

## **Parish Profile 2021 community consultation notes 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – John Bradley**

The questions asked were:

1. What do you think the community values in its current outreach
2. What more can the church community offer to serve the wider community in Chalfont St Giles?
3. As an aspiration are there any activities which the church community does not currently undertake that the wider community would find to be helpful?

### **Summary**

There was general amazement at the width and range of activities of the church outreach shown on page 11 of the 2013 Parish Profile.

1. The comments and suggestions below are all from various community organisations or individuals.
  2. In most cases, the suggestions are directional and leave unanswered the key questions of how feasible is the achievement of the suggested direction
  3. Nevertheless, an overall and repeated view is that the church is too introspective, and that it should be looking outwards to serve the local community.
  4. There were a number of suggestions that would change and focus from inwards to outwards, as follows by section 1), 2) and 3) following the above three questions
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### **The four most frequent suggestions were:**

1. An overall and repeated view is that the church is too introspective and that it should be looking outwards to serve the local community, showing the church community to be normal people - 75% of comments
  2. Offering to collaborate with other organisations such as The All Together group serving the community during the pandemic and beyond – 50% of comments
  3. More involvement with the young people of the wider community in the village however not from an evangelistic viewpoint rather from starting where they are listening to the issues, they face – 65% of comments
  4. Becoming more widely known in the community and encouraging learning from each other is a good way of the church community being recognised for its contribution in the community – 80% of comments
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### **Section 1- What do you think the community values in its current?**

1. Current church outreach to the CSG schools is excellent
2. Opening the church building to people of all faiths and none to use the Church as a place for quiet reflection
3. Continuing support for the village schools with special services.
4. Use of the Church and Reading Room for concerts, talks and other village events
5. Mother and toddler groups
6. Pancake Café and Lent lunches

### **Section 2 - What more can the church community offer to serve the wider community in Chalfont St Giles?**

5. Provide visitor information in the Church on Sundays when the library is closed.
6. Promote the historic value of the Church as a visitor attraction
  - Get the medieval wall paintings professionally lit, as has been done at Little Missenden Church
  - Promote the stained-glass windows
7. Offering to collaborate with organisations such as The All Together group serving the community during the pandemic and beyond
8. Support any community collaboration that has been demonstrated during the panic pandemic after this is all over
9. Offer to provide volunteers for the Chalfont St Giles village show. Take a stall?

### **Section 3 - As an aspiration are there any activities which the church community does not currently undertake that the wider community would find to be helpful?**

1. Wider community application of the successful internal church weekly telephone call system "how are you getting on, is there anything you need?"
2. Reconsider whether the church should be giving 80% of its outside charitable giving away from the village and whether a more balanced and better advertised approach would be appropriate in these difficult times.
3. Consider some WhatsApp groups to include people in the wider community.
4. Wider liaison with outside non church groups. Start where people are at not where the church is. Youth club, schools, scouts & guides, pre-school play group as examples.

5. Are there better opportunities to use the church building which is by far the largest facility in the community? Chairs in the centre aisle would make for a much more flexible facility for community events
5. More involvement with the young people of the wider community in the village however not from an evangelistic viewpoint rather from starting where they are listening to the issues, they face. Show the church community to be normal people.
6. Could the Reading Room be used if there is spare capacity as a learning space for children who do not have access to electronic devices for more effective 'home learning'?
7. Make more use of the church building and Reading Room as a community resource – bringing people closer together. Unemployed, retired professionals, young people? Homework hub?
8. Work with Jordan's Meeting House and Milton's Cottage to promote visitors to the district
9. Ensure the community better understands that the church community are normal people facing the same issues as the community
10. Be a presence at all village events, spending time with people so they get to know the Church is an approachable group
11. Think of creative ways of participating in weekend rather than weekday events
12. Consider an event or events which include play, supper and homework in a conducive atmosphere.
13. Becoming more widely known in the community and encouraging learning from each other is a good way of the church community being recognised for its contribution in the community.

## **Appendix**

### **Groups/individuals consulted January 2021**

CSG Youth Club

CSG Memorial Hall

CSG Community Library

All Together Group

CSG Revitalisation Committee

CSG Scouts

CSG Schools

CSG Parish Councillors [as individuals]

CSG Road Co-ordinators Group [some individual members]

Mill Lane Community

Seer Green WhatsApp group [only by way of an excellent example to follow]

Community individuals – 5

CSG Twitter feed