

Parish of Wilton with Netherhampton and Fugglestone



“Let us Talk”

A response to the Bishop’s invitation!

Overview:

- 1 - Summary of the process
- 2 – Personality of our parish – 3 broad themes – and in detail
- 2 – Priorities – and key areas/tasks which address these
- 3 – A goal for this year
- 4 – Identifying partners for this task
- 5 – A measure of success?

The Process

January 2013 – the PCC watched Bishop’s U-Tube introduction and, in response, considered the make up of our parish and what we wished to celebrate...

This information was collated before next meeting:

March 2013 In response to previous findings, PCC considered what our priorities should be and what concrete proposals/areas for development we could present to wider congregation(s)

A number of ideas were recorded – and 6 key ideas identified for recommendation to PCC (highlighted in large text below)

April 2013 - The results, outlined below, were considered at the APCM .

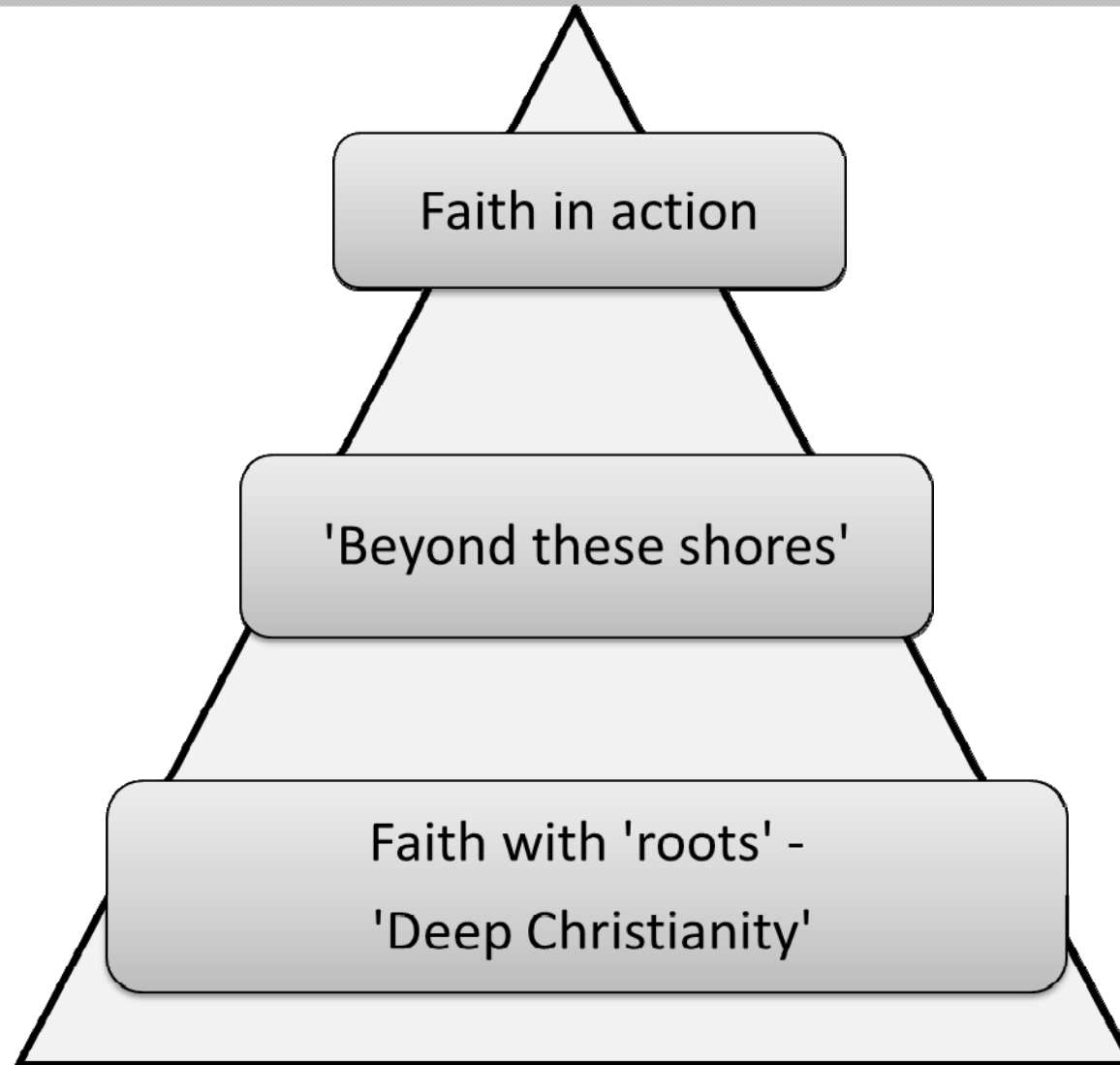
Additional ideas are recorded in red.

It was agreed that we focus on encouraging pilgrimage to Wilton, before considering the questions of who we might work with and how to measure our “success”.

Our responses to the Bishop's five questions (in purple!)

1. What is the 'Personality and Character' of your local church?

'The Personality of our Parish'



Faith with Roots

St Edith of Wilton / Wilton Abbey: Pilgrimage

Hospital of St. Giles

George Herbert

Old St. Mary's [focus for Palm Sunday/Nativity and Market Prayers]

Ancient Glass in Parish Church

Wilton Dyptich

Building and development of Parish Church [Ekaterina Woronstov / Sidney Herbert / Gertrude Martin]

Continuous Christian Worship since 9th century?

Choral tradition at Wilton

Active participation on laity in worship – breadth of Christian experience

Tradition of healing (St Giles)

Almshouses (St. John's chapel)

Beyond These Shores

Atypical Parish Church! – points to other cultures.

- Italy
- Russia
- Mosaics
- Glass/stone from various countries

Varied architectural style of churches mirrors diversity of faith

Forces' families – welcoming “back” from Cyprus, Germany, Afghanistan..

Estate/Establishment (Ancient Capital)

[literary excellence – Olivier family etc.]

Berlin pilgrimage

Foreign nationals in congregation

Visitors

Concert use of churches

Church music networks

Worship by others (Souled out/Whitton Youth Choir/Prayer Book Society/Inspired Brass...)

“Training Parish” – exporting Curates to other areas

Choir visits to Saintes ('95/'98)

Overseas Charities – SOS Children’s Villages, Sudan, other appeals

Friends’ organisations

Old Bells – signalling worship to people around

Links with travelling community

Website/Facebook

In the “shadow” of Salisbury??

Faith in Action

Open church + prayer candles

Bells – signalling worship to people around

Alabare started here...

Education – D.E.C.

Educational Trusts (3)

Aldhelm groups

Salon

Lent groups/talks

Riding for Disabled – centre for huge area..

Wylie Lodge (Christian Foundation)

Christian Aid/ charitable giving

Agriculture

Grapevine

Mothers' union

Strong Community spirit

Uniformed Youth Organisations

Community Centre organisation

School links and children's groups

Giving to Charities

Church-members involved in Community groups/charities: Day Centre, Over 60s, Stroke Club

Trussell Trust

Burnbake Trust

Charity Shops

Library

Links with Town Council – Jubilee/Mayor's Sunday/Civic Carols

Carnival

Links with local businesses/shops

“Good neighbours”:

Link scheme

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Christmas Day Lunch

Ecumenical relations: W.B.C. / W.C.F.

Varied worship to meet needs of broad range of parishioners

“Wilton Windows”

Palm Sunday/Good Fridays processions

Using talents: Art / handicraft / music / sport

Social events (quiz etc..)

Wilton Community Land Trust

2. What are the priorities of your local church?

Priorities of the local church

1 Take responsibility to pass on the baton of faith

2 To be “outward facing”

– looking beyond the boundaries of our parish

3 To play our part in making the world closer to the way God meant it to be.

PRIORITY 1:

Invite (neighbours/families)

Summer Festival (showcase what we do/believe)

Offer Variety in worship

Respond to crises

Outdoor “mission” events

Beating the Bounds

Open forum (debates)

Aldhelm Certificate - equipping ourselves

Scouts/Guides School(s)

PRIORITY 2:

Pilgrimage (to us..)

Links to businesses

Twining (USA – Wilton x 2)

Ministry to visitors

H M Forces

PRIORITY 3:

Supporting the Wilton Community Land Trust

Befriending the housebound

Developing LPA roles

Lift to church scheme

Ministry to homeless

Prayer (ministry)

Other (Church?) organisations

3. Is there one thing you would like to take on in the coming year (recognising that may mean you may need to stop doing something else)?

Primary focus for 2013/14 – to rediscover the local tradition of Pilgrimage – building on the legacy of Wilton Abbey (St. Edith). To encourage other churches and other interested individuals/groups to visit - engaging with Wilton's Christian heritage and the ongoing witness of our churches.

Secondary aim – to develop St. Peter's Fugglestone as a "heritage centre" – with dual focus of St Edith of Wilton and George Herbert... connecting with other local initiatives.

4. Are there ways in which we can work together to achieve more?

Work with:

Wilton Community Team – Heritage initiative/signposting of town routes.

“Sustainable Rural Tourism” – network of walking routes and “Gateway to AONB”

Shopping Village/Wilton House/Garden Centre – to provide “hospitality”??

DEC – pilgrimage course (Barbara Meardon) – and recent experience of Bath Abbey pilgrimage through Wilton – to Salisbury.

George Herbert organisations.

TIC + Town Council desire for information point(s)?

5. How can we best measure the quality and impact of church life?

Basic tests:

Do other people recognise the image we have of ourselves?

Who else wants to work with us?

Are we aware of the other people in our churches

- do we know what other members do – in church and elsewhere?
- do we notice when people drift away?

Positive steps – keep working on communication:

- clearly defined roles for “members”
- clear mission statement

A final thought:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Wilton, Maine, USA
has the following Mission Statement.

*TO KNOW CHRIST IN WORSHIP,
SHARE CHRIST IN COMMUNITY*

And

SERVE CHRIST AMONG THOSE NEARBY AND FAR AWAY

Is this one that we could share (with their permission!),
or can we think of something equally succinct
that sums up who we are even better?