



— Diocese of —
Hereford

Proclaiming Christ ✦ Growing Disciples

PAST

FUTURE



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings.

Local Context: Diocesan Strategic Priorities arising out of MAPping process:

SP1 – Spiritual and numerical growth.

SP2 – Serving the common good.

SP3 – new patterns of ministry.

Mission Action Planning – how we relate that to church buildings.



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings: Consultation on their role in mission.

- Holy and spiritual places where local people 'expect' to encounter God. A place to worship God.
- People in the community encounter churches in a variety of ways.
- Closure – negative impact on the Christian Community – but even bigger impact on the wider community
- Important to local community: sense of place, sense of ownership and the depository of local and collective memory.
- When asked the majority of consultees said they would pay to keep their building before their parish offer – i.e. the priest.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.



35% of churches in pilot area were interested in exploring 'Festival Church' status.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.

- Currently developing a framework and a process to move to FC Status.
- Write it up as an addition to Crossing the Threshold Toolkit.
- Roll out across the Diocese.
- Evaluate the success of the approach after 2 years.
- Share the knowledge with others.



It is with deep sadness I announce that we are to suspend the Sunday morning worship in our church, we will remain serving our community as a festival church, with around 6 services a year celebrating special events, which we hope the community will continue to support. This is driven by the needs and wants of the people of Norton Canon in our ever busy world. This is not set in stone and morning worship will gladly be restored. Praying for normal services to be resumed as soon as possible.



Paddy Benson

July 15, 2018

Dear Kim and friends at NC,
Please see your move to being a Festival Church (that is, a church which is mainly used for the big Christian festivals) not as a way of closing the church, but as a way of keeping it open. The church is much loved by its community. Your present actions are a way of safeguarding it, so that it is available for more use when the time is right. None of us know when new housing developments etc may create an expanded population and NC will once again be needed Sunday-by-Sunday.

Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.

- Festival Church status was going to be a positive and proactive decision:
 - Remain as open parish churches
 - Continue to pay parish offer
 - Continue to care for the building
 - Keep the door open



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.

Enter into a new relationship with the local community: Stop and Reboot!

- Hold a community meeting, explain what the plans are – actively engage their support.
- Enter into a new covenant with the community, explaining what the parish need from them to keep the church going.
- Commit to do less in the church, do it better – but in partnership with them.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.

- Work with parishes in the benefice: to avoid clashes, competition and duplication – and to gain mutual support.
- Engage with Parish Giving Advisors, ensuring this creates a regular income, including from wider community.
- Participate in training – at benefice and deanery level when needed.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.

Topics for Training:

- Social media platforms
- Developing a web presence: (or using 'A Church Near You')
- Marketing and promotion.
- Tourism – how to keep the building open and welcoming and intentionally engage in tourism .
- Maintenance plans and techniques.
- Income generation through activities – contactless giving, trading, etc.



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.

Income Generation Ideas such as.....

- Casual Space hire
- Shops, libraries and post offices (sharing space under licence)
- Food and drink
- Champing and holiday accommodation





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hrballiance.org.uk
hereford.anglican.org

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DEVELOPING YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR WIDER COMMUNITY USE AND MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL BUILDING PROJECT



Mission and Mortar: Festival Churches.

Festival Events – Be creative!

- Turn it into a social occasion as well as an act of worship – but engage community support for add on events.
- Heritage open days, talks, lectures, tours and trails, churchyard activities, musical events, food and drink,
- Piggy back onto local events and activities – scarecrow weekend, flower festivals, open gardens,



Mission and Mortar: Keep the Building open!

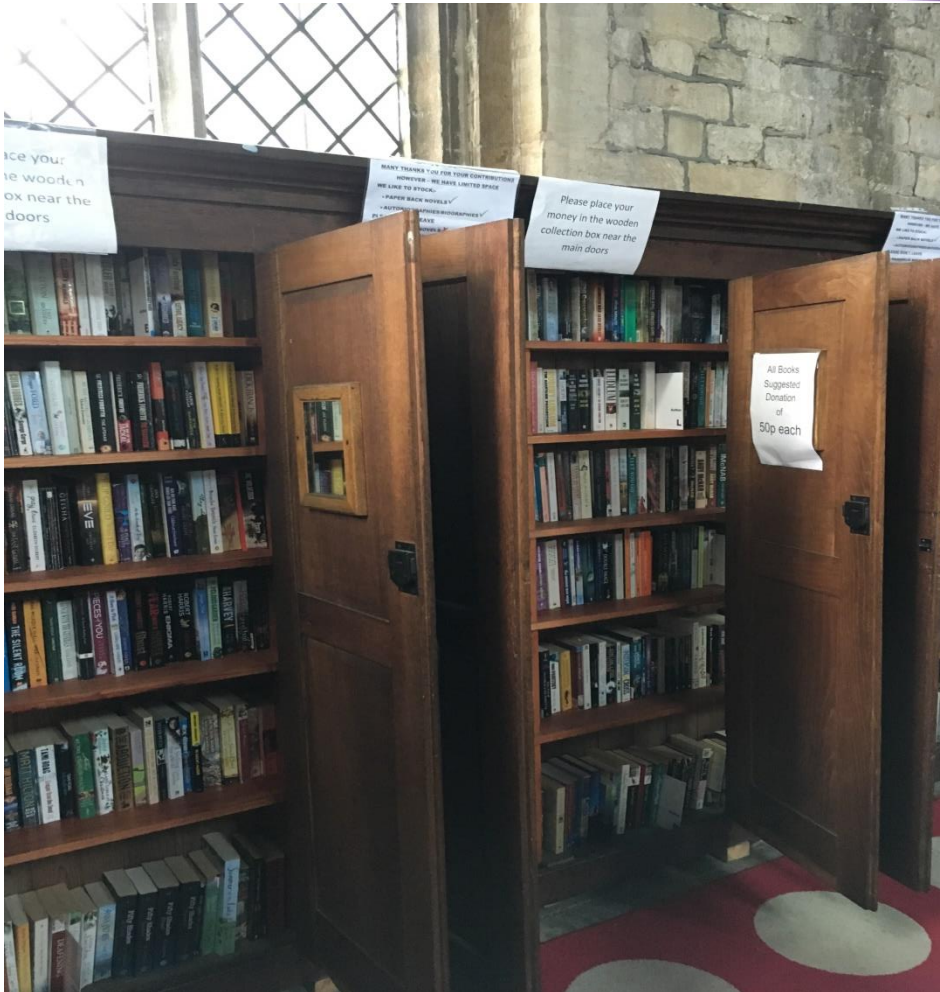
Prayer Stations and Votive Candles



Low cost, simple intervention.



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings - some simple ideas and case studies. .



- Low cost intervention.
- Draws people into the church building.
- Makes people feel welcome.
- Ability to develop other wrap around activities.

Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings – some simple ideas and case studies.



- Family activities
- Welcome and walkers tables
- Income generating ideas.
- Provide opportunities for contactless giving.



Mission and Mortar:

- Worship of God and prayer space
- Village Halls/Meeting Space
- Community Shops
- Community Café
- Post offices
- Lunch clubs
- Libraries
- Shared Space (ecumenical or community)
- Clubs and Trainings
- Arts and Music Events
- Credit Unions
- Markets and fairs.
- Pop up restaurants
- Performance space
- Soft play areas
- Messy church
- Mother and Toddler Groups
- Parish Offices
- Shared space with other organisations
- Champing and holiday accommodation.
- Housing
- Heritage Centres
- Tourist Information Centres
- Children's Centres
- Food Assemblies
- Culture and Arts events
- Clubs and Societies
- Internet cafes and digital hubs
- Visitor attractions
- Quiet spaces



What do we hope to achieve?

- Keep a Christian Presence in every community.
- Find new ways of engaging with community to keep the buildings open – shared energy.
- New ways of carrying out maintenance – more community support.
- Finding ways of preserving and enhancing historic church buildings in tiny rural communities.
- Increase in number of people worshipping and visiting.
- Increase in revenue for the church.
- Develop new patterns of ministry that will alleviate pressure on the clergy, strengthen lay ministry and equip them for mission.



Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings: Their roll in mission –

What else do we need to be thinking about? .

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Talking Jesus—the research

Talking Jesus—the course



Inspiring *each* Generation

Mission and Mortar: Church Buildings:



Questions



Inspiring *each* Generation