

AGM Mission Report - 2014

Last year, we agreed a mission statement and this year the Church Council has been exploring ways to present it and live it out. We have been working on providing the best possible welcome and then moved on to think of ways to invite people in.

The conversations about this resulted in the Celebration of Warden Hill on 7th July. We invited all of our hall user groups to a short service, followed by an opportunity for them to show us what they do. We were completely bowled over by the number of people who came (about 180 at the service and over 200 in the halls). It was an amazing day and a very positive reminder of the goodwill that is possible between us and our community.

Since then, the Church Council has been doing some more serious homework about the local community. Nathaniel Hitchings prepared a very informative report based on the 2011 census statistics. The next step is to invite other organisations working in our area to meet together on 1st February to learn from each other. Bishop Graham Cray (Archbishops' Missioner and Team Leader of Fresh Expressions) has said that 'Every church should run through its community like Brighton through a stick of rock.' Our buildings and community focus mean that we are very well-placed to do that.

In the meantime carried on with the usual mission activities of the church, including Open the Book, Little Shepherds, our relationships with the uniformed groups, Senior Club, the community and classic films, and the other groups associated with church.

Looking ahead to 2014, the main focus will continue to be on our mission as

The Church in Warden Hill: Sharing God's Love.

We are going to focus on two key areas – children and families, and the frail elderly. The first step is to think about the children and families in our community. What are the joys and challenges of life for them? What is the good news we have to share with them as they travel through these joys and challenges? And then, in the light of those thoughts, what could or should the church be offering them? How much of that are we already doing? Does anything we are doing need a bit of tweaking? Is there anything we should stop doing? Is there more we could be doing? Who could we work with?

The Church Council are all being asked to respond to these questions. If anyone else would like to add their thoughts, I would love to hear from you.

As soon as we have gone through this exercise for children and families, we will do the same for the frail elderly.

Almighty God,

we thank you for inviting us

to share in your work.

We pray that you will open doors so that we may share your love with the world.