

*Radiating God's love: transforming lives and communities*

## Serving our local community

### We celebrate:

- 'Let's Get Messy' over summer holidays 2015 and 2016 built relationships with families, especially in the Brambleton area.
- Thriving Boxing Club at Brambleton
- Youth and children's outreach: Messy Church, Buzz, R&R
- Supporting Farnham Help for Refugees with premises and volunteers
- Coffee mornings and home visits to the housebound

### We plan to:

- Continue with the above
- Renovate Brambleton Hall as a centre for community outreach
  - Communicate with local community about plans and needs
  - Pursue planning application and other negotiations with the local authority
  - Continue a fund-raising programme through the churches
  - Apply for community grants
  - Plan and implement building programme for 2017
- Pray for discernment of appropriate opportunities



Parish of The Bourne

## Vision Update 2016

In 2014 we began the process of identifying and pursuing our parish vision. Each year we have updated our action plan with those aspects of parish life on which we particularly choose to focus in order to further the vision of 'radiating God's love'. And a great deal has been achieved!

Inside this booklet you will see a brief summary of things to celebrate and actions for the future. More detailed information of the action plan can be found on the website: <http://www.thebourne.org.uk/our-vision>

Underlying our parish vision is a vision of a God who loves, inspires, empowers and transforms us. To make any difference to the world around us we each need to be first and foremost disciples of Christ. That's a journey we make at different speeds, at different times of our lives, but there is always encouragement, stimulation, and challenge to be had by meeting together for worship and sharing of our lives and our stories. That's what being Church is about: companions on the journey, or using St Paul's image, the Body of Christ.

Being rooted in God, strengthened by our fellowship, we are compelled by the love of God to transform lives and communities around us, through loving service of our neighbour. This year our particular focus is on the development of Brambleton Hall, to make it a really useful community hub from which many life-transforming activities can be carried out. However, that doesn't exclude the very many activities that are already going on, and we continue to hold those in prayer.

If there is any particular aspect of church life that you would like to get more involved with, please do speak to the clergy or churchwardens, who will be delighted to link you up with the appropriate person or group.

## **Growing as disciples**

### **We celebrate:**

- Involving more people in leadership and ministry
- Development of St Martin's ministry team, with a greater sense of purpose and engagement
- *Pilgrim* courses:
  - The Eucharist (Nov 2015) - 16 participants
  - The Beatitudes (Lent 2016) - 77 participants across 7 groups
- Faith pictures course enjoyed by 18 people in April/May 2016
- Two year-round Bible study groups continue
- 'Exploring the Vision' workshops enjoyed by 45 people
- Hosting *The Devil's Passion* in Holy Week 2016
- Use of Facebook page for online study groups
- A growing awareness of our need to depend on God and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit

### **We plan to:**

- Listen to God and develop our discipleship
- Build opportunities for prayer and individual engagement with Scripture into regular services and parish life
- Offer a study course on mission and the environment
- Consider the formation of a Prayer Ministry Team
- Offer the Faith Pictures course on at least an annual basis in addition to Lent and other study groups
- Follow the October 2016 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with teaching and prayer

## **Being a welcoming, faith-sharing Church**

### **We celebrate:**

- Having an increased awareness of being part of God's family, and looking out for each other
- Welcome Team established at St Thomas' and working well
- After-service coffee and pre-evensong teas well attended
- Informal suppers held termly for new members
- Becoming more family friendly and accessible
- Launching of *gather@4*, an all-age congregation with average attendance of 22.
- New volunteers joining working groups and task teams
- New website and Facebook page
- Thriving choirs involving more children and their families

### **We plan to:**

- Continue informal welcome suppers on a termly basis.
- Plan for the continuation of *gather@4*
- Invest in a nave altar for St Martin's for occasional celebration of the Eucharist in a more inclusive setting
- Meet for prayer for parish outreach on a fortnightly basis
- Offer opportunities to meet in small groups immediately after some Sunday services
- Encourage sharing of faith in Sunday congregations and through Faith Pictures course