

## **ST CHAD'S SHREWSBURY**

**Open doors, open hearts, open minds**



### **CHURCH AND PARISH MISSION AUDIT**

#### **Listening to Your Views**

You will have read in the first Building and Beyond Bulletin that I have been asked by the Development Team to undertake a Church and Parish Audit. The Bulletin describes the purpose and extent of the Audit. This letter is designed to describe in more detail the rationale for the Audit, the planning involved and ways in which the congregation can play a part in this vitally important development for St Chad's.

All of those charged with leading our church into the 21<sup>st</sup> century are determined that St Chad's should be a 'seven day a week church, daily serving the community through its worship of God and fulfilling its breadth of mission as the Civic Church'. As the Civic Church, St Chad's will play an influential role in the social, cultural and business life of Shrewsbury and the wider community.

However, we have little hard evidence as to where, early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the role and the energies of the Church should be directed. The principal purpose of the audit is to measure the current impact and influence of the Church and to accurately identify what initiatives and developments would be of value in determining the wider mission of St Chad's. The key tasks for those undertaking and supporting the audit are to LISTEN and to make a considered response. In seeking out the views of the congregation, residents and the civic and business community it is envisaged that the Church will be better placed to serve the community and put into practice its mission and future action with clarity and purpose.

Planning has begun for the first stage of the Audit. Nine key headings have been identified:

- ❖ Worship and Ministry
- ❖ Mission and Outreach
- ❖ Pastoral care
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Cultural Life of the Church

- ❖ Fabric
- ❖ Income Generation and Business Development
- ❖ Management
- ❖ Administration

Meetings will be held with the key people, groups and providers in each of these areas. These initial meetings and conversations will inevitably prompt other lines of enquiry and the need to look at relevant documents and statistics.

In addition, surveying members of the congregation will be an overarching task for the audit.

Even at this early stage it is clear that this is a task which cannot be undertaken lightly and which will require the committed support of a group of volunteers. Chris Walker has already given me some points of contact and the names of members of the congregation whom it may be profitable for me to contact.

If you would like to be involved do get in contact with me. My e-mail address is [PNPlayfair@aol.com](mailto:PNPlayfair@aol.com); my telephone numbers are 01952 840469 and 07770 422966; and my address is Lambourn Cottage, Childs Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2DG.

I envisage that Stage 1 of the audit will be completed by spring 2011. The second, and more demanding stage, is to extend our enquiry and audit into the parish and wider community.

In conclusion, I have already received enormous and enthusiastic support from members of the Project Management Group and the PCC and I trust that this letter will prompt support from all parts of the congregation. I can assure those who volunteer that there will be a range of tasks to be filled and that the first stage of the process will give us plenty of insight as to what will be required of us in the second stage of the audit.

May I ask you to pray for the success of this important undertaking.

With very best wishes.

***Patrick N Playfair***

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1 December 2010