

GROWTH PLAN

Parish of East Harling

Incumbent:

Other clergy: Lynn Fry, Varlie Sheldrake

Readers: George Sharpe

Completed in: April 2010

IN DISCIPLESHIP

How do we enable the people of Christ to fulfil their part in God's mission; teaching, baptising and nurturing believers?

What are the good things we are already doing?

We have a team which oversees nurture and youthwork in the parish. We have a good team who help out with our youth work. We have 12 teenagers coming to our midweek youth group. About 6 of these come regularly to troads our Sunday morning work for teenagers. We have around 8 children coming to Sunday Club, for 3 to 11 year olds.

We have good regular attendance at our regular choral communion. The choir has healthy numbers and their ministry is valued during worship and weddings and funerals. We have recently appointed a new musical director who has brought new energy and vision to the church.

We have 3 home groups - 2 for Bible Study and fellowship, 1 for meditation.

We have a Mothers Union branch meeting monthly.

We arrange outings to Christian events outside of the parish. A team provides a variety of social events through the year. We have a monthly coffee morning which brings us together as a community and acts as a good outreach.

Every family is visited and prepared prior to baptism. Baptism is offered during normal worship and at specific services. Every wedding couple is met for preparation.

We have a team of people who help with readings, leading prayers and assisting at communion.

What else is God wanting for us?

Encourage and equip our young peoples leaders.

To reconsider our All Age worship.

Find ways of engaging parents of children in our youth groups.

Support older members of the congregation.

What can we do this year?

Visit and find out what other churches are doing for all age worship.
Build on the Messy Church services we have already held.

IN SERVICE

How best can we respond to human need by loving service? How do we safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth? How should we seek to transform the unjust structures of society?

What are the good things we are already doing?

We hold an after school club in the primary school for 5 sessions each term.

Our churchyard is beautifully cared for.

We are a fair trade church.

We light the church tower with low energy bulbs. The tower lighting can be sponsored to remember special dates in the community - birthdays, anniversaries, etc and these are printed in our monthly magazine.

We produce a monthly community magazine which is delivered free to every home in the benefice.

We regularly hold events and collections for charity - both local and international.

We have a dedicated team of bellringers who ring every Sunday and for weddings and special anniversaries.

The church is open and staffed every day during the summer.

Our young people are involved in fundraising and discussing issues related to justice and poverty.

Once a year we hold a service to remember those who have died and to pray for their families.

What else is God wanting for us?

Encourage a wider vision - less concerned about our own needs and wants.

To be more outward in our thinking - not always thinking of those already 'in'.

What can we do this year?

Identify members of congregation to help with visiting follow up baptism and weddings, sick and housebound.

Consider any community projects that we can get involved in.

IN NUMBERS

How are we proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom?

What are the good things we are already doing?

Preaching follows the Lectionary and encourages members to consider their own lives in the light of Christian teaching.

We are a broad church and try to consider the needs of all our congregation.

Soul Café is an informal service to encourage seekers.

We have a monthly all age communion.

We encourage our young people and new older members of the congregation to think about preparing for confirmation.

Clergy visit the local care home and take communion to the housebound.

A house communion service is held once a month for those unable to attend services in church.

What else is God wanting for us?

Look again at the information for visitors about our church.

Consider whether all age and Soul Café meet the needs of those we are trying to attract.

Are we a church that has something to celebrate? If so, how do we communicate it?

What can we do this year ?

Develop welcome information for visitors and newcomers in the church.

Look again at format of Soul Café and All Age.