



— Diocese of —
Hereford

Proclaiming Christ ✦ Growing Disciples



PAST



FUTURE



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings

Local Context: Diocesan Strategic Priorities arising out of MAPping process:

SP1 – Spiritual and numerical growth.

SP2 – Serving the common good.

SP3 – new patterns of ministry.

Mission Action Planning – how we relate that to church buildings.



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings: Consultation on their role in mission

- Holy and spiritual places where local people 'expect' to encounter God. A place to worship God.
- People in the community encounter churches in a variety of ways.
- Closure – negative impact on the Christian Community – but even bigger impact on the wider community
- Important to local community: sense of place, sense of ownership and the depository of local and collective memory.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches



35% of churches in pilot area were interested in exploring 'Festival Church' status.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

- Currently developing a framework and a process to move to FC Status.
- Write it up as an addition to Crossing the Threshold Toolkit.
- Roll out across the Diocese.
- Evaluate the success of the approach after 2 years.
- Share the knowledge with others.





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It is with deep sadness I announce that we are to suspend the Sunday morning worship in our church, we will remain serving our community as a festival church, with around 6 services a year celebrating special events, which we hope the community will continue to support. This is driven by the needs and wants of the people of [redacted] in our ever busy world. This is not set in stone and morning worship will gladly be restored. Praying for normal services to be resumed as soon as possible.



Paddy Benson

July 15, 2018

Dear Kim and friends at NC,
Please see your move to being a Festival Church (that is, a church which is mainly used for the big Christian festivals) not as a way of closing the church, but as a way of keeping it open. The church is much loved by its community. Your present actions are a way of safeguarding it, so that it is available for more use when the time is right. None of us know when new housing developments etc may create an expanded population and NC will once again be needed Sunday-by-Sunday.



Generation

Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

- Festival Church status was going to be a positive and proactive decision:
 - Remain as open parish churches
 - Continue to pay parish offer
 - Continue to care for the building
 - Keep the door open



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

Enter into a new relationship with the local community: Stop and Reboot!

- Hold a community meeting, explain what the plans are – actively engage their support.
- Enter into a new covenant with the community, explaining what the parish need from them to keep the church going.
- Commit to do less in the church, do it better – but in partnership with them.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

- Work with parishes in the benefice: to avoid clashes, competition and duplication – and to gain mutual support.
- Participate in training – at benefice and deanery level when needed.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

- It will be vital for a 'Festival Church' to secure a regular, committed and healthy level of financial income
- Whilst some costs may reduce when services or events are held less frequently, on-going costs such as Parish Offer, Insurance, building maintenance, etc. still have to be met.
- It is important that existing and new relationships which arise out of the involvement and engagement of the entire community (and beyond the community) with the life and activities of a 'Festival Church' are also expressed in financial support and donor engagement.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

- Donor relationships should be formed and developed with groups such as:
 - Local church leaders and members
 - Core supporters
 - Those who attend occasional events and activities
 - Tourists and visitors
 - Family connections to the church
- Friends and family of those buried within the churchyard
- Wedding, Baptism and Funeral groups
- Former residents who've moved away
- People who receive the Parish Magazine / Village News
- Other residents



Parish Giving Scheme – A brief Introduction

- All Festival Churches should join the Parish Giving Scheme as an essential part of their local development plan for a sustainable future
- The **Parish Giving Scheme** is a national church initiative designed to serve parishes with professional donation management and Gift Aid service, generated through Direct Debit giving
- It combats the challenge of static giving by allowing donors to increase their giving in line with inflation
- The scheme claims Gift Aid (on eligible gifts) on behalf of your church

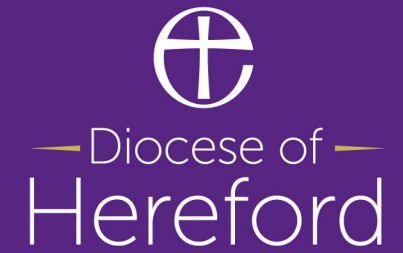


The future... is now!

- Donations made through this scheme use a Direct Debit. This can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.
- Each donation is restricted to the parish church that you choose.
- The Parish Giving Scheme is a free service to parishes.



The future... is now!



If the **Parish Giving Scheme** becomes the principal funding method for your Festival Church, you will have:

- Inflation-proofed your giving
- Maximized your cash-flow
- Minimised your administration.
- This will free up your Festival Church to focus on other aspects of its life and activities



To explore the Parish Giving Scheme further for your church please contact the Mark Simmons (Lead Parish Giving Advisor) at the Diocesan Office, Hereford mark.simmons@hereford.anglican.org

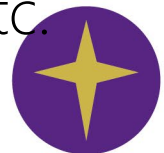


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Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

Topics for Training:

- Social media platforms
- Developing a web presence: (or using 'A Church Near You')
- Marketing and promotion.
- Tourism – how to keep the building open and welcoming and intentionally engage in tourism .
- Maintenance plans and techniques.
- Income generation through activities – contactless giving, trading, etc.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

Income Generation Ideas such as.....

- Casual Space hire
- Shops, libraries and post offices (sharing space under license)
- Food and drink
- Champing and holiday accommodation





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CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DEVELOPING YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR WIDER COMMUNITY USE AND MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL BUILDING PROJECT



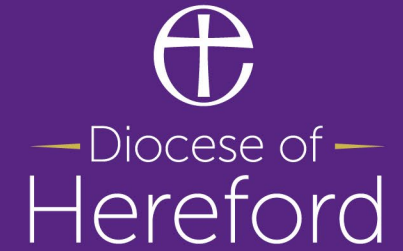
Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches

Festival Events – Be creative!

- Turn it into a social occasion as well as an act of worship – but engage community support for add-on events.
- Heritage open days, talks, lectures, tours and trails, churchyard activities, musical events, food and drink.
- Piggy back onto local events and activities – scarecrow weekend, flower festivals, open gardens.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches St Luke, Snailbeach



The Festival Church of St Luke is open daily throughout the year. The west end of the church houses a very interesting display about the life and works of the author Mary Webb, whose novels such as 'Precious Bane' and 'Gone to Earth' are set in this area.

Service are held at Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and on the patronal Festival of St Luke.

Visitors are welcome at all our services.

For more information on baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact the Rector, Revd Giles Tulk, at Stiperstonesrevgiles@gmail.com



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Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches St Luke, Snailbeach

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Mary Webb Exhibition at St Luke's Church, Snailbeach SY5 0NY

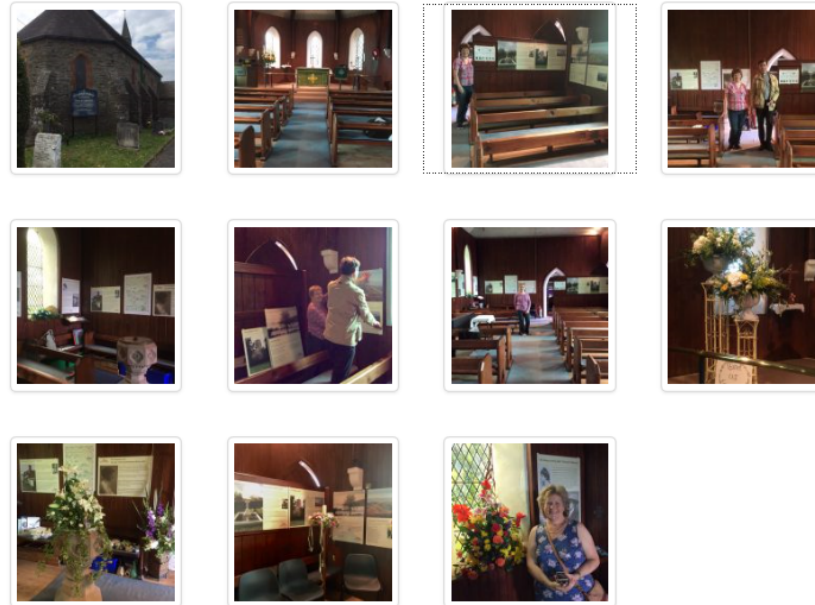
Our exhibition designed by Sue Hughes is now in place inside the beautiful St Luke's Church, Snailbeach. This Victorian church was in danger of closure, but thanks to the efforts of local vicar, Reverend Giles Tulk and the parochial church council, it has now been designated a festival church with limited services but more community use.

The Mary Webb Society became involved thanks to former chairman, Wynford Wyke and has resolved to support the church in the heart of Mary Webb country by mounting a semi-permanent exhibition. The "Treasures" exhibition, previously shown at Shrewsbury museum, Ludlow and Much Wenlock is now in place and will be available for the public to view from Saturday 8th July 2017 to coincide with the Snailbeach and Stiperstones villages annual Beach Party event. The church will then be open daily from 9.00 to 5.00pm over the next three months.

The Flower Festival in the church coincided with the Beach Party event. The beautiful arrangements were all inspired by hymns. The effect was breathtaking and the smell, divine.

Please go along and visit when you are walking in the area.

Wednesday, June 28, 2017



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches St Luke, Snailbeach



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Mission and Mortar: Keep the Building open!

Prayer Stations and Votive Candles



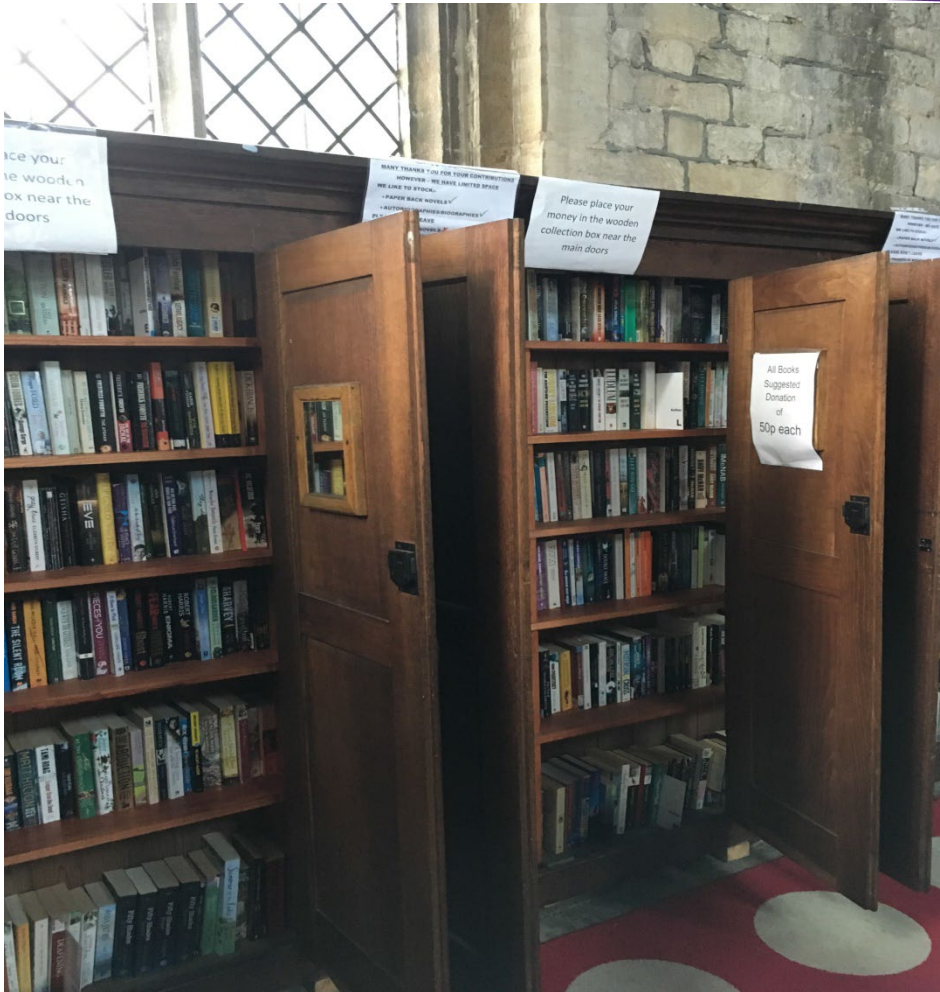
Low cost, simple intervention.



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings - some simple ideas and case studies



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- Low cost intervention.
- Draws people into the church building.
- Makes people feel welcome.
- Ability to develop other wrap-around activities.



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Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings - some simple ideas and case studies



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- Family activities
- Welcome and walkers tables
- Income generating ideas.
- Provide opportunities for contactless giving.



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Mission and Mortar:



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- Worship of God and prayer space
- Village Halls/Meeting Space
- Community Shops
- Community Café
- Post offices
- Lunch clubs
- Libraries
- Shared Space (ecumenical or community)
- Clubs and Trainings
- Arts and Music Events
- Credit Unions
- Markets and fairs.
- Pop up restaurants
- Performance space
- Soft play areas
- Messy church
- Mother and Toddler Groups
- Parish Offices
- Shared space with other organisations
- Champing and holiday accommodation.
- Housing
- Heritage Centres
- Tourist Information Centres
- Children's Centres
- Food Assemblies
- Culture and Arts events
- Clubs and Societies
- Internet cafes and digital hubs
- Visitor attractions
- Quiet spaces



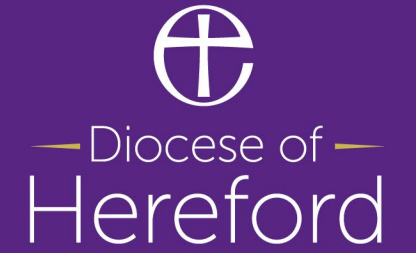
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What do we hope to achieve?

- Keep a Christian Presence in every community.
- Find new ways of engaging with community to keep the buildings open – shared energy.
- New ways of carrying out maintenance – more community support.
- Finding ways of preserving and enhancing historic church buildings in tiny rural communities.
- Increase in number of people worshipping and visiting.
- Increase in revenue for the church.
- Develop new patterns of ministry that will alleviate pressure on the clergy, strengthen lay ministry and equip them for mission.



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings



Questions



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