

Social and Economic Issues and the Church's Response

DCRF Work Strand Update November 2017

Follow up from Barnstaple Archdeaconry Church and Community Research Project

- Since our last meeting, talks have been given to South Molton and Barnstaple Deanery Synods and Torrington Deanery chapter. The ideas have been met with interest but there has been little concrete follow up to date.
- These talks and meetings are useful in making contacts with individual churches for whom making connections with other agencies to help take their ministry forward would be helpful, and this work is ongoing.

Directory of Church based social activities

- We have commitment from DCC to transfer information about church based activities across Devon to their Pinpoint website. This will enable anyone working with someone in need, who may be lonely, socially isolated, or at the "edge of formal care" needs, to refer them to one of our lunch clubs, coffee mornings or other groups.
- It is proving quite difficult to gather the information from churches needed to make this happen – but we continue to add information to our website directory for onward transfer wherever possible.
- It would be great if all members of the Forum could ask those churches they come into contact with the email basic information of times, dates and a contact person of their social activities to info@devonchurchesruralforum.org.uk
- A fuller version of the rationale for this work can be found in our Newsletter issue 2.

Partnership Working Workshop

- At the last meeting it was agreed to look into developing a workshop to bring churches and statutory agencies together to explore how both can work together effectively, learning about each other's cultures and needs. Increasing understanding and knowledge of various non-church organisations could open up new areas of resource for ministry, buildings management and funding as well as in serving the people of Devon and so this remains a useful aim. However, unfortunately I have insufficient capacity at present to take the idea forward, but would be very happy to support if anyone can take a lead on this.