Parish Culture Consultation

First Breakout Questions

- **As you completed the Parish Culture Snapshot Tool, what struck you about the culture of our parish?**
- **How does our parish culture currently enhance ministry and mission?**
- **Are there any noteworthy ways in which the culture impedes ministry and mission?**

First Breakout Responses

- David responsible for too many things, e.g. receiving notes like this 😊
- COVID means our answers are not typical for "normal" times
- Hard to get volunteers, people have busy lives
- Because of COVID, people's ministries have not been seen, we are not aware of what other people are doing
- We have used "spiritual gift tools" to identify our gifts, but not learned how to use them
- From a new person: Welcoming when they started attending, but liturgical services are difficult for younger people to relate to (not knowing want to do!) >> Anglicanism 101!
- 930 and 11 used to be more distinctive: that was helpful in giving people choice if they found the more formal services difficult
- Analyse gifts to us in mission/ volunteer deployment
- Siloing
- Much affected by COVID
- could be a reset of parish culture – not "the way we do things", but new normal

Q1: After reading Parish Culture Snapshot Tool, what did you notice about the culture of our church?

- Is this pre Covid or now! Bryan decided both .since we have three different services, it is hard to get together to share ideas. It is like having three cultures.
- Very little known about the 8:00 am service.
- There are multi groups working separately but are welcoming and open to all.
- we are not necessarily political.
- Internet is very busy and tends to be chaotic .rooted in fundamental of faith…sets up for a good bonding situation.
- St John's has a sense of community.
- Very full and rich, but stalled by pandemic: disconnected community
- Looking forward to bringing back many of the things we had going on before the pandemic.
- Being a new person makes it hard to even know what the parish culture is.
- Communication might be an issue, in order to fill people in on what is happening.
- It seems that much of what defines our culture has been interrupted by the pandemic.
- Very involved in so many different things: 3 services, so many community things (music, fundraisers, celebrations, etc). Had a really nice connection to the surrounding community.
- Welcoming and greeting new people has become more normal since the pandemic. A lot more people doing that now.

- Initial welcome is quite good, but then getting deeper into small groups or ministries is a lot more closed off.
- Diverse in many ways, but sadly not ethnically diverse. The parish is very British is some ways that are really good, but also in ways that seem closed.
- A Vision and Mission statement is hard to find. In fact, it's very very old. MAP is laying the groundwork to generate a new vision and mission statement.
- Worship style is very formal, partly due to the livestream format.
- Very lay-person driven. New ideas and leadership tends to come from lay people.

Q2:How does our parish culture enhance ministry and mission?

- very accepting of me and the ministries I want to belong to.
- must learn how to scaffold, or get interested in other groups.
- Artaban is a part of our ministry and mission.
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Q3: Does it impede in any way?

- we are mainstream/middle class so how do we reach beyond.
- lack of leadership- others need to step up. Leadership is hard to follow through unless you know and meet most people.
- is there help at the door if needed.
- not all spiritual gifts are set up, such as someone leaving.
- David has so many things to do he is spread out.
- Having no dinners, where people can get to know each other.

- Having three styles of worship, and, in a sense, three different congregations that don't know each other.
- Poor communication of events and groups. Internet announcements not enough.
- Missing generations of teens, young adults, etc.

Second Breakout Questions

- **If you give God some space in your head and heart for the next minute or two, do you hear a call to explore any other practices or paths to transform Parish life?**

Second Breakout Responses

- sermons by all – lay/volunteers/different views
- herding cats
- use of scripture to enhance
- coffee hours to connect
- siloing has its advantages
- variety of services

- 1) youth ministry is needed.
  - .caring for the children at an early age and following them all the way through Church School til teens.The older groups can enjoy Scouting and Youth groups.
  - This will be a continuance right through.
  - A strong volunteer programme would be needed for this.
- 2) people must get together.
  - opportunities and events for families to share time together, have fun and have community events that are not tied to our faith.
  - neighbours are invited to join in.
  - Weekends away for bonding.
  - return time, talent and treasure where everyone is participating..children can walk the dog, someone makes cookies or waters plants etc.
- 3) very similar to number 2. Celebrating our traditions and faith to all, especially our children
  - scripture should be a big part of their learning.
  - Community and congregational events that are fun and tied to our neighborhood. These events can be small or large groups.
  - Sharing our music with the neighbourhood.
  - have a welcoming event to welcome newcomers and show and explain all the opportunities and programmes that available to them.
- Regarding our three services, there is too little interaction between the congregations. We need to become one community.
- Come together as a full community, fostering connections.
- We could have church-wide potlucks.
- More intergenerational connections, as well.
- Have an old-fashioned Sunday school Picnic to get everyone together, kids and all.
- Getting the children much more involved on Sunday mornings, getting them participating in the service as worshipers or volunteers. Try some little things, like getting their Sunday school crafts

up on the alter at the end of the service, for a blessing. Maybe have a children's moment before sending them off to Sunday school.

- Use language that people can understand, if they have no church background.
- Have a periodic tour or gathering to explain the Anglican traditions, to make it accessible and meaningful.
- In a service, David could pause and explain why he is doing what he is doing in the service, as a teaching on the fly sort of thing.
- Cherish and make known Anglican tradition. The liturgy can be intimidating, so there needs to be some "ambassadors" who teach people the little things about standing, kneeling, etc.
- The language of the service still uses an unnecessary amount of patriarchal language.
- Coffee hour in the crypt was scary, too enclosed, too tight, dark, and nerve-wracking for introverts.
- Three big points: (1) Community, (2) Creating more intergenerational community, (3) Accessibility.