

Live: Pray: Serve Portsmouth – Northern Cluster Deanery Plan

Parish: ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PAULSGROVE

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	<p>Working alongside local community groups and consulting with local people to identify the needs of the parish and how St Michael's can be a place that facilitates all that is positive about the community whilst trying to work together with people to challenge the stigma that social housing estates carry. This has been most prominent in the "Proud to be Paulsgrove Campaign"</p> <p>In the summer of last year we trialled a "pop-up" café in which local people welcomed into church for refreshments as they walked home from shopping. This provided an opportunity for people to walk through the doors in a non-threatening context and to receive a warm welcome and meet friendly(!) people with whom to chat and socialise.</p> <p>"Hanging Out With Jesus"</p> <p>This is a combination of bible study within a Eucharistic context. The bible study replaces the liturgy of the word and after the Eucharist a bring and share supper is enjoyed. Bible studies have focussed on</p>					

things people have said they would like to know more about. It has proved popular with new Christians, returning to church Christians and those who have been going to church for many years. This grew out of the Alpha Course in which people responded positively to the concept of learning/interaction/hospitality.

Sunday School has been rebranded as “Junior Church” and takes place during the parish Mass every Sunday (except the first week of the month and summer holidays). Activities normally follow the lectionary themes. On a typical Sunday we can expect 8 children in SS/JC.

An informal “family” service is held on the first Sunday of the month. In recent months the basic use of technology eg Apple Keynotes is used to illustrate the liturgy of the word. This has been well received by adults and children alike.

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<p>This would be even better: Key plans for the future:</p>	<p>St Michael's is currently in the process of applying for a faculty in order to renew the facilities that the church offers as a venue. It is anticipated that the church will become a warm, welcoming and up to date venue that attracts people for a whole range of purposes. It is also intended to bring about a greater sense of co-operation and cohesion amongst local people by the creation of a co-operative in which people give of their time to activities/events and in return receive access to various facilities. St Michael's has received £400,000 from the Big Lottery Fund to enable this transformation of the building.</p> <p>Beginning this spring we are extending this idea so that there is still a warm welcome and opportunity for people to familiarise themselves with the church building but there is more of an intention to encourage people to ask for prayer – either at the point of contact, by using the prayer board or in the Eucharistic intercessions. People are also encouraged</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A rejuvenated building that is used throughout the week by a broader range of community groups.• Broader volunteer base• Increasing number of weddings and baptisms (currently low because of unattractive building). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More active use of prayer board• Evidence of increased footfall into the church on informal as well as formal occasions.• Increased number of contacts who feel the church can help them in times of need.• People responding to invitations to worship

to feed back re their situation.

“Hanging Out With Jesus” has been a prompt by which people have been encouraged to know more about Anglo-Catholic worship/tradition and consequently have been drawn to the concept of pilgrimage. This year we are going on a parish pilgrimage to Walsingham. Of the 21 pilgrims who signed up to go (15 adults 6 children) 10 people are new to pilgrimage and Walsingham.

Junior Church has been the foundation on which 4 children have grown in faith to the point of wishing to be confirmed. (This is their choice – not press-ganged by the vicar!) As a consequence a Young People’s confirmation group is beginning which will be educational, faith forming, discipleship focussed as well as social in character.

The informal “family” service is to be developed to facilitate prayer and music through the use of technology.

- Anecdotal evidence based on experience by those new to pilgrimage.
- Enthusiasm to repeat the experience again and/or try different pilgrimage venues
- Much of this can’t be measured – depends what God does in people’s hearts and how/when it comes to fruition.
- Continuation of meetings after confirmation.
- A culture of invitation amongst young people
- A wider group of youngsters gathering including seekers and those agnostic but wanting to belong
- The confirmation candidates making regular communion, asking questions and growing in faith and discipleship.
- Technology dependant ie do I have the skills, appropriate software/hardware to make this “work” smoothly.
- Anecdotal responses – positive and negative to inform how this might further develop (or not!!)

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Major things we should consider stopping:		It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	