

3. Grow our social engagement:

To refresh, our 5 year vision for growing our social engagement is:

- to take social action in that we will, where necessary, challenge ungodly authorities and activity, and be the voice of the voiceless
- support appropriate social action initiatives (like the Food Bank)
- Support individual church members in their callings outside the church walls.

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

- make available a repository of reliable community contacts

We planned to do this by:

- finalising and completing the GAP contacts information list (you may remember that this was one of our Quick Wins that we requested help with)

We are pleased to say that:

- this has now been done and accepted by the PCC, and is available to those involved in pastoral care mainly, but is available to anyone who would like a copy, just let me know.

I would like to express my gratitude to Julie Leadbetter for helping us organise this huge amount of information into a meaningful and well structured document.

Our second objective was:

- to help reverse the perception of the church as a drain on the community

We planned to do this by:

- publicising the results and recipients of our planned charitable giving (this was another Quick Win; and
- promoting support of the Food Bank via the collection box in the church (also a Quick Win)

We are pleased to say that:

- thanks to Eloise Rolt, we published a report in the BVN about our planned charitable giving; and
- thanks to Julie Leadbetter and Peter Hobbs for their work on promoting the Food bank, there is one not only at the back of the church, but also in the village shop. And thanks to Pat Milner and Peter Hobbs for delivering the donations to the Daventry Food Bank.

Our new objective for this year is:

- to encourage people in the charities that they support outside of the church

A number of people either work for or quietly fundraise and support various different charitable causes, and we would like to encourage this by giving them the opportunity to share with us what they do

We would also like to be able to support them and their charities in prayer, and so a second action point is to consider creating a prayer cycle covering the various charities over the course of a year.

If this is something that appeals to you, please have a word with one of us - either with regard to promoting a particular charity you support, or to do with helping to create the prayer cycle.

In terms of being the voice of the voiceless, although no specific objectives were set, I'm sure many of you are aware of the substantial effort that Sarah in particular, but also a few others, have put into trying to help our couple in the caravan at the top of Ashby Road this past year and a bit. Although the situation is far from resolved, there have been glimmers of hope and transformation along the way. It is still very much a work in progress, and we would ask for your continued prayers for Dave and Leanne, as well as those working with them to try and help.