



Men's Ministry

St Mary's Cogges APCM
Thursday March 21st 2019

When I came to St Mary's I was taken aback by the high number and proportion of men in the church, still quite unusual in an Anglican congregation, but also felt that more could be done to encourage and support the men of the church, and to bring yet more to faith.

What?

What is men's ministry about

Mission

- To bring men to faith.
- To encourage men of faith of all ages and at all stages to develop relationships with other men, inside and outside the church, that can be mutually supportive and help us all grow in faith and confidence.
- To increase our knowledge and understanding of the love of God and his purpose in our lives.

Vision

- St Mary's Cogges will have a committed and openly Christian group of males that will be
 - A blessing to the church
 - Mutually supportive
 - A blessing to the community
 - Filled with role models for the youth of the church and the community

How?

Monthly meetings

- Beer and Banter
- Men's Group
- Walk and Talk
- The Gathering

Beer and Banter

What better role models could our youth want?

A purely social event arranged to provide a time and place for the men of the church to gather and develop relationships, and bring friends and neighbours so they can see that men that go to church are pretty normal blokes and do normal blokey things.

There is a hope that bringing non church-goers to these events might encourage them to try church or an Alpha perhaps – Beer and Banter is a once a month event
Men's group

Also once a month, but alternate fortnights to beer and banter. We started two months ago an evening of discussion on a topic that is designed to encourage sharing of views, debate and the opportunity to explore a faith perspective on whatever the subject matter is. The format is a half hour of coffee, chat and cake (because men won't stick around at the end of anything – so we make sure we develop relationships before we start), then a talk or a video on the topic, discussion, feedback and prayer

Walk and Talk

Just to show that men can do more than one thing at a time. Different strokes for different folks. Some may find either the timing, the crowds or the subject matter of beer and banter or men's group too much. Walking and talking provides a different format for men to meet, and explore life and God's creation at the same time as

developing relationships. Walk and talk may well develop into a variety of social events that encourage the development of supportive relationships amongst the men in our care.

The Gathering.

For a number of years Christian Vision for Men (CVM) has held a men's only weekend of prayer, praise, teaching and fun in a field near Swindon. We are encouraging a group to come to this as a collective this year. The better equipped we are the better we can serve.

Call to action

And on the subject of serving, I recently did a survey of opinion of all the men in the church (157 on Churchsuite at last count) 40% responded, and of those 63 people 34 said they would like to be involved in any activity we did that would be of benefit to someone in need, such as clearing a garden for an elderly person that would perhaps make it easier for them to stay in their own home.

We will be exploring how we can use this willingness to God's glory as we move forward.

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Reminding ourselves that to achieve the vision for men, we must care, pray and move