

LOOKING FOR OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST

You will be really pleased to know that we are working on the recruitment pack in preparation for advertising for a new priest. This will be a part-time post, to live in and focus on Kintbury; albeit with an oversight of the whole benefice. *We don't have a definite time-line for this yet.*

We are trying to discern what may be God's purpose for our church and community, and thus begin to form a picture of that special person whom, even now, He may be calling to our parish and benefice; we are keen to involve the congregation and wider community in the process.

And how can you help us?

We need to craft an image of ourselves as "Church" in this place, being honest, accurate and optimistic as we do so, celebrating our strengths and acknowledging where we feel that we face challenges. So with the help of the Parish Development Adviser we have come up with some key questions – and your responses to these questions will feed into the profile document which somebody out there, who doesn't know it yet, is just waiting to read.

We are sending some broader, more widely applicable questions to other people in our village, reminding them that the "vicar" is appointed to the whole parish, not just to the churchgoers; we are also inviting contributions from across the benefice.

All the responses we receive will help the appointment team in the recruitment and interview process and could also provide some useful starting ideas for our incoming priest.

1 The best that we are at present:

*What do you most value about your church? Where have you seen it come alive?
What do we do really well?*

2 The best of what we might be in the future:

*What might we see 3 years after the appointment of our new vicar? What do we want to be like?
How might we want to be different? What might we have achieved? What challenges will there be –
and how will we face up to them?*

3 How our new vicar will have helped us with this:

What sort of person will help us to build on what is good and change what needs to change?

4 *We hope we have covered most things; is there **anything else** you think will be important (and realistic!) for the recruitment team and the new part-time priest to know?*

Please think and pray about this, and reply by **27/06** to: alisonhartwright@btinternet.com

We welcome individual or family (especially children's) responses.

Do let us know if your children have contributed, and tell us their ages.

To help keep us organised, please use OUR PARISH PRIEST as the title for your email and use numbers 1-4 (above) for your responses.

NB *If this has been hand-delivered because you are not on email, please arrange collection / return with Bridin.*