

Pathways

EXPERIENCING, ENGAGING, EXPLORING

HEALTHY CHURCH PATHWAY & ONE CHURCH FAMILY PATHWAY PROJECTS

*'I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly'*

- John 1.10 -

We are on a journey towards being a healthy church: a growing and nurturing Christian presence based in the communities of Ubley, Compton Martin and Blagdon with Charterhouse.

Please share our journey and renew our church life

EDITION 1 2021

Telling Our Story : Engaging, Exploring, Experiencing

This newsletter builds on the paper that we shared with our PCC Members at our regular meeting in November. Its purpose is to share our progress, seek to involve you and to ask for your prayers and help as we move forward with God.

These pathways are a journey full of discovery and a sense of adventure as we engage in an experience which helps us to develop the health of our church and our ministry in our communities. It is a special type of journey that we are embarking on together - a pilgrimage characterised by being a journey into health, both with and towards the presence of God.

Healthy Churches - What does this mean?

'A healthy church is one that has been touched and energised by the presence of God so it reflects something of the good news of the wholeness made possible through the knowledge of God and revealed in Christ, by the Holy Spirit.'

Growing a healthy church is a bit like baking a delicious cake. Good ingredients are a vital start. Then comes getting the proportions and mix right and knowing how long and at what temperature to bake it for!

This is a process rather than a programme. It is based on the Seven Marks of a Healthy Church devised by Robert Warren, which have been used widely in a tried and tested way. The process seeks to :

- Plot the health of a church
- Identify actions
- Embark on a journey to greater wholeness

'The process is one which defines healthy within the biblical concept of salvation - namely wholeness, balance and harmony with God and all creation.'

One Family, One Church: The Pathway to becoming one Parish

During 2020, discussions commenced on how we might take forward God's mission. It was decided that, with the approval of PCCs, we should seek to pool our resources and become one parish.

A presentation was given to each Annual Parochial Church Meeting in October, with an opportunity, for those present, to comment and discern what might happen across the Benefice. A resolution was unanimously passed by the PCCs in November, committing to the pursuit of the Pathways Project, including a concurrent implementation of the Healthy Church Pathway.

We are being guided by the Assistant Diocesan Secretary regarding the legal requirements, methodology and timing of this transition; the plan being to conclude discussions by the end of 2021. The planning group have met monthly for discussion, via Zoom, and have been active in pursuing this agenda. There will be further involvement with PCCs, the church family and community as we progress.

In March and April 2021, the PCCs put forward and discussed names for our new parish. This was voted on and the new name put forward to the Diocese is 'All Saints, Mendip Hills'.

We would like everyone to be involved.

Please consider attending the following events:

- ▶ **Open Forum to discuss the proposed new pattern of worship**
Sunday 27th June at the end of the Eucharist (c. 11:30am)
St Michael's, Compton Martin. (Please see inside for details.)
- ▶ **Healthy Church Gathering to help shape the future and mission of our church.** Saturday 24th July 9:30am - 12:00pm
(Please see inside for details)

Sharing your voice with us

Would you consider sharing your views about our Pathways in this publication? We value your input and want to represent a cross section of our communities. Please consider attending the events to express your perspective, or if you unable to attend please email the Church Office.

Please tell us how you are energised by faith.

*God of all time,
God beyond and behind time;
may we know what is too late
and what is too soon.
May we always recognise the right time
in the light of your timeless love.
Amen.*

*Loving God,
we thank you that we are able to listen to you
through scripture and each other.
Help us to hold your word in our hearts.
We ask you to bless us
in all that we are, and say, and do.
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

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