

**St Mary's 5 Year/Mission Action Plan
Conference Sat 26th November
The Way Forward**

The Conference, led by Rev Richard Jackson (Chichester Diocesan Mission & Renewal Advisor), was held in the Barn Centre and was well attended.

Prior to the meeting we had had a consultation about the church with the members of the Electoral Roll and received valuable feedback which was essential in helping to focus key issues for the Conference.

We would now like to extend this to the whole of the village initially by inviting any comments on these issues.

In this case please contact Jo Wood (722846) or Ian Reekie (722957).

The categories were-

1. Sunday services & activities
2. Christian teaching & experience
3. Pastoral care & visiting
4. Relationship between the Church & the village
5. The Church & Barn buildings.

The aims of the morning were to offer an opportunity to review where we are with a view to

1. Better meeting the mission challenges of Newick
2. Teaching on what mission is as a means to Church growth
3. Reviewing the consultation process and developing some strategies to address the 5 main ministry issues which came out of this
 - 3.1. Worship style & services, preaching & teaching
 - 3.2. Corporate prayer life
 - 3.3. Resourcing & support for leaders, especially childrens' leaders
 - 3.4. Community engagement
 - 3.5. Corporate governance: how do we reach the wider congregation?

We began with Mark 1: 14-15 studying the 3 elements of mission - Incarnation, Transformation & Proclamation'.

We then were divided into groups to say what our strengths and weaknesses were as a Church.

Richard stressed how important it was to be part of the village and to mix with people of all beliefs and none.

Suggestions and ideas coming from the Groups included

- Running marriage guidance & parenting classes using professional people
- Having more prayer groups & house groups. Not just Sunday activities.
- Having specific goals for the church set in a Mission Action Plan with set time frames.

We then divided into 5 groups to discuss the main challenges.

These groups will continue to meet and work on solutions to the issues.

Progress to date

1. The Young People's work group have already made contact with the Diocesan advisor.
2. The Prayer & Worship group have started a new prayer group (9.30am Sun in Barn Centre)
3. The Community group are addressing many of the issues with regard to village & church
4. The Governance group are looking into ways of improving communication, identifying key roles and responsibilities and making best use of the Church resources.
5. The Fellowship group are also working on establishing closer links within the church across the age range.

Most people came away with a feeling of hope for the future and felt that it had been a very good bonding exercise. We are most grateful to Richard for his guidance and look forward to seeing him in the Spring.