

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING  
FOR ALL THREE PARISHES OF GLASTONBURY & MEARE

# “YOUR VIEWS MATTER”

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025

2pm to 4.30pm

AT St JOHN'S CHURCH, GLASTONBURY

TO REVIEW FEEDBACK ALREADY RECEIVED  
AND INVITE YOUR COMMENTS



There will be tea and cake

## ST MARY'S, MEARE: YOUR VIEWS MATTER FEEDBACK

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>Situated in beautiful countryside with the Ham Wall nature reserve close by.</p> <p>Our church is a beautiful ancient building with 700 years of history.</p> <p>Meare and Westhay still has a strong sense of community and friendliness.</p> <p>The villagers still value the tradition of having a church for Christenings, Weddings and Funerals.</p> <p>Whilst Meare Primary School is not a C of E school there are currently good links with the Headteacher.</p> <p>The provision of the coffee morning and the Post Office being run from the Church Room on a Friday morning..</p>	<p>There are different fundraising groups working for the same aims with a lack of cohesion. The groups seem to be unable to work together which makes members of the community having to 'take sides'. This can stop people from getting involved.</p> <p>The plans for the building of a new Village Hall has taken the focus away from other areas.</p> <p>Difficult to engage villagers to be interested in regular worship as there are competing lifestyles.</p> <p>Not working together with the Community Church.</p> <p>Old building means St Mary's is sometimes not a practical place to hold events</p>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Like St Ben's - to nurture the local desire for community and mutual support and help for others within the villages.</p> <p>To build a closer relationship with the Community Church in Meare as both churches worship the same God.</p> <p>To establish more visibility and outreach from St Mary's within the community.</p> <p>To create better cohesion with the Benefice to worship more together and to have Bible Study together.</p> <p>To develop and grow the relationship with Meare School by continuing with the children going into the church for the festivals or run 'church familiarisation' events for the children</p>	<p>Diminishing congregation numbers in St Mary's.</p> <p>Watering down of the Christian faith.</p> <p>Lack of numbers results in lack of financial resources and lack of people to give time to do Christian 'good works' for the community.</p> <p>The custodianship of an ancient building like St Mary's is, like the other two churches in the Benefice, a huge financial responsibility - limits funds for community projects.</p>

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>Ceremony, Choir/Music/Bellringing                      Pageant                      Architecture                      Community space                      Safe space/ Safety net                      Quietness/Peace/Kindness                      Spiritual awareness                      Mixed School assembly                      Variability/Flexibility/Variety                      Civic Church                      Fellowship                      Relationship with Glastonbury Abbey                      Inclusivity/Diversity                      Potential for new ideas/activity/worship                      Traditional church                      Feeding the Poor                      Welcoming visitors to the town                      Co Operative attitude                      Youthful Trainee Curate                      The joy/value of a Trinitarian faith</p>	<p>Antisocial behaviour                      Lack of car-parking space                      Lack of young people/families                      Volunteer numbers/recruitment                      Poor hygiene facilities                      Loss of Pioneer Ministry                      Perception of 'Tradition' in church                      Loss of Healing Ministry                      Fail to Embrace 'Whole Community'                      Poor understanding of Need                      Egotistical Church attitudes                      Sound system variability                      Poor/limited communication of &amp; around group activities.</p>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>More fundraising                      Inter-faith tolerance                      Interaction with schools                      Work with the 'Homeless'                      'Blue Sky' planning                      Relations with Police/Council etc.                      Fresh Expressions                      Follow a Spiritual Path                      Greater Outreach                      Developing Tradition                      Challenging Convention                      Embrace New ways of Thinking                      Develop a Healing Ministry                      Unconditional Love as a church                      Early-Years provision                      Collective Witness.</p>	<p>Antisocial behaviour                      Homelessness                      Labelled as 'Magnificat Parish'                      Impact of Ageing congregation                      Fear of 'Traditional Church'                      Tension between 'our/others needs'                      Disrespect for Church Conventions                      Alcohol/Drug dealing in churchyard                      Exploitation of Homeless people                      Lack of hygiene facilities in church                      Overwhelming effect of tourism</p>

## ST BEN'S: YOUR VIEWS MATTER FEEDBACK

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>Our beautiful environment.                      Glastonbury as a strong, friendly community, with an interest in spirituality.                      Wonderful, colourful diversity in our community.                      The thoughtful, questioning spirituality of many in our church.                      The willingness of many Christians to work together to help and serve others in practical ways.                      The churches' support for the rainbow of varied sexualities and gender identities                      A valuing of the importance of shared worship to give us a sense of connection.                      Our church as a well-loved place of asylum, safety, sanctuary and literal warmth.                      Belief in a God who embraces all faiths.                      Openmindedness.                      Our wonderful St Ben's primary school.</p>	<p>Christians who don't "walk the talk" in the eyes of our community.                      Lack of communication and listening between different faiths.                      Lack of a will to work together among the different Christian denominations.                      Self-obsession and spiritual competitiveness in our community.                      The community's tendency to follow individualistic spiritual paths, which makes it very difficult to share in worship.                      Social prejudice - eg against the non bricks-and-mortar community.                      That our ancient abbey no longer much reflects our Christian heritage.</p>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>To nurture the local desire for community and mutual support, and to help others.                      The thoughtful, broadminded interest in spirituality in our wider Glastonbury community.                      The opportunity to work together to help others, such as those in hidden poverty or loneliness, struggling young families and the elderly, and the mentally ill - as well as those in more obvious need, travellers and van dwellers.                      To support the human rights of those most in need.                      To open the gates and the doors at St Johns.                      The opportunity for growth if we can work through difficult relationships in our church community.</p>	<p>Diminishing congregations with the resulting lack of resources to carry out the mission of the church.                      A lack of awareness among some Christians of the need to give time and money to the Christian community.                      The way in which the social problems around us (eg. drug taking) fosters fear and withdrawal from the outside world among some in the church.                      The fear generated by conspiracy theories which is strong here and deliberately fed by some.                      Diversity carried to destructive extremes.                      So many premature deaths and illnesses.                      The huge responsibility of ancient buildings to take care of, which depletes our human and financial resources and deflects them from the mission of the church.</p>