**Two Rivers Mission Community**

*Called by God to build a Christian community in each village, which will worship, pray, grow and reach out with the Gospel*

**Mission Action Plan - organisation**

* To call, train and support a local leadership team (LLT) in each church (could be the PCC), chaired by a focal minister (lay or ordained)
* Form a Mission Community Leadership Team (MCLT) made up of the focal ministers and any specialist ministers

**Initial deployment of leaders:**

* Tracey to act as focal minister for HB and Ath.
* Appoint a house for duty vicar to live in NT and act as focal minister for T. Could take communion in NT/H.
* Gary to act as focal minister for B with the aim of appointing a curate to live in B and act as focal minister.
* Use current lay readers and wardens to act as focal minister in the other churches: Jen in StG, Jacque in R, Tim in NT & Horwood, Carol in Y.
* Appoint a mission enabler to work across the Mission Community. Paid for by the half stipend available from the Diocese – probably 3 days per week plus Sunday. This could become a full-time job with additional funding from any parishes wishing to use the extra time. The mission enabler would work with parishes to help develop mission initiatives.
* Rector to act as chair of the MCLT and train and support focal ministers and local ministry teams. Sundays spent moving around the parishes.
* Retired priests to celebrate communion and take baptisms. Ideally moving towards a priest in each parish (retired, SSM etc).
* Julia (distinctive deacon) to support pastoral care and community engagement across the Mission Community.

**Development of leaders**

* Explore ordination with those lay readers willing to do so. Ultimate aim is to have a priest in each parish so each parish can have full access to the sacramental life of the church.
* Develop LLTs so churches are able to progress ministry in their parish. Develop specialisms within each LLT, such as leading worship, pastoral care, youth and children’s work, stewardship, buildings etc. Focal ministers to be called from and by the team to provide continuity.

**The relationship of the Mission Community Leadership Team and the Local Leadership Teams**

* There will be ‘give and take’ based on mutual trust and good cooperation. A ‘decision planner’ will clearly show which decisions can be taken by focal minister, rector, LLT and MCLT and how information needs to be shared between them.
* For example: The MCLT will set the vision for each year, including some sermon series and joint activities. LLTs will apply this locally and take responsibility for non-timetabled times. So, there will be times of year when all churches follow a common theme and other times when churches will be free to do their own thing. The MCLT will continue to provide weekly resources for churches which need it.
* Churches will be free to work together where there is a common interest (eg a shared school) and better resourced churches might offer support to those with less resources available.

**Formation of a joint council**

Form a joint council made up of two elected reps from each church and all focal ministers. The MCLT would be a working group of the Mission Community Council.

**Next Steps**

* Seek support of the Bishop and Archdeacon
* Form a Joint Council to allow cooperation between parishes to take place within charity and canon law – eg the joint employment of staff
* Create profile, advertise, interview and appoint house for duty team vicar and mission enabler
* Train and support focal ministers to develop LLTs.
* Create a decision planner to enable decisions to be made coming out of lockdown.
* Seek permission to train willing lay readers as priests, using the Caleb ministry stream