

Dear Brothers and Sisters

As you may know the PCC is working on a new Mission Action Plan to take us into 2022. This is something we recognise needs to be done as we are now able to see more clearly the shape of the congregation after the pandemic. It is also something the bishops would like us to do to feed into their decision making about the future deployment of clergy.

The diocese has asked to us to work on 'four mores' as we respond to the love of God. As I said in my sermon two weeks ago unless we are responding to God's love, his completely underserved kindness and grace, things will not come out right whatever we do. We already have some ideas how we might take things forward but we wanted to ask you ahead of our away day on 16th October to pray for the PCC and to contribute any suggestions you may have at this stage.

We have already spent a considerable time reviewing our situation. We are asked:

- *What are you already doing which you would like to build upon or expand?*
- *What are you currently doing which should be reconsidered or stopped?*
- *What new ideas and initiatives would you like to start being involved with?*
- *What resources will you need to carry out your plans & where will they come from?*
- *Will any training be required for you to fulfil your aims?*
- *How will progress be reviewed?*
- *How will necessary changes to your MAP be made?*

The four mores are

More Open - *How will your church provide worship and sustain faith?* Here we need to review our services. Is the present pattern of worship the most beneficial? Could we attract more young families if children worshiped at a different time. We already have someone offering to run a midweek service for preschool children and carers. Do we continue with Mattins? How can we use the new community building at Fontwell to connect with the Fontwell Meadows-Dandara estate? (The archbishops are calling for 10,000 such new initiatives.) These are all genuinely undecided questions.

More Converted - *How will your church nurture and grow the faith of your church community?* This is about discipleship: How we move from being believers in Jesus Christ to learning to follow him in our daily lives. **How could St Mary's help you in your discipleship?** One of the ideas put forward is of a group dedicated to listening to what the Holy Spirit may saying to us. How can we widen and deepen our fellowship and enable younger members to take positions of leadership?

More Generous - *How will your church pursue a radical, generous response to the self-giving of Jesus Christ to resource and sustain the church's work?* We will be having a Generous Giving Sunday on 21st November. Andrew Smith, the diocesan adviser, will be speaking to us when we will be putting forward the needs of the parish financially. But we will also be seeking to find out what unused gift and talents we may have which can be used in God's service and to his glory: how we can be generous with our time.

More Engaged - *How will your church care for, and impact upon, the wider community?* The good news is for all creation which shares in our hope of redemption. We are interested taking up the bishop's suggestion of joining the Eco Church initiative with A Rocha. This is about practical ways in which we can encourage each other to be good stewards of the wonderful gift of creation that God has given us. **Would you be interested in joining a small group to promote this in the church and connect with other such groups for example in the school?** Are there other means of outreach which would connect us to our community locally?

We also need to revisit the subject of **communications** both inwardly and externally. What are our strengths and weaknesses in this area in your experience? **Have you any comments or suggestions?** How welcoming are we as a community? **Is there a skill you could contribute here?**

So if you have any thoughts you would like to contribute in the next week before our PCC away day at the Bishop's Palace, please email myself vicar@stmaryswalberton.org.uk or any of the wardens or readers.