

2. Grow in the community:

To refresh, our 5 year vision for growing in the community is:

- to be fully involved in the community - i.e. having people from the church involved in community activities at every level
- to develop our pastoral ministry and outreach such that we reverse the perception of the church as a drain on the community, and be seen as a blessing instead

We had two objectives for this past year. The first was:

- to attract new families into Messy Church and mainstream church

We planned to do this by:

- continuing to build and develop our school assembly team, and
- continuing to support the Community Café, Community Car and No Labels Worship

We are pleased to say that:

- although the school assembly team was drastically depleted last January with various people moving away, a very small yet dedicated team are managing to keep this vital outreach going. But they would be overjoyed to have more help, so please speak to one of the GAP team, PCC or Sarah if you're feeling called in this direction.

We are also pleased to say that:

- the Community Cafe continues to thrive, and is a lively hub of friendship, laughter, and of course great food and drinks. We are indebted to all the volunteers who have made this the success that it is.
- The Community car also is a great asset to our village, and this year has branched out to cover trips to Daventry as well. Again, we are indebted to the drivers and co-coordinators who give so generously of their time to keep this running.
- And finally, the relaxed ecumenical No Labels service of praise, with live band and various speakers throughout the year, is now a regular monthly fixture at All Saints', attracting between 12 and 20 people from the local area.

Our objectives for this year are:

- to continue to work towards establishing a strong school assembly team;
- to continue to promote and support Messy Church and Youth Church;
- to continue to find ways to attract new families to the congregation

Our second objective was:

- to make available a wider provision of pastoral care

We planned to do this by:

- supporting those who already care for others;
- approaching others who may be able to offer additional help, and
- trialing a pastoral 'clinic'

We are pleased to say that:

- we did trial a Monday 'drop-in' group, which ran for a fair while, until it ran its natural course, so although no longer running, it served a valuable purpose for those who came at the time

And we are extremely pleased to say that:

- by far the most significant progress we have made in improving our pastoral care this year, I'm sure you will agree, is in being blessed with Maggie, our Parish Nurse.

Maggie was commissioned last week, and is gradually being introduced to the people and community groups in our village to provide effective whole-person care.

This is a huge step forward for us as a church in this community, and will enable us to better support those caring for others, as well as to identify and train additional helpers, and provide much more holistic pastoral care - of body, mind and spirit, which is what Jesus said it was all about.

Our objective for this year is:

- to continue to develop and expand our pastoral care

We already have a quiet and dedicated band of people who are caring significantly for others in various ways; plus Maggie is now on board; and in the past few months a number of people from a variety of backgrounds and experience have offered their time and talents to help with pastoral care - from additional pastoral assistants, to nursing professionals, to those with gifts of healing.

These are all signs that God is blessing the pastoral care ministry in this place - our plan this year is to develop, nurture and co-ordinate all these resources so that together we can care for and share the love of God with the people of this parish in ways that have not been possible until now.