

Team Rector's Report for the Haldon Mission Community Churches APCMs 2025.

“ To the church of God that is in Teignmouth, Bishop., Shaldon, Ideford, Luton and Ashcombe, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (from 1 Corinthians)

Today is one of those first days of this year which feels like spring is properly ready to embrace us. Not only are the spring flowerbeds looking gorgeous - as witnessed in the beautiful Mothering Sunday bouquets- but the sun is genuinely warm after many weeks of chill and damp murkiness. The weather helps of course but I have been seeing a new “spring-like” confidence in our church communities. A growing spirit of *can-do*, with people thinking how can I build up the church. Less asking who will do it but instead thinking maybe God is sending me so *let it be me*. How hopeful that is and what opportunities it brings us. As our new Archbishop Sarah likes to say – “let’s roll up our sleeves and get on with it”.

My sense of the Haldon Mission Community has always been one of 8 individual churches looking to one another in Christian fellowship to strengthen His kingdom where we are. In the first place each church has its own heart and personality and gives its members a place to call home. Then in recognition of our calling as Christ’s disciples we look for ways to support and serve one another and our wider community. In the last year it has been encouraging to meet again as a Team Council sharing stories, praying and dwelling in the Spirit.

In late August the last part of the legal framework was put in place for Shaldon Parish to become part of our Mission Community. This coming together has allowed us to pool expertise and resources. Our excellent Team administrator Sarah has worked with Andy Harding to produce an invoicing system for all funerals and weddings. Increased use of the website calendar has helped this. She is also assisting your clergy in putting together service rotas, producing pew sheets and orders of service to enhance our worship. This admin support has meant Dave and I have more time as your spiritual leaders.

Other ways in which thinking Team wide has helped is noticeably in the area of pastoral care. I hope you saw the Team photo in our Christmas bulletin. This team has proved to be flexible, compassionate and willing to listen to find new ways to serve – they work supporting the clergy gathering up lost sheep and binding the wounds of the grieving, sick and hurting. Our regular prayers together, discussion and training have strengthened service. We cover around 9 care homes and 30 church at home members every month. This is a huge achievement and I thank them for their service throughout the parishes.

Our children’s and youth work is also benefitting from being a Benefice-wide project. We are blessed with many schools in our Benefice and they are open to us visiting them and telling the Christian story. As a result of our outreach work the Diocese has secured funding of around ¼ million pounds over the next 5 years from the central church. This is an amazing gift and opportunity. We will be able to appoint a Growing Faith Worker to help develop our work with families and young people. We will also advertise again for a part time priest to support all that we are doing.

Having a broader vision of church is working for us. Over the next few years we will need to look more into our governance and other structures to see how we can work more effectively across all the parishes. Next year I intend having one date for all parishes for their APCM where we

gather in one building to cover the business in parish groups and spend the second part of the meeting together sharing good news and making plans for our future.

I want also to take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting your church with your prayers, time, giving and presence. I want to especially thank Rev. Dave, the retired clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Churchwardens and officers, Safeguarding lead Sue and Sarah for your unstinting help and support of our churches.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

With love in Christ

Rev Carol Green

Team Rector Haldon Mission Community