

# Summary of parish/benefice planning against the Shared Priorities

Year: 2019/20

Parish/ Benefice: Morville, Bridgnorth benefice

Agreed on: 12/03/19 at: PCC Meeting. Contact name and details: Rev Preb Simon Cawdell 01746 761573



**Our mission context:** the area, people, places we serve **Now?** **Changes anticipated over the next five years?**  
*Now:* The church serves a small village in a rural area close to the market town of Bridgnorth. The population is about 400. The congregation is drawn from local residents and those from further afield who appreciate traditional services. The village C of E primary school is an academy managed through the Bishop Anthony Trust.  
*Changes:* There are plans to build a number of houses in the village although these are not expected to have a significant impact. A large residential estate (500 houses) is planned for the outskirts of Bridgnorth bordering on this parish which will possibly impact the primary school, traffic etc.

**Where we see signs of God at work locally** **Where we see growth / encouragements**  
**What we can learn / build on /develop**  
 We have been encouraged by the number of visitors to the church particularly during fund raising events, the increased number of weddings and baptisms and the links we have built with Morville School through providing a venue for end of term assemblies, plays and the Christingle event.

**Our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as we see them as a parish/benefice:**

<p><b>Strengths</b>                  Church has a beautiful location and is a historic building of interest. Services are provided on a regular basis. There is a strong bell ringing group. A free parish magazine is produced monthly and distributed by volunteers. Fund raising events bring the community and church together.</p>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b>                  The congregation is both ageing and diminishing.                  Sunday morning services are not attractive to families due to competing events such as sports.                  Many people locally find it difficult to find time to support the church or “are not interested”.</p>	<p><b>Opportunities</b>                  Increase links with the Morville school to encourage families into church.                  Capitalise on the historic features of the church which are of interest to visitors.                  Good parking                  Proximity to the National Trust’s Morville Hall which is a visitor attraction.                  New residential housing provides possibility of new church members.</p>	<p><b>Challenges</b>                  Reliance on a reducing number of volunteers to fill the church offices and to undertake fund raising.                  Competing social activities on Sunday mean there is a need for different strategies to fund the church and enable it to survive.                  Attracting new residents to join the church.</p>
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**People and Resources: Now? Anticipated?** *Think about clergy and lay ministers, parish officers, new ministries, vocations, opportunities/needs for deployment etc*  
 Currently we have a non stipendiary priest, organist, 2 acting churchwardens, treasurer, secretary and lay vice chair. Together with the bell captain and other members of the PCC these form the core team who manage the church and its activities. We would like to rotate offices although this is hard to achieve without additional members.

**Our discernment of our way forward together as a parish/benefice** **Our current vision for this parish/benefice in 5 years time**  
 We would like our congregation to grow and seek opportunities to achieve this through encouraging visitors into church and strengthen our links with Morville Primary school. We wish to maintain weekly services and consider this can be achieved in the medium term but are dependent on the good offices of our priest.

# Summary of parish/benefice planning against the Shared Priorities

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<i>Looking back - What we achieved in 2017/18</i>	<b>Action planned for 2019/20</b>	<b>Our goals and “measures of success”</b>
<b>Shared Priority 1: Growing disciples of all ages and backgrounds – spiritually and numerically</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular services held throughout the year.</li> <li>- Undertook a programme of events to celebrate the 900 year anniversary of the church which has drawn many more people into church.</li> <li>- Completed a Heritage Project (funded by HLF) which involved 20 members of the church community and supplied heritage interpretation assets.</li> <li>- Successfully continued fund raising venture providing teas in church on National Trust open days.</li> <li>- Provided input to the Team Council through our representatives</li> <li>- Presented bibles to all couples married in the church and have been baptised (thanks to Fiona Dunmore)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to hold weekly services.</li> <li>- Utilise the church for concerts and events</li> <li>- Encourage new residents of Morville to attend/visit the church through development and distribution of a handout detailing church services and community.</li> <li>- Adopt improved communication through internet.</li> <li>- Improve sharing of information to/from the other parishes in the benefice</li> <li>- Encourage baptisms and marriages.</li> <li>- Involve those who have been married/baptised in church life (eg teas in church).</li> <li>- Encourage local institutions to use Morville Church for an annual service (eg charities, health professionals).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congregation increased.</li> <li>- Church building is in regular use (eg concerts, school assemblies, events as well as services)</li> <li>- Guest musician/singer to perform in church</li> <li>- A welcome leaflet issued to new residents</li> <li>- Morville Church web site set up including details of weddings/baptisms.</li> <li>- A leaflet on baptisms issued.</li> <li>- One service held for couples who have been married in church held (eg July 22<sup>nd</sup> St Mary Magdalene Day)</li> <li>- Hold at least one service on behalf of a local institution.</li> </ul>
<b>Shared Priority 2: Serving the common good – transforming lives and communities</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued to grow our links to Morville School by providing refreshments to pupils and parents at end of term assemblies and Christmas events</li> <li>- Made donations to local and national charities</li> <li>- Involved local community with lots of hard work organising the fete, open gardens and 900 activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further encourage the school to utilise the church for events.</li> <li>- Maintain level of donations (both local and national)</li> <li>- Continue to encourage interest in the church’s’ historic features</li> <li>- Resolve ownership issue of School with the Diocese</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A monthly school assembly in the church</li> <li>- Donations increased year on year</li> <li>- Church kept open during daytime and visitors welcomed.</li> <li>- Revised trust arrangements with School formalised</li> </ul>
<b>Shared Priority 3: Sharing, developing and reimagining ministry for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have experimented with a guest musician at a teas in church event</li> <li>- Established Facebook site for the church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider options for a new approach to ministry especially at the family service with help of Terry Fellows and Max Bunn</li> <li>- Seek to increase younger generation in the congregation through a reinvigorated family service.-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting held with Bridgnorth inter-generational missionary</li> <li>- Different form of family service trialled</li> <li>- Increased proportion of young people in congregation</li> </ul>
<b>Shared Commitment: to focusing our resources – money, buildings, time, people etc - where there is greatest mission need and opportunity</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pastoral care has been undertaken in the parish</li> <li>- Financial objectives were met and parish offer paid.</li> <li>- Legacy policy and leaflet established to encourage gifts</li> <li>- Repair works on masonry and windows completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set budget for 2020 and determine parish offer</li> <li>- Undertake fund raising through providing teas in church on Morville Hall NT Open Days and other event days</li> <li>- Devise churchyard policy statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parish offer paid</li> <li>- Fund raising objectives met</li> <li>- Churchyard policy statement issued</li> </ul>