

St Andrew's, St Peter's and St Thomas's

Reflections in advance of the preparation of the 'parish profile'



We expect to advertise for a new incumbent/priest in charge for St Andrew's and St Peter's / St Thomas's in the spring of 2022. The preparation of a 'parish profile' will be part of our preliminary work so that candidates for this post may be fully informed about how the members of the churches view their present situations, their potential and their prospects.

The responses to this questionnaire will be of great assistance to those who will put together that profile, and your help in setting out your own reflections in answer to the questions below would be greatly appreciated. Please share your thinking so that the eventual document may give an accurate report of where we are and where we might, under the new incumbent's leadership, hope to be in our lives as Christian communities.

- The distinctiveness and diversity of our three churches is, we believe, to be valued as a source of strength and vitality, something that this questionnaire is intended to recognize, so would you please indicate which of the three churches is the one in which you mainly worship?

St Andrew's

St Peter's

St Thomas's

- Covid-19 has made necessary some unusual adjustments in the lives of our churches, but the questionnaire is intended to ignore these almost entirely. What we need is your snapshot of life and opinion in normal times.
- When you have completed the questionnaire, please sign and return it before the end of October either by hand to Joan Mitchell at St Andrew's or the wardens at St Peter's / St Thomas's, or by post to the wardens at St Peter's Church, St Peter Street, Tiverton EX16 6NU, or as an email attachment to office@stpeterstiverton.org.uk.
- Finally, the members of the interregnum working group would like to thank you for your help with this exercise, help which will enable us all to think about the wellbeing of the Christian churches that we love and cherish, and also (we hope) go on to help the new incumbent to sense realistically the possible direction of our future travel together.

Question 1. Please say how you see yourself in relation to your church:

- (i) As a 'regular' worshipper Yes No
- (ii) An 'occasional' worshipper Yes No
- (iii) 'Not usually attending' at worship Yes No
- (iv) Would attend more if personal circumstances allowed Yes No
- (v) As someone who shares in the zoom/phone service Yes No

Question 2. Please name three aspects of life at your church which reflect its main strengths.

- (i)
- (ii)
- (ii)

Question 3. Any group or organisation has weaknesses. What do you see as weaknesses of your church?

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)

How might these be remedied?

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Question 4. Do you have any comment on the style and content of worship at your church?

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Question 5. Each Christian church is set within a social context and within a human community which it is called to serve. Are there any ways in which the Christian contribution and influence of your church could be more effective in its social setting?

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Question 6. Any group or organisation has opportunities (some of which are seized and some perhaps not). What do you see as opportunities which might be seized, or seized more effectively, by your church?

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)

Question 7. What gifts and qualities do you think it will be most important for the new incumbent to possess?

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Question 8. Whatever choices may be made for the future of each church, it is clear that there will be much to do, and we shall not be able to leave it all to the new incumbent. Are there particular skills and experience which you may feel able to offer?

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Question 9. Please conclude by sharing your own thoughts about a vision for the future of the three churches.

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In conclusion, please sign below:

Thank you very much for your help in answering these questions.

Please remember the deadline for returning this questionnaire:
31 October 2021