

Notes on the Open Church meeting on Sunday 8th September 2013

Present

24 members or regulars, 5 regulars not present (Angus Close regulars did not stay either)

Steve opened the meeting by rereading HTS's vision and then summarised the options to be considered.

Option 2 - Improved Partnership of 5 churches

Advantages

financially better off - more money

Children's work eg Puppets & Messy church

More human resources - different gifts - more to be used

Variety of service leaders

Like the feeling of Partnership - joining up with the other churches

Pastoral support even when clergy are off

Admin office - worship coordination, supplies, weddings & funerals

Working together is a model to be shared

Disadvantages

need to have the same mission

ministerial wellbeing

Option 1 - All individual churches - suggested that HTS become Anglican

if HTS was Anglican then would be linked to All Saints and/or St Mary's as this is the way the Deanery would want things

Advantages

might get more volunteers for youth work if all churches have to do a bit

[no politics of denominations disagreeing]

[still can work together for mission, youth, children's work, Alpha etc]

[will a "looser" partnership work, who will take responsibility]

[] indicate possible advantages but not necessarily opinions of those present.

Disadvantages

not ecumenical

lose variety of preaching

no partnership services

possibly no youth work

where do Baptists go?

we should be led by God not by denomination

"lay" leaders not being allowed to take services

how can we talk about splitting up when we had just sung "Make us One, Lord"

BAN DENOMINATIONS!

How would finances work? - Treasurer admitted not having looked at this yet.

Option 3 - Improved Partnership minus All Saints

This is about what All Saints want - we don't want them to go but if that is what they want then we would let them go.

Need to work as 1 church, clergy need to share their gifts across the 4 locations not have specific locations.

Option 4 - St Mary's & HTS become Anglican together

For HTS this is the same as 1.

HTS IS NOT AN ANGLICAN CONGREGATION!

Overall Opinion

HTS was unanimous that no one wanted option 1 or 4, ideally they would want 2 but if All Saints want to go then would go with 3.