

# Revitalising REDDITCH



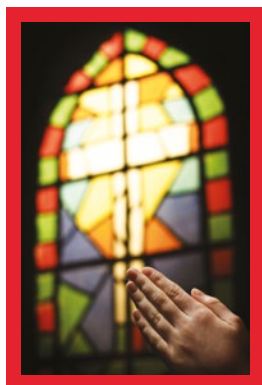
Kingdom People

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Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery

***A proposed new mission area partnership for the churches of Redditch and the surrounding villages.***

***"Like cold waters to a thirsty soul."*** Proverbs 25:25



By working more together we are seeking to discern what God has for His Church here in the Greater Redditch Area. We pray this will release fresh ideas, a pioneering spirit, and a passion in the churches of our area.

During the consultation period it has been encouraging to encounter a sense of hope and of looking forward to what God has for us; individually, as churches and more widely as His church. We sense that what we are seeking to do is inspired by the Spirit of God and that the churches are broadly in favour of seeking how we bless local missional identity and ministry AND work collaboratively across the wider Redditch area.

## But first what we've done to get here?

Clergy, lay leaders, DCCs and PCCs have engaged with an intense consultation period. This involved external facilitation support from Retired Archdeacon Andy Piggott and support from Archdeacon Nikki Groarke, Area Dean Paul Lawlor and Deanery Lay Chair Kashmir Garton. This concluded with open forum meetings on Zoom and in-person attended by around 100 people.

## Consultation

We estimate that the consultation process involved over 400 people hours of work to assess where we are at present and seek to discern where God is leading us.

## The Outcome

The outcome of the consultation process was particularly clear when those attending the 2 open meetings were asked to indicate whether they were supportive or not happy with the outline proposals. With 70% of people who expressed an opinion being overwhelmingly in favour of and excited about the proposal; giving us a clear mandate to move forward.



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## Emerging proposal

### A Mission Area

We are currently looking to create a Mission Area that will allow the churches of Redditch to work together, enabling us to better serve the greater Redditch community with local churches growing in health and sustainability. We pray that each local church can discover its vocation afresh. We pray that the churches of the Mission Area will grow as a rich and diverse range of traditions with strong local identity of missional purpose and also sharing people and financial resources; working together collaboratively.

### Healthy and Efficient

In all of this we are not simply seeking to be more efficient, save money or make scarce resources stretch further. We are seeking to enable churches to be more effective in being the church God is calling us to be. Healthy churches will grow in number and depth of faith in Jesus. Healthy churches will be bolder in reaching out with God's love, in making new disciples and in serving their community.

### Specialisation and Focus

Further, it will enable clergy to specialise in ways that make best use of their gifts, overseeing and supporting ministry across the mission area, whilst still having special responsibility for one or more churches and facilitating a 'mixed ecology' of congregations, with at least one new congregation forming for young adults and their families in St Stephen's, and other Fresh Expressions in due course.

### Christ Centred and Equipped

As we seek to revitalise our churches and the wider community of Redditch we need to remember that "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19.26) and that God will equip His Church.

## Next Steps?

The next step is to build a team of people to press into the detailed planning and implementation needed to make this happen. We are looking for practical skills in administration, communications, planning and project management. Beyond that, people who are passionate about the mission of God in the world and long to see His Church blessing the community and drawing people to Himself. We need a group of people leading the mission area who are passionate about growing churches which grow disciples, in number and depth.

As we work and pray into this, we will be seeking to provide more information about the direction we are going. These are exciting and challenging times so please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us and empower us.



### Keeping in touch

If you have questions or comments, please do contact us

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