in discipleship in service in numbers

**GROWTH PLAN**

Name of Parish or Benefice:

St Peter’s Church, Swainsthorpe

Incumbent: Rev Dawn Davidson

Other Clergy

Rev Canon Sally Gaze

Completed on: 6th June 2017

Discussed and approved by: Ministry Team 

PCC X

**Is there anything in your Growth Plan which could be enhanced by being done at a Benefice, Deanery or Diocesan level.** (This could include an initiative or further training or sharing good practice.)

**Do any of your plans depend upon raising additional funding through increased giving or grants?**

**N/A**

**Discipleship**

*Enable the people of Christ to fulfil their part in God’s mission,*   
*baptising and nurturing believers*

*This might include some of the following:*

* *Regular inclusive worship in the local church with participation by all ages*
* *Children and young adults able to worship God in their own style and culture*
* *Developing a life of prayer*
* *Helping people in their discipleship journey at home, school and work*
* *Teaching and communication of the Christian faith*
* *Establishing small groups for encouragement and support*
* *Faithful and realistic giving*
* *Ministry Team of clergy and lay people*
* *Developing the ministry of all people*

*Please prayerfully consider the following questions and give details for each*

**What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?**

* **Faithful and realistic giving**
* **We host Benefice services for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday**

**What long established good things are we doing?**

* **Valuable teaching through sermons**
* **Prayer is included at regular meetings**

**What else is God wanting for us?**

* **Short courses or events to encourage personal discipleship e.g. during Lent or Advent**

**What can we do this year?**

* **Continue with faithful and realistic giving**
* **Host Benefice services for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday**

**Service**

*Respond to human need by loving service.*

*Safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

*Seek to transform the unjust structures of society*

*This might include some of the following:*

* *Caring for the sick, vulnerable, disadvantaged and bereaved*
* *Encouraging children and young people to fulfil their potential*
* *Fostering community at a local level by supporting local schools, community activities and organisations*
* *Restoring and re-ordering of churches for use by the wider community*
* *Engaging positively with other cultures and faiths*
* *Caring for the environment and developing our own ecological practices*
* *Showing concern for global justice and peace by supporting national and international aid agencies*

*Please prayerfully consider the following questions and give details for each*

**What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?**

* **The church roof repairs have been funded by Listed Places of Worship Memorial Fund**
* **The church has been re-ordered to allow use by the village and wider community**
* **Continuation of fundraising and social events organised by the Festival Group**
* **Open church on most Saturdays 9am-3pm throughout the year, enabling tourists to become pilgrims**
* **Free Lent Lunch has been introduced on an annual basis, fundraising for the Bishop’s Lent Appeal**

**What long established good things are we doing?**

* **The church is regularly used as a polling station**
* **The church is used by the community for social events run by the FIGs**
* **Donations from the Harvest auctions go to Christian Aid Appeals or other international aid agencies**
* **Parish Council meetings are held in the church building**
* **Local villagers look after the churchyard on a volunteer basis**

**What else is God wanting for us?**

* **Improve the building with an extension which will house a permanent toilet and kitchen**
* **Support the Parish Council in finding a suitable home for a defibrillator for emergency community use**
* **Re-introduce bell ringing**

**What can we do this year?**

* **Find out how much the bell restoration project will cost and research which grants are available**
* **Work with the Charity Trust to find the best options for extending the church**
* **Raise a Union flag or St George’s flag at the top of the church tower on special occasions**

**Numbers**

*Proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom*

*This might include some of the following:*

* *Fresh expressions of church*
* *Developing quality in traditional expressions of church*
* *Activities for children, young people and families*
* *Enquirers cells or courses*
* *Welcoming those seeking baptism and confirmation and providing good preparation and follow up*
* *Welcoming those seeking marriage and providing good preparation and follow up*
* *Developing a comprehensive ministry of welcome to people of all ages*
* *Having our churches open daily*
* *Enabling tourists to become pilgrims*

*Please prayerfully consider the following questions and give details for each*

**What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?**

* **Special services plus Weddings and Baptisms**
* **Community Outreach Worker – Andy Cox**
* **Lent lunch – offering free soup and homemade soup started in 2016**
* **Church is open on most Saturdays 9am-3pm throughout the year since Jan 2016**

**What long established good things are we doing?**

* **Lent lunch**
* **Harvest Supper following our Harvest Festival**
* **Annual Songs of Praise service – this has been improved now that Afternoon Tea is served before the service**

**What else is God wanting for us?**

* **To encourage old and new friends into the church, starting with social occasions**
* **Improve our relationship with the Charity Trust and Parish Council**
* **Re-introduce bell ringing**

**What can we do this year?**

* **A new regular coffee morning – Dew Drop in, to start in May 2017**
* **Continue with social events such as Afternoon tea after Songs of Praise service, and Harvest Supper after the Harvest Festival**
* **Meet with the Charity Trust on a regular basis**