

Please note your contact details will be kept safe under our Data Protection Policy.

No-one should take on more roles than they can handle. Our Action Teams are designed to spread the load not be a burden and therefore we should limit our membership of these to two.

Please return this back page to the office in an envelope addressed to me. It may take time to contact you about your reply but be assured your contribution to the life of our parish is valued.

Thank you for your support and response.



*Building Community with
Christ in the Centre*



The Parish of Cannock and Huntington

Something to think about.

Introduction

The roadmap for easing of lockdown hints at better things to come later this year. I know we all hope that will be the case. Yet the journey to that better place may not be simple.

There may be the potential for problems as there will be folk who have real concerns about re-engaging with people in groups of any size. Certainly, there are people who have indicated that they will not pick up where they left off and some who will not return to church.

Our communities have people who are processing pain-filled experiences: the loss of loved ones whose bedside they couldn't attend in their final days; the challenge to put food on the table for young children; and the exhaustion of trying to meet the overwhelming needs of multiple patients in overstretched hospitals as an NHS worker, are some of these experiences. How can we respond to this situation and be a place of healing and peace?

All of us have had to handle a variety of challenges – what some call 'deprivations' – that COVID has brought. Our financial position has been very much adversely effected.

We can't expect to return to 'what was' in this changed world and now is the time to review vision and plan for a journey to a

better place. Starting my ministry with the parish not long before lockdown has not made communicating vision and strategy easy.

My way of ministry is one of inclusion that endeavours to harness the gifts and experience God has given the church and valuing every person's gift.

This booklet is to help you consider and pray about your response to the APCM. Please help me to get to know you by taking the time to fill in the form on page 7 and returning it to me.

My prayer is that we will move forward together and build community with Christ at the centre.

With prayers for every blessing,

Vicky Fleming

A Bible passage for you to read

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **8** This is why it says:

My interest is..

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel:.....Email:.....

I would like to know more about

.....

.....

I would like to help with.....

.....

.....

Areas of Interest

- The Christian Faith / Alpha Course
- Home groups
- Welcoming people to church services
- Bell ringing
- Reading a lesson in church regularly
- Leading prayers in church
- After service coffee
- Hospitality
- Arranging flowers
- Helping with deliveries of newsletters etc.
- Prayer groups
- Fabric and maintenance
- Pastoral Care
- Finance
- Mission
- Exploring vocation—what is God calling you to?
- Financial contributions—weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually:
 - By Direct Giving
 - By Envelope Scheme
- Gift Aid

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”^[b]

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[c]? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

What is God saying to us as a church?

What is God saying to us as individuals?

How do you feel about it?

Vision

The vision I have laid before you in the last year was '*Building Community with Christ at the Centre.*'

Why?

This statement seems to address the issues raised in your profile list. A Community with Christ at the Centre will become the body of Christ—unified and working together, every person valued and engaged. 1 Corinthians 12:12& 27 The call of Christ to be his body, requires that barriers and divisions are removed, agape love becomes 'oil' that lubricates the body, the Holy Spirit is the blood that runs through the body providing the power and Jesus himself is the head.

The Body of Christ, a community with Christ at the centre, works on the mission of the church supporting one another towards growth. Growth in faith, numbers and connection to the wider community. Unless we have Christ at the centre of what we do we may as well pack up shop.

How?

We make this a reality by ensuring:

- we agree on 'core values' that will be integral to all the decisions we make.

Genesis 1:27—Everyone is made in the image of God therefore everyone is important and valued. This means *everyone*; members - young old and in-betweeners, staff, visitors, and the wider community.

- We develop the gifts of the Spirit as individuals and corporately—Galatians 5.
- We work together—teams, not cliques or individualism.

- We communicate and THINK how we do this -

T— is it true, **H**—is it helpful, **I**- is it inspiring, **N**— is it necessary, **K** is it Kind.

- Worship is God's Word centric.
- Prayer is vital. Enabling vision always involves lots of decisions—there is never one clear path. Praying through bigger decisions is imperative and surely the pandemic has challenged us to take prayer more seriously. It should become foundational to all we plan and do.

Who?

Everyone has a part to play!

When ?

We cannot put a timescale on this vision—it will always be a work in progress. But we can plan some stepping stones and we will need to review our progress regularly.

Some questions for you.....

Do you understand the vision?

Are you enthusiastic about the vision?

If not, why not?

What would you change?

Are you willing to engage and work with this vision?

What part of church life interests you the most?