

## **RECTOR'S COMMENTS**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY'S BLETOSE 26 April 2017**

**Living God's Love. Transforming Communities. Making New Disciples.**

Five years ago we prayerfully prepared for our first Mission Action Plan and set some goals. God has graciously answered prayers and there has been fruit from much hard work, practical service, new initiatives and some wonderful events. Some people have come to faith and some have grown in faith.

### **Where are we now?**

How would you put our mission in a short statement? (At Riseley it is 'To Know Christ and Make Him Known')

I want to recommend that with thoughts from as many as possible, the PCC decides on a mission statement. And then our Mission Action Plan will be our whole church response to that statement, it's a process that may take several months. The goal is for completion in 2017.

Yes, we already do a lot and many people are involved in different ways but we should always be open to God refreshing our vision in a way that is **inspiring , focussed, tangible and engages all his people.**

**So some key questions for us to ask as a fellow ship and as individuals.**

How can we better use ALL our people?

How can we better use ALL buildings and homes?

How can we better use ALL resources of time and money?

'That we might be for the praise of his glory' *Ephesians 1:12*

**Some key areas as we think and pray about the challenge God has given us.**

### **Discipleship**

'Rooted and built up in him' *Colossians 2:7*

What are the chief ways we are fed by God's word?

How are we responding to the Word of God? In worship? In pastoral care?

What is your vision of being fed by the Word of God through Home Groups?

Are there any other ways you would value learning from being taught God's word?

### **Service**

How can we ensure that our God-given talents are continuing to be properly utilised?

Our circumstances, age and experience might have changed.

So have our opportunities changed too, and how have we responded?

Do we have opportunities to discuss our gifts, calling and service with others?

Are we noticing and taking these opportunities?

Would you like a questionnaire, a conversation, a training session. A training course...?

### **Outreach**

The risen Jesus said; 'Do not hold on to me. Go instead to my brothers and tell them...' Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' *John 20: 17-18*

How can all of us be involved in sharing the Gospel with others we are in contact with, in ways that we feel personally comfortable and equipped to do?

The first step is to be sure we are looking to God.

*Rev Martin Bailey*