

Marden Vale Team Response from the Calne Deanery Synod Meeting

1. What is the personality and character of your local church?

- Marden Vale Team is a non-functional team. Only one joint meeting in the last 3 years! Some members may find change difficult – want to keep status quo. Need ‘professional help’ to look at this situation.
- Marden Vale Team is fragmented. Individual church loyalty but little corporate vision. Lots of goodwill but not much impact.
- Although benefice has existed 3 years we have yet to start on amalgamation of the PCCs. Within Calne and Blacklands St Mary’s dominates as it is by far the largest congregation. There is a town parish church and two country parishes
- Marden Vale - Gradually getting to know each other.
- St Mary’s, Calne – set in its ways & resistant to change
- Christ Church, Derry Hill – a church in a growing village of people of all ages with a church school participating in many church activities
- Christ Church, Derry Hill - Growing – more different services now, more informal than of old. Younger people coming
- Christ Church, Derry Hill – Our church is within a growing village. A community of people of all ages
- St Martin’s, Bremhill – Loyal small congregation, dedicated and committed
- St Martin’s, Bremhill – Our church is in a rural area – it is a central part of a small village – welcoming and friendly
- St Martin’s, Bremhill – working together with other churches – congregation older
- St Martin’s, Bremhill – rural, not yet integrated with the Marden Vale Benefice; church in centre of village life – arranges events ‘outside church’ i.e. New Year Lunch; different from Calne and Derry Hill; friendly
- Derry Hill, Bremhill and Foxham – Two very rural churches, one less so; centre of community in each case; good community skills; very friendly

2. What are the priorities of your local church?

- Marden Vale Team – priority should be ministering to those outside the church and on the margins. Priorities are survival and succession
- More young people; more people coming to church; helping everyone in the community; welcoming; set up local helpline?; keep us going financially
- To reach out to the community
- Increasing the size of the congregation; succession of organists; upkeep of churchyard
- Attract more young people; attract more people per se; welcoming all; making services attractive; making the church attractive (suitable for a variety of uses); paying the share
- increase membership who attend regularly; to reach out and not always to be asking for monies
- Calne & Blacklands – meeting quota; encouraging Messy Church; CAMEO (Come and meet each other) – a great team of helpers; increasing LPA members; how best to cope with interregnum
- St Mary's, Calne – I have not the faintest idea but if I had to say – to be a light in our community
- Christ Church, Derry Hill – To open our doors to all the community and hope to show them that we are a caring church for all ages and open to change.
- Christ Church, Derry Hill – Apart from paying the share – bring more people into church; making the church space amenable to the needs of the day to day activities; stewardship
- St Martin's, Bremhill – getting repair work done; getting more people into church
- St. Martin's, Bremhill – we need to encourage young people with new ideas to engage them; we need practical things e.g. lighting and sound system

3. Is there one thing you would like to take on in the coming year

- Marden Vale Team – Being more active and playing a bigger part in the whole Marden Vale Benefice as opposed to purely local concerns
- Marden Vale Team – to become more of a part of the Marden Vale Team - have not felt part of them at all yet. BUT we have an obstacle -; take a greater part in the benefice; visit everyone in the parish
- Marden Vale Team – Visiting more people within the community pastorally and in terms of mission ‘The church exists by mission as fire exists by burning’ William Temple
- More things to encourage children to church
- St Mary’s, Calne – Making the church more attractive to young families; maybe doing Alpha; more social occasions that attract the community
- Christ Church, Derry Hill – To encourage and support young families; to encourage young families to develop family services; to meet the needs of all our church community
- Christ Church, Derry Hill – one thing to take on – develop family services by having a team to run them. This is without taking away from the more ‘traditional services’
- Christ Church, Derry Hill – Further development of our ‘Praise’ service which encourages the younger members to participate more and feel part of the church and not to dismiss our older people in doing so.
- St John the Baptist – Personality and character improving now from being in the past. Now more friendly and welcoming.
- I have been asked to consider my name being forwarded for church warden – if it comes to pass then I will take it on.
- Holy Trinity, Calne – more involvement in services by Holy Trinity; entry of churchyard in ‘Calne in Bloom’ RHS