

**The Team Parish of Elstree and Borehamwood**  
**'Four Churches, One Vision' Parish Morning**

**GROUP DISCUSSIONS WRITE UP**

**'WHAT DO YOU SEE?' (Amos 7.8)**

**What do you see about Parish life that is Hopeful, Encouraging? Life-affirming?**

- Churches growing
- Younger disciples
- Christianity growing in the town
- 3 new Lay leaders of Worship plus our existing 2 which equals 5
- New faces at church
- People returning to church
- New people want to get involved
- Those who organise the rotas should put new people on
- Welcoming
- Wednesday Lunch prayers
- Morning prayer twice a week

**What do you see about Parish life that is Discouraging, Brings us down, Holds us back?**

- Lack of applications from Clergy to become our new Team Rector
- When you put things on for the whole Parish, the support is not always there. People don't always come.
- The same people do the same everything.
- St Michael's Hall needs a face lift
- Still waiting to hear back from Diocesan speaker at Deanery Synod who supports churches in marketing, publicity, income-generation.
- We are having a hard time paying our Parish Share.
- There are 13 clergy (10 in post and 3 vacancies) and 17 churches in our Deanery of which our Team Vicar is helping look after 4
- Can we borrow a Curate?!

**'WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN THE HOUSE?' (2 Kings 4.1-7)**

**In What Ways are Our Churches a Providential Gift of GOD to the People of Elstree and Borehamwood? How are Our Churches A Blessing to Those Who Live and Work Here?**

- All 4 churches are in a good location, great access for people
- Everyone in the town can more or less walk to a church near where they live
- Our churches are on bus routes
- We have parking or parking arrangements
- We offer weddings, funerals, christenings
- We do memorial Services which attract mostly people who don't come to church
- We support care homes, the Mead
- We offer winter Warm Spaces with free hot meals
- Welcome Café
- All 4 churches have community space
- Legacy of prayer for the town over the years
- Church members volunteer in the foodbanks etc.

- Spiritual guidance
- Sanctuary, welcoming
- Inclusive of all people
- Safe space
- Harvest giving goes to foodbanks
- Charitable giving local, national, internationally
- All Saints is the Civic Church – Remembrance Service, base for the Elstree Mozart Players and Borehamwood Brass, flower festival etc.
- Christian teaching
- Regular worship in all churches every Sunday
- Lent lunches
- Schools Ministry
- Welfare
- We offer help and support
- Community hub

### **How Do We Help and Support Each Other Across the Parish?**

- Parish Fairs raising funds for our Parish Share
- Together the Lay Leaders of Worship support and minister across the whole Parish
- Volunteers from the other churches and wider community help with St Michael's Hot Meals
- Being there for each other
- Praying for all the churches
- Share Orders of service and lend hymn books
- Vergers help when there's a big service such as funeral in a different church
- Financially support each other
- St Nicholas organises a Singing Group for the 9 Lessons and Carols
- Holy Cross organises a Singing Group for the Good Friday Walk of Witness
- Is there a Parish Choir?
- Help with transport

### **What More Might We Do to Encourage and Help Each Other In Mission?**

- Help All Saints Church open up church more often. Needs volunteers from across the Parish
- Help Holy Cross or All Saints do a Pet Service. Needs help (and pets!) from across the Parish.
- Help Holy Cross put 'Church Near You' postcards through the doors in their District. Needs helpers to distribute.
- Help St Michael's put Warm Spaces flyers in GP surgeries etc. around town. Needs more volunteers.
- Use pewsheets to make sure things decided by the PCC are put on and everyone knows. For example, putting St Nicholas Churchyard Clean-up on the pewsheets got 2 volunteers from St Michael's to come along to help. The Websites are now working really well.
- Send the pewsheets to everyone who has email, so if they still get it even if they're not there.
- Announce what's in pewsheets in the notices at end of service, it helps people to remember
- **Call in the Infantry! Develop a 'fighting force' mentality – if you were asked to help one of our other 4 churches, apart from your own, would you do it???**