

Mindful of what is possible at present, with the restrictions due to the Pandemic but also allowing ourselves to dream for the journey ahead, we need to reflect on what we are doing and also ask ourselves what we can do, as a Church Community, in order to serve and bear witness locally and globally? How are we presently co-operating together as Parish Communities and what needs to be developed as we move forward?

How do we keep in touch and reach out to the vulnerable in our midst?

How do we use our resources – in terms of our buildings, as well as our finances, for mission?

5. Since there is a vacant Presbytery at Chapel, do you have any suggestions as to how this might be used?

Timeline

Responses to the reflections to be returned to the Sisters by 6 November.

Meetings with the Parish Councils and Fr Gerry are planned for week beginning 23 November - either face to face or through Zoom, to give feedback.

This will be followed by a report back to the Parish by 4 December.

We thank you for your participation in this process. A separate sheet is given for your responses. Please feel free to respond to as many of the questions as you wish. You may wish to remain anonymous although it would be helpful to know which parish community you belong to. If you are willing to help practically it would be helpful if you could also give your name.

We look forward to meeting with you at some stage and we wish you all every blessing as you embark on your journey together.

Srs Mary Deane and Susan Richert PBVM

~ Buxton and Chapel ~

Our hopes for the Journey Together

Last month, we embarked on a new journey of bringing together two faith communities; St Anne's Buxton and St John Fisher and St Thomas More, Chapel. As with any new relationship, it takes time to get to know each other. Any change involves a letting go and is also an opportunity for something new to emerge. The fact that this journey is happening alongside all the disruptions we have and are experiencing due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, is also a reminder that life has changed for us all in so many different

ways. It is in this context that Pope Francis, in his recent encyclical Fratelli Tutti, emphasises the importance of fraternity between all men and women and social friendship.

No one can face life in isolation...We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together.... Let us dream then as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth, which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers, and sisters all.



(Fratelli Tutti Par. 12)

As we start out on this new journey as a community of faith, we invite you to engage in a process of reflection and sharing with us. A process that builds on the three spiritual foundations given to us by Bishop Patrick:

Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship.

We hope this will also be an opportunity to dream together, to hear the richness of each other's stories and wisdom as we keep our focus on the journey ahead. We had hoped to be able to meet with you face to face, but due to the current restrictions that is not possible. We offer the following reflections/questions and invite a written response from you. We will gather your responses and engage with the Pastoral Council in each Parish Community and with Fr Gerry in order to help make plans and decisions that enable us to travel on this journey together and build communion.

Encounter

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed

personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. Pope Francis - Evangelii Gaudium Par. 3

An encounter with Jesus is an experience of meeting the living Christ through an event, a person, a prayer, or another circumstance where Jesus reveals his presence. As a Parish Community, the main way we encounter Jesus is through the Word and the Sacraments, particularly when we participate in the celebration of the Eucharist or Mass.

Due to the coming together of the Parish Communities, Mass times have changed in order for Fr Gerry to be able to serve both Churches in a way that is sustainable.

1. Do you have any comments about the changes? Have you any other suggestions moving forward?
2. As we look to build relationships with each other both within and between the Parish Communities, do you have any suggestions for the future?

3. As each Community has a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), is there need for a joint PPC or alternatively a forum where representatives from each PPC come together? We welcome your ideas in relation to this.



Discipleship

..a disciple is someone who wishes not only to grow in their relationship with Christ, but also to be used by Christ as a way in which his/her love, care, compassion, healing, blessing and forgiveness can be shared with others." (Bishop Patrick McKinney)

Each of us are called to Discipleship in many different ways. Each of us have particular skills/talents or experiences that could also benefit the Parish Community or the wider community. You may have the gift of time. You may have administrative skills that could be used. Are you open to befriending/ visiting or welcoming people; to serving as a Eucharistic Minister, a Reader, a Catechist? You may also be able to offer intentional times of prayer for the needs of the parish and the world.

4. In light of the new journey, and the current pandemic, is there any practical help that you can offer to the Parish Community?

Missionary Discipleship

The church has a public role over and above her charitable and educational activities. She works for the advancement of humanity

and of universal fraternity.... we want to be a Church that serves, that leaves home and goes forth from its places of worship, goes forth from its sacristies, in order to accompany life, to sustain hope, to be a sign of unity...to build bridges, to break down walls, to sow seeds of reconciliation.

(Fratelli Tutti - Par. 276)