

HODNET NEWS

APCM Date

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held at St Luke's Hodnet at 7pm on Monday, 14th April.

The Archdeacon's Visitation will be on May 15th at 7pm at the Robert Adam School in Wem.

We will have a opportunity to discuss our progress on each of the Bishop's Mission Priorities. Please come to the Visitation if you can.

To All Clergy, Church Wardens and PCC Secretaries in the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area

Altogether Now! Called into one body and working together

13th March 2014

Dear Colleagues,

'Altogether Now!' is the title of this year's May Visitations and the format will be different: it will include some teaching, a Market Place of ideas, refreshments and opportunity for group discussion. The worship will incorporate an act of dedication where Wardens will be commissioned and shared leadership in our churches will be affirmed.

In short, the Visitations will be a follow-up to 'Streams in the Desert'. In the letter I sent to you last August you were encouraged to carry on discussing how far your church embodies the 8 healthy marks for being God's church in the local community. When we come together in May we will have the opportunity to share how those discussions are progressing. I hope that we will begin to see some new patterns of church life emerging.

The Market Place of ideas will give us a chance to share good practice and learn from one another. As you view and discuss the information on display, this might lead you to ask the questions: 'Who might we work with to strengthen our mission?' And 'Who might benefit from our experience and help?'

It is my sincere hope that all our Christian communities will see the importance of participating in the 'Altogether Now!' evenings so that together we can discover what kind of church God is calling us to be in the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area. To that end, I do ask, please, that you would get the date for your Deanery evening on your church website, news sheet, in the parish magazine and in everybody's diary now so that as many as possible can take advantage of these occasions.

I enclose a separate sheet showing the dates and venues and outlining the steps each parish or benefice will need to take in preparation for 'Altogether Now!'

The Archdeacon and I look forward to being with you.

With my prayers and good wishes,

Yours in Christ,

MARK RYLANDS
BISHOP OF SHREWSBURY

BISHOP'S and ARCHDEACON'S DEANERY VISITATIONS 2014 – ALTOGETHER NOW!

Secondly: [Altogether now doc.](#)

Altogether Now! - Practical Preparation

By Mid-April - please will you do the following:

Send a brief report to **the Bishop's Office** (no more than one page of A4) outlining what progress your church (or group of churches) has made with the 'Streams in the Desert' process.

This will include:

- A) For instance, how have you engaged with the discussion in your church and with whom? How many of the 8 marks of a healthy church have you considered?
- B) If you have completed the discussion in your church leadership team/PCC, please state in which of the 8 marks you discern your church is expressing a healthy ministry; and in which you are lacking and require assistance.
- C) Please also say what shape of church ministry your people felt will best serve your local community - Urban Minster, Traditional Minster, Network Minster or something else.

Please reply to Bishop's office no later than 13th April

bishop.shrewsbury@lichfield.anglican.org

By End of April

Invite members of your congregation to attend **Altogether Now!** Please arrange sign-up boards at the back of church or another method that enables us to cater fully for those who are coming. I

am praying for 20% of every congregation to be present. This way there is more chance that what is shared and learnt altogether will then make a difference locally.

Prayer cards and posters will arrive just before Easter to help you with the invitation and to enable us to have 3 weeks of concerted build up to these events.

By May

For the Market Place of ideas: Prepare a display board or table top demonstrating a particular ministry – one of the 8 healthy marks- that you consider your church or group of churches does well (eg: Messy Church, a particular service to the community, way of developing the prayer life of the congregation, evangelistic outreach, Christian nurture group, work in schools, etc). I suggest no larger than 2x2 metres for vertical display boards and 1x1.5 metres for a horizontal table top. Please arrange for one or two people to be on hand with the display during this period so that any questions may be answered.

DATE	VENUE	DEANERY
Thursday 15 th May	Stanier Hall Thomas Adams School, Wem	Wem & Whitchurch & Hodnet
Tuesday 20 th May	St Andrew's Shifnal	Edgmond and Shifnal and Telford
Wednesday 21 st May	Christ Church Bayston Hill	Shrewsbury and Wrockwardine
Thursday 22 nd May	Holy Trinity Oswestry	Oswestry and Ellesmere

