our Vision Day

What are our next steps as we seek to engage with the "Making Connections" Vision and Priorities?

How can we deepen and develop our Mark of Mission to encompass the 3 priorities – making disciples, growing leaders, engaging with the younger generation?