

Creedy Ministry Hub

What do we mean by this? What does the plan mean for me, my parish, my Mission Community, the Deanery? Some of us will be familiar with Minster Model, where all the clergy live and work in a centralised place and travel out to provide ministry when and where needed. The Archdeacon has proposed a Modified Minster Plan which is why things may seem a bit unclear. In the modified version, the clergy live out in the areas which they are responsible for but are supported by the entire community and may have responsibilities across the hub. For example, one priest would live in and have responsibility for a group of parishes, but also be the point person for the development of children and family ministries across the community. The idea is to have ministers who are rooted in their communities but supported by centralised admin and enabled to work for the wider area. So it is possible that you may have one priest living in your village, but work with a different priest to develop ways to minister to children.

The question that we should all start asking ourselves, our PCCs and our congregations is not 'What do we need or want?' but 'What do we have to offer? To each other? To the church? To the community?' Generosity generates generosity: the more we give, the more we receive.

Details may be slim at the moment, but a lot of how the hub will work will depend on the personnel hired and how we all decide we want to work together. And there will be things tried, failed and learned from. Things have changed and we need to adapt but we are stronger the closer we hold each other.

Our goal should be to sing the Gospel so beautifully that all our churches will be bursting at the seams and we will be discussing where to build more! But we won't get there doing what we have been doing. Our generous God has provided us with abundant resources. It is up to us to deploy them to serve *this* time and *this* place. The Creedy Ministry Hub will allow us to work together to create a vital, courageous, and supportive Church that is perfectly suited for Mid Devon in the 21st Century.

Our Vision

To create a Church here in the Creedy Valley which is thriving and resilient. A Church which cares for all the souls within our area. A Church which serves as an embassy for the Kingdom of God: humble, generous, hospitable, outward focused. A church where we all, clergy and laity, are free to answer our Baptismal calling to use our gifts to become the People of God.

Opportunities

- To create a collaborative working environment for our ministers.
- To bring together our rural churches to share in mission and ministry.
- To create a community of growing congregations rooted in the Diocesan Vision of Pray, Grow and Serve.
- To develop relationships between parishes to streamline church governance.
- To create a large group of churches which will unlock opportunities to provide services that will benefit the whole area. Both the National Church and the Diocese are looking to provide resources that will benefit wider communities.
- To broaden cooperation across the community in all areas of church life: worship, pastoral care, outreach, community service, Christian education, discipleship and administration
- To empower and equip lay people to exercise their gifts in Christian ministry.
- To allow the clergy to follow their specialised callings: to pastoral care, peace and justice work, mental health support, liturgical development, education and discipleship and children and family work, etc.
- To improve communication across the community both internally and externally
- To resource our congregations to be the church their communities need by improving worship, prayer, education, and service.
- To become a church which is emboldened to take risks for the sake of the Gospel.

We are blessed to live in Mid-Devon. We are surrounded by beautiful countryside and our rural communities are wonderful and creative – full of life and saturated in the presence of God. Our ancient church buildings are a powerful witness in our communities. But, now in the 21st Century, and post COVID-19 lockdowns, we are facing challenges. The Creedy Ministry Hub is a proposal to create a modern, vibrant church family which is rooted here in our towns and villages. It is an opportunity to form a church family which is liberated and empowered to live into the Diocesan priorities of Growing in Prayer, Make New Disciples and Serving the People of Devon with Joy.