

# Summary of parish/benefice planning against the Shared Priorities Year: 2017/18

**Parish/ Benefice** Mainstone, Ridgeway Benefice **Agreed on:** 18.1.2017 **at:** PCC **Contact name & details:** Mrs N Swanson, Churchwarden & PCC secretary



**Our mission context:** the area, people, places we serve **Now?** **Changes** anticipated over the next five years?  
 We live in a deeply rural, sparsely populated area, of outstanding natural beauty. This is a very stable community, but as farmers we have to move with the times. People are very creative in how they make a living. There are some very skilled people here.

**Where we see signs of God at work locally** **Where we see growth / encouragements**  
**What we can learn from each other /spread / build on /develop**  
 We have very good pastoral networks. We are encouraged because our lay led family service is attracting new people. Three young people ( boys) were confirmed this last year.

<b>Our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as we see them as a parish:</b>			
<p><b>Strengths</b>                      We enjoy and are good at fundraising.                      We have a well established Meditation group which draws people from a very wide area.                      Our Family service is growing and is strong.</p>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b>                      We are an aging population.                      We live in a sparsely populated, wide spread area.                      Many people spend significant amounts of time on their own at home or at work.</p>	<p><b>Opportunities</b>                      Several new people have moved into the area.                      ( usually the population is quite static)</p>	<p><b>Threats</b>                      We are a very small parish, with lots of people doing at least three jobs to keep things going ( ie Church warden, Parish secretary and organist.)                      There is only so much time and energy which we can give.</p>
<p><b>People and Resources:</b> Now? Anticipated? <i>Think about clergy and lay ministers, parish officers, new ministries, vocations, opportunities/needs for deployment etc</i>                      Parish priest, 2 Churchwardens ( one of whom is our organist, one of whom is a member of the Lay Ministry team) Treasurer. A good PCC which enjoys working together.                      Lay Co -chair of the Deanery, Benefice Administrator.                      We have experienced people in all of our key roles. We know we have to think about succession to keep things viable and fresh. We want to draw younger people into the planning.</p>			
<p><b>Our discernment of our way forward together as a parish/benefice</b> <b>Our current vision for this Parish / benefice in 5 years time.</b>                      We would like our congregation to grow. We want to maintain our ability to have Sunday service every week. We are very open minded and willing to try new things.                      We would like more opportunities for Bible study/ fellowship.</p>			

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<i>Looking back - What we achieved in 2016</i>	<b>Parish action planned for 2017/18 (2019?)</b>	<b>Our goals and “measures of success”</b>
<b>Shared Priority 1: Growing disciples of all ages and backgrounds – spiritually and numerically</b>		
<p>We got everyone together and asked what kinds of family services would be helpful (and at what times). We then planned carefully, drew people in to help, and the service is growing. Some of our services have been great fun. We always have a social element with refreshments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like to start a Bible study group, (and possibly do some study of the day’s readings during lay led services)</li> <li>• Revamp the church notice boards and keep the church tidy and welcoming.</li> <li>• Put prayer cards in church for visitors</li> <li>• Make a welcome pack</li> <li>• Think about how we help visitors to understand how our building works... ie let it tell our Christian story and how it is used as part of our faith journey. Informative signage.</li> </ul>	<p>Bible study group in place and other bullet points actioned.</p>
<b>Shared Priority 2: Serving the common good – transforming lives and communities</b>		
<p>We have run a lot of community events- social and fundraising.</p>	<p>More of the same- you could be very lonely here if there was no way of meeting, sharing time together and having fun.</p>	<p>We don’t just talk about it, -we do it.</p>
<b>Shared Priority 3: Sharing, developing and reimagining ministry for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>		
<p>We have drawn more people in to helping run our family services, and our Meditation service has grown.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning how to do Bible Study and to lead it in a variety of contexts</li> <li>• Being open to and finding new leaders for Meditation</li> </ul>	<p>Making contact with new leaders and drawing them in to what we do.</p>
<b>Shared Commitment: to focusing our resources – money, buildings, time, people etc - where there is greatest mission need and opportunity</b>		
<p>We have done our best to keep everything in good order and we have paid our bills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We know we have to attend to the pointing on the Bell Tower and west wall, and to several damp patches internally.</li> <li>• We need to set a budget which allocates money for each of our aspirations above.</li> </ul>	<p>The maintenance work gets done. The Budget is allocated and spent, and we are still solvent.</p>