Vision 2030

Have you noticed the average age of today’s clergy? It is around 57-years. In the next ten years, approximately 40% of our clergy will be retiring. Whilst we are presently enjoying an increase in new vocations to ordained ministry, we are sadly not seeing anything like the increase that is needed to fill the gap. This means there is going to be a big shortfall in the number of clergy to serve our parishes. In response to this, there is a national prayer initiative to grow vocations and clearly God is answering prayer. We are also investing in the training and development of lay leaders such as Readers and Lay Worship Leaders so that non-Eucharistic services are not dependent upon a clergyperson being present.

The challenge facing us all, however, will be where to deploy our clergy - as there simply won’t be enough to go around and how do we effectively be the church in our particular localities. Additionally, we need to consider which are the churches which need to be resourced so that they can effectively resource smaller, satellite churches, and how might this work?

Rather than sink into the hole and pull down the lid, this presents us with a wonderful opportunity to collectively look for the signs of God at work in our communities. Where is the life of the Spirit? What might God being saying to the church as consider we what the church might look like in 10-20 years time?

As part of the looking and listening and learning from God, parishes are being asked to consider the following questions with a view to reimaging the church for 2030:

What are things like now:

1. Name of Parish and Benefice:
2. Approx size of your Parish/Benefice?
3. Number of Churches in your Benefice (please include listing)
4. Clergy/Lay support
	* 1. Clergy? (please state fulltime, part-time, house for duty)
		2. Curate?
		3. SSM? PTO/Rtd?
		4. Reader?
		5. Licenced Lay Worker?
		6. Other?
5. Does your Church have:
	* 1. WC facilities
		2. Kitchen facilities
		3. Parish room/Hall
		4. Heating
		5. Accessible facilities
6. What is the size of your Parish/Benefice (total population)?
7. Based upon where your church has been, where you are and where you are going, what do you think your church/congregation will look like in 2030?
	* 1. What is your average Sunday attendance now / 2030?
		2. How are we discipling Christians now/ 2030?
		3. Who are we passing the Christian mantle on to?
		4. How equipped is the next generation to take up the mantle?
		5. Is there anything we could/should be doing about this?
8. What is the prime focus of your Church/Congregation?
	* 1. What percentage of time is spent on maintenance?
		2. What percentage of time is spent on ministry?
		3. What percentage of time by the PCC is spent on mission?
		4. What/Where/Who is your mission field?
		5. Are you seeing people grow in faith?
		6. What would it look like for somebody to be growing in faith?
		7. How confident are your members to talk about the faith?
		8. How confident are your members to invite/bring people to church?
		9. Is there anything we could/should be doing about these things?
9. What’s going on in your locality?
	* 1. Is your community growing/shrinking?
		2. Is it ageing or is there a mix of age groups?
		3. Is there a school(s)?
		4. Are there activities/organisations/events that the church engages with? If so, what are these?
		5. If not, could the church become engaged with these? If so, how?
10. Do you anticipate any new building developments in your area? If so, how many houses? Schools? Shops? Other?
11. Could you be a resource church if so in what capacity
12. If you needed to be resourced by a bigger church, which church would that be and how might it look?
13. What is the potential for positive change to grow your congregation?
14. What steps would you all need to commit to now in order to bring about the positive change?
15. If you could have any help to bring about positive change to grow your congregation, what might it look like (why/how?)?

Thank you so much for taking the time to ponder, pray and discuss this paper. When you have completed it, please return to Archdeacon Bev at: archdeacon.richmondandcraven@leeds.anglican.org