

Holy Trinity Church, Duncton

Review for Parish Council Meeting 24th May 2016

There is currently much change going on at Holy Trinity Church, primarily involving:

- Village Questionnaire
- New Services Format
- Maintenance of the Church
- Marketing and Advertising
- 150th Anniversary Celebrations
- Monthly Village Coffee Morning

1) Questionnaire and New Services Format

The idea of a Village Questionnaire was first proposed at the PCC meeting in March 2015. Given the diminishing attendance at Church services, the purpose of the questionnaire was to ask the village community 20 questions about their Church to understand how we should move forward.

The questionnaires were distributed in the May parish magazine, collected a month later and the results collated and presented at a village meeting in September.

The 22% response to the questionnaires was very encouraging, and overall showed that the Church is a well-loved place, and that people feel a strong connection towards it. The feedback also indicated that the Church needs to provide a welcoming gathering place for people to socialise as well as to worship, and provide a vital and relevant product that is central to our lives. An overall future aim for Holy Trinity Church was proposed:

To foster a deeper community spirit in Duncton with the Church at its heart.

2) New Services Format

In conjunction with a meeting with Archdeacon Fiona Windsor and as a result of the Questionnaire findings, a new format for the type and style of services at Holy Trinity Church was agreed. This would be a monthly Festival Service - an uplifting and relevant service based around the Christian festivals throughout the year, and followed by refreshments to encourage more social interaction. There would also be a monthly Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion Service.

A colourful Calendar of Festival Services was put together, and distributed in December to cover the whole year. To date the new Festival Services have been very well attended.

3) Maintenance of the Church

In December a new heating system was installed to make it more welcoming – this has already made a huge difference.

A plan is also underway to improve the interior of Church. This will take the form of a 'Spring Clean' to look at small ways of refreshing the inside such as repainting the front door and other areas, looking at a new top for the sideboard, and creating a dedicated and welcoming children's area at the front.

In the long term we are also looking at developing information boards for visitors with a Church guide, a new crib for Christmas, and a total redecoration of the interior.

4) Marketing and Advertising

Through the autumn, three projects have been instigated to improve marketing and advertising for Church. A database of email addresses has been collated so that reminders can be regularly sent out for upcoming services and events.

A welcome leaflet is in development, containing a variety of essential information to help newcomers to the village settle in.

New signposts to advertise services and indicate the car parking facilities for Church are also underway.

5) 150th Anniversary Celebrations

In July, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church with a flower festival and three events taking place over one weekend in our decorated church:

Saturday 2nd July – 6.00pm Evening Drinks Party, to include music and canapés.

Sunday 3rd July – 150th Celebration Service at 4.00pm conducted by the Archdeacon of Horsham Fiona Windsor, followed by afternoon tea and Pimm's.

Monday 4th July – 9.30am Duncton School celebration service.

Plans are shaping up well with an enthusiastic list of flower arrangers signed up to decorate the church. This includes displays that will be representing organisations within the village such as Duncton Fisheries, the Roman Catholic Church and Duncton School. For one of the displays, we plan to have 150 jam jars filled with fresh flowers to celebrate the 150 years, and in the June Parish magazine, we have asked everyone in our community to contribute by bringing a filled jam jar for the display. We will be starting to decorate the church towards the end of the first week of July, with the main day being Friday 1st.

Church will be open all weekend for anyone wanting to enjoy the displays, and in addition on Saturday 2nd July we will be advertising Open Church from 10.00am to 1.00pm in the local press for people from the surrounding area to visit.

There are also plans to illuminate Church from early June to mid July to embrace both the Queen's 90th birthday and the 150 year anniversary, and a large banner will be going up in the middle of the village to celebrate the anniversary.

Everyone is welcome to join in both the flower decorations, and to come along to the events as our aim is to bring our whole village community together for this important milestone.

6) Monthly Village Coffee Morning

Instigated by Nigel and Helen Clifford, the monthly village coffee morning is proving to be a very sociable community event, and a wonderful way to make use of the church building. The two events held so far have raised funds for Samara's Aid through the sale of plants, cakes and produce.