

## **St Andrew's Church - Vacancy Consultation**

As you know, St Andrew's Church has been without a Vicar since Revd James Reveley left in July, and the process to find a new Vicar has now begun.

- The Bishop of Bedford, the Archdeacon of Bedford and the Area Dean met with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Ministry Team to explain the recruitment process.
- The PCC elected Ian Smith, Churchwarden, and Carol Wood, Deputy Churchwarden to be our two Parish Representatives who will be the voice of St Andrew's during the recruitment process.
- The next stage is to write a Parish Profile, which will tell prospective candidates the story of St Andrew's, including what we do, who we are, what our services are like, as well as our hopes and prayers for the next chapter of our life together at St Andrew's.

The Parish Profile is the first document any prospective Vicar will look at and it will be on the Diocesan website, so it needs to be the best we can make it. A small group, based on the existing Mission Action Planning committee, is co-ordinating the process, but we need your help!

We need as many views as possible to help us write a profile that truly reflects the whole of St Andrew's community. So we're consulting lots of people; our congregation (including our children); groups connected to St Andrew's; church centre users and others local groups.

The recruitment process cannot proceed until we've written our profile, so we need your replies, please, by **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**. The PCC will be discussing the content of the profile on 20<sup>th</sup> October, and intend to agree the final draft in November.

There are different opportunities to respond to the consultation:

1. We'll be having some small group discussions, in person and on Zoom, after the Morning Service on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**.
2. Small group discussions will also be happening on Zoom at **7.45pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**.
3. Reply in writing before **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**.

**Small Groups on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October.** We'll have some face to face discussions (in groups of 6 people) in the church building and centre after the Sunday Morning service (around 11.15am). Whether or not you're booked in for the 10am service, please can you let the office know if you're intending to take part in the face to face discussions so we can make sure we've got enough spaces! Zoom coffee that Sunday will also be discussing the consultation questions. Please also let the office know if you intend to join the Zoom discussion after the service.

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 7.45pm**

We'll discuss the questions together on Zoom, with breakout rooms to ensure everyone gets a chance to contribute. The session won't last more than an hour.

### **Replying in writing**

You can also respond in writing (even if you've also joined a small group). Please email [centremanager@standrewsbedford.org](mailto:centremanager@standrewsbedford.org) or post or drop off your written response to the church centre office.

We hope very much that you will want to be part of the process of writing OUR Parish Profile.

Thank you.

## **Vacancy Consultation Questionnaire**

**I am responding for:** myself / \_\_\_\_\_

### **Question 1**

What do you value and appreciate about St Andrew's?

### **Question 2**

What are our challenges now, and in the future?

*(Please try to think more broadly than just the immediate challenges we face because of Covid-19!)*

### **Question 3**

What are your hopes for St Andrew's in the next few years?

### **Question 4**

What are the two or three important gifts and insights that the next Vicar should bring to St Andrew's?