

Parish of Burchetts Green

St Mary the Virgin, Hurley

St Mary the Virgin, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5NF

St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green

St John the Evangelist, off Bath Road A4, Littlewick, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6QN

St James the Less, Stubbings

St James the Less, Henley Road, Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berks SL66QW

Planning for the Future 2015

**Seeking to know Jesus, to share his love
and make him known in word and action**

Parish Office: The Soltau Centre, St James the Less Church, Henley Road
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Introduction The Parish of Burchetts Green comprises three attractive semi-rural 'District' churches, St Mary the Virgin, Hurley, St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green and St James the Less, Stubbings, each serving its own area. Aiming to be at the heart of our communities we offer service styles, small groups and social activities for all.

Our Vision The three Districts share an agreed vision statement, 'Seeking to know Jesus, to share his love and make him known in word and action.' We believe that the Christian Faith is relevant and vital in today's rapidly changing society. We meet together worship God and to encourage, serve and learn from one another as we endeavour to share the light of the Gospel in our communities and beyond.

Below are the identified development priorities and immediate practical goals of the combined Parish and each church together with a brief summary of the worship and activities at each church.

The Parish The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the parish as a whole and coordinates and helps facilitate the activities of the three District churches. The work of the vicar, Ministry Team (service leaders and speakers) is shared between the churches and most finance is organised centrally. One Parish Office covers the whole Parish and takes bookings for baptisms, weddings and funerals and usage of the churches/church halls. Some special church services and many activities are best organised as one across the Districts, so for example, Confirmation Groups, Parish Walks, Weekly Notice Sheets and the monthly magazine. As a Parish we support four national mission/charitable organisations, Traidcraft and the local Foodshare project.

Immediate priorities for the Parish agreed in October 2015 are:

- 1) To provide consistent quality music for our services and other events across the Parish both traditional and modern
- 2) To improve our provision for families with young children by appointing a part-time 'Family Worker or' otherwise
- 3) To identify, train and encourage new lay leaders

In furtherance of these priorities by April 2016 we will:

- 1) Appoint a 'champion' to assess our musical needs and receive, appraise and progress their initial findings
- 2) Agree a role specification for a Family Worker or equivalent and advertise initially internally and within the Deanery if finance (if necessary) is in place
- 3) Have put in place a scheme for identifying and training potential new leaders and have begun to approach an initial tranche

St Mary the Virgin, Hurley

Summary of current worship and activities: We share Holy Communion twice a month and gather monthly for an informal Family Service. The Priory Room by the church hosts 'Pebbles,' (a weekly service/playgroup for parents and pre-school children), the monthly children's group 'Explorers and Adventurers,' 'Oasis' (the parish prayer group), Cream Teas on summer afternoons, 'CAMEO,' a tea/quiz for older villagers, and a Ukulele group. Pastoral visiting is supported by Hurley Care. A free 'Breakfast in Hurley' run together with the village, gives residents an opportunity to meet together. Other events include 'Music on a Summer's Evening' (a picnic/concert in a local garden), Harvest Supper and 'Carols around the Tree.'

Our immediate priorities agreed in October 2015 are:

- 1) To communicate better in every way so the church truly serves the needs of the community
- 2) To create an organisation that runs the church well and enables fulfilment in worship and church life.
- 3) To welcome and facilitate greater participation by young people, families, newcomers and all the congregation.

In furtherance of these priorities by April 2016 we will:

- 1) Add email, social networks, databases, improved Notice Boards, and updated welcome booklet to our communication methods.
- 2) Present a completed 'user friendly' organisation model to the congregation and actively invite people to join in.
- 3) Begin a planned programme of events to appeal to and involve all ages.

St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green

Summary of current worship and activities: St John's has recently seen improvements to the building which we trust will enhance the contribution we can make to the village. The congregation gathers to celebrate Holy Communion twice a month and monthly at 4.00pm for an informal service. The District hosts two 'Discovery Groups' where members drawn from around the Parish meet and discuss aspects of the Christian Faith. Other events include quiz evenings, a summer lunch, Harvest Tea and Carol Singing

Our immediate priorities agreed in October 2015 are:

- 1) To improve awareness of the church in the village
- 2) To connect better with the local community
- 3) To participate in and better link the church with community events

In furtherance of these priorities by April 2016 we will:

- 1) Produce a 'welcome leaflet' introducing St John's and distribute it to new residents
- 2) Survey villagers asking them what they would like to see their local church doing
- 3) Hold events like the recent 'First Flush' to connect church and village, better link Christingle, Carol singing and Harvest and liaise with the village Scout Group

St James the Less, Stubbings

Summary of current worship and activities: St James values services from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. We have BCP Communion at 8:00am on Sunday (except 1st Sunday) and monthly at 11.15, at 11.30am on Wednesday, and occasional Evensong and Matins services. St James hosts the monthly 'Parish Service' (with a small Sunday School) and a monthly informal 'Family Service'. The Soltau Centre hosts the Parish Office, 'Young at Heart' lunch for older people, 'Pebbles' service/playgroup for parents and pre-school children, 'Knit and Natter' craft group and is used by many local community organisations. Other events include a summer garden lunch, a Harvest Supper, an autumn Quiz evening, the Parish Christmas Fayre, Carol singing at a local pub, a Snowdrop tea in February and afternoon teas on Saturdays in July and August.

Our immediate priorities agreed in October 2015 are:

- 1) To raise church's profile in Pinkneys Green the local community generally
- 2) To create opportunities for the younger and older congregations to meet together socially and for worship
- 3) To reach those who see Stubbings as their church and come occasionally encouraging them to participate more

In furtherance of these priorities by April 2016 we will

- 1) Create and utilize a data base 'Friends of Stubbings' to communicate services and activities
- 2) Create attractive publicity about church activities to hand out at well attended Festival services
- 3) Establish 'Pastoral Friends' to co-ordinate pastoral care of the older congregation

The PCC will be regularly updating and reviewing our progress towards meeting our priorities and goals and setting new ones and would welcome your ideas and input – please speak to the vicar or any PCC member.