

**THE PARISH OF**  
**ST. JOHN BAPTIST, BROUGHTON**

Charity Number: 1134595

*Jesus said, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." John 15.16*

*We seek to make Jesus known in our community, through our joyful, loving service and worship*

**Parish Review 2018**

**Summary Report**

**Canon Andrea Titterington, Steering Group Chairman**

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Due to the volume of information generated by the Parish Review, a decision was made to publish this Summary report in paper copies.**

**The five Sub-Group Reports, together with supplementary documents, are available on the parish website from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.**

**Website: [www.broughtonparish.org.uk](http://www.broughtonparish.org.uk)**

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**Introduction**

I begin by thanking Fr. Shaun Baldwin, Rachael Ainsworth, Brendan Hurley, Chris Kerry and Rev. Rie Walker for chairing the five sub-groups for the Parish Review. These formed a Review Steering Group. I also want to thank sub-group members for their input and Vicki Thornley for producing the monthly updates for the parish during July, August and September. The Steering Group met every 6 weeks, but their sub-groups met more frequently – defining their topic, discussing the scope of their remit and formulating questions for the parish questionnaire and analysing the results.

We had invaluable help from Mo Baldwin on structuring the questionnaire and getting it on-line via SurveyMonkey. The questionnaire was made available to the parish between 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May and a total of 174 replies were entered onto SurveyMonkey for the purposes of analysis. Each sub-group used the results to take forward their deliberations and make their recommendations. Mo also assisted the Worship Sub-group by conducting in-depth interviews with the Ministry Team.

The review group also examined how we can fulfil the Diocesan Vision 2026 to be “a healthy church, transforming communities.” New research by the British Attitudes Survey has shown the

challenges we face for the future: “The Church of England is facing a generational catastrophe with only 2% of young adults identifying with it, while seven out of 10 under-24s say they have no religion.... Younger people are significantly less likely to identify with the C of E than older age groups, and evidence suggests that people rarely join organised religion in later life.”  
For more detail go to: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/07/church-in-crisis-as-only-2-of-young-adults-identify-as-c-of-e>

This is a challenging, exciting and important time for the parish. We hope that more parishioners will be willing to play their part in realising the ultimate recommendations. Without that support the PCC can make all of the recommendations it wants, but nothing will happen. This Review has implications for the resources of the parish: human and financial. Not all aspirations can be realised at once. The way forward will require the PCC to prioritise actions in the light of these resources and on-going prayer, and the recommendations of the Review will underpin a **Mission Action Plan (MAP)**.

A MAP outlines the mission activities that a local church is going to do in the coming months and years. It is built on a clear sense of God’s ‘vision’ for the church - what people believe God is calling the church to be and to do. So a MAP provides exactly what it says on the tin - a strategic action plan for mission.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Why did we do the Review?**

At the PCC Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Fr. Shaun spoke of our changing Parish Profile with its increasing population and our commitment to making our Parish Vision a reality. As Trustees of the Parish we have a need to look at *who we are*, *what we have* and *how we go forward*. The PCC gave unanimous support Fr. Shaun’s proposed 360 degree review in the context of the Diocesan Vision 2026 for “healthy churches transforming communities” and the resources, human and financial, that are required. All of the areas examined by the sub-groups are interwoven, underpinned by prayer, discipleship and witness. How do we enthuse people for Christ within our church community and our neighbours by our faith and actions? What do we offer our current parishioners? Are we a “consumer parish” where we do things well enough on Sundays, but do not feed our personal spirituality? Do we have a ministry characterised by outreach and invitation? What is needed to build upon the traditions and strengths that make us distinct as a parish?

This Review is a beginning. It is a snapshot in time. It gives us an evidence base to enable the development of our MAP, including the strategies and practical actions to be developed by the PCC with wider participation from parishioners, in collaboration with Ingol St. Margaret’s and other parishes in the Deanery. As we move forward together we will have the parish’s mission to guide us through prayer and a spirit of cooperation. In this way we can truly be Christ’s body in Broughton and Fulwood, loving God and serving our neighbours.

### **What did we discover?**

Each sub-group defined its brief, analysed the responses to the parish questionnaire relevant to its topic and has made recommendations related to its area of concentration and also interrelated areas. Full reports of their deliberations and recommendations were included in the material circulated to the PCC before their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

There is a wealth of recommendations emanating from the Review. It is obvious that we will not be able to implement all of them in the short or medium term. Some recommendations require immediate action due to resource constraints. Others require additional funding streams. Priorities will emerge through the subsequent work on strategies and plans, culminating in the MAP.

### **The Steering Group's Summary of the Sub Groups' Findings**

- Recognition that worship patterns at all three worship centres need to be reviewed in depth, with changes implemented in the New Year.
- Seek lay leaders for participation in leading worship, and foster vocations to ordained ministry.
- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy to address:
  - The need to refresh *Outlook*;
  - The need to update the parish website, reinstate the dormant Facebook account, create a *Parish App*;
  - The need to pursue a more rigorous outreach to the new housing estates in our parish;
  - The need to publicize more extensively parish events and services through notices/flyers in local shops and features in local press/magazines, especially Choral Evensong;
  - The need to renovate and frequently update notice boards at all three worship centres.
- Develop the outreach ministry of the choir based upon their positive contribution to worship and ministry.
- Marry any new services with a variety of music styles where appropriate, in collaboration with the vicar, ministry team and parish music leaders.
- Develop the existing mixed choir at St. Martin's.
- Undertake work to establish a parish music group.
- Establish an *Outreach Activity Planning Group* to build upon the extensive work undertaken by the Community Outreach Sub-group.
- Explore ways of employing a "Youth Worker," "Community Outreach Volunteer Co-ordinator" or "Pioneer Minister" to fill the gap in provision for the young people in our parish, whether independently or working with the local high school or Diocese part-funding a chaplain.
- Improve parish facilities in order to fulfil missional and community service aspirations expressed in the parish questionnaire, e.g. luncheon clubs for older people, youth activities, bible study etc.
- Develop ministry to men across all age groups and activities such as "Dads and Lads."

Each sub-group report contains findings based upon research, discussion, experience, the parish questionnaire responses and prayerful consideration of our vision and mission. These recommendations will provide the foundation for further work by the PCC in 2019 to formulate our parish Mission Action Plan.

**A full list of the five sub-groups' recommendations  
is contained in their reports that are available on the parish website**