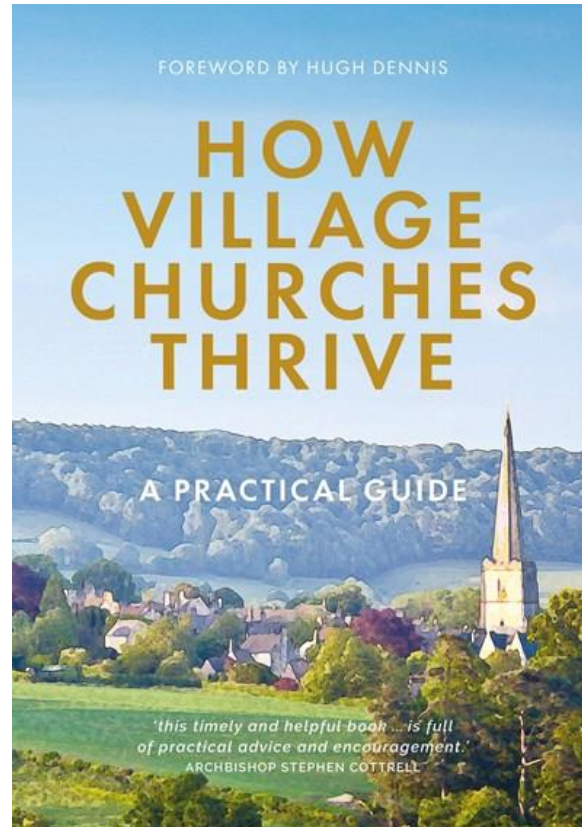


How Village Churches Thrive

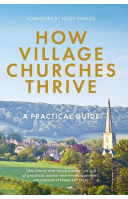
Being the Heartbeat of the Community



St Mary the Virgin Church, Mursley

- North Bucks
- Population 722 (2021) up from 611 (2011)
- Households approx. 280
- Significant changes in character due to Milton Keynes
- Becoming commuter dominated
- More affluence
- Less volunteers
- The role of the Church?





The Heartbeat of the Community

- Not a club for committed members
- More than happens on Sunday
- Community Focused Mission Action Plan
 - Building fit for 21st century
 - Raise awareness in the community of opportunities and challenges in church life
 - Be visible as a worshipping community in activities outside the church

<Image of baptism party removed>

A Building fit for 21st Century.....the enabler

- A toilet
- A kitchenette
- An open space, removed some pews
- Purchased tables and chairs
- An audio visual system
- Radiator heating already installed
- Community support for grants over 200 signatures of support, a few objectors
- Work done in 2020-21
- Aspiration since 1995!!!
-then our big opportunity.....



Our Pub Closed.....The Church Arms Opened

- The PCC offered to run a meeting place serving alcohol and soft drinks in church
- Twice a month with an activity/speaker
- 40-60 attend, 150+ over the year
- A handful of objections
- Toilet objectors now see the value!!



Other Community Activities in Church



- Soup Lunch
- Art Exhibitions
- Concerts
- Village Choir
- School Services
- Just Jackets
- In future, Film Night, Afternoon Tea



Community Collaboration not Competition

- Joint fundraising events with Sports Association and Village Hall
- Jointly lobbied Parish Council to increase the Parish Precept to support our organisations
- Neighbourhood Plan input
- School history project
- Church Arms Friday, Sportsmans Arms Saturday



Use of Rectory Room

- Post Office
- Coffee morning
- Parish Council Community library
- Registered Warm Space



Find a warm welcome space

We have over 3000 registered organisations that have opened or are opening up free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public over this winter across the UK. Please use this map to find one.

2698
Spaces Open!

Search: PCC Mursley Rectory Roo... 25 mi Filter by...

PCC Mursley Rectory Room

- PARKING
- ACCESSIBLE TOILETS
- OTHER REFRESHMENTS
- CO-WORKING DESKS
- CHARGING FACILITIES

**Open from 01-11-22.

9 The Beechams
Mursley, Buckinghamshire MK17 0RX
<https://www.Sparishes.org.uk/>

Other examples, benefits and comments

- Food Bank collection point
- Two church members are nursing trained, often called
- Christmas lunch for senior members of the community
- The church is kept warm and feels 'lived in'
- Evidence of community use attracts grants
- Extra income from events

I've never been inside before, it's a magnificent building

This doesn't feel like a church

We feel at home in the church now

A long time since the church saw so many people

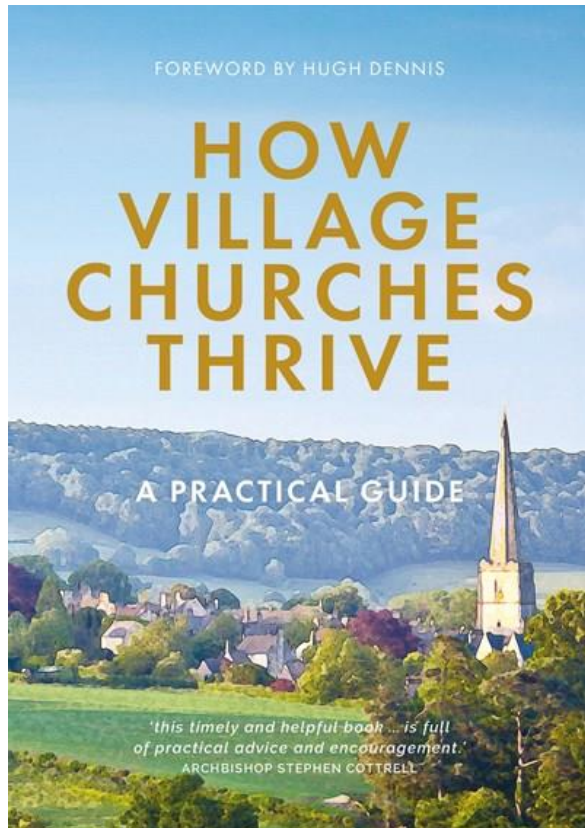
Learning

- Look for opportunities to meet a need
 - Do what works in your community
 - Collaborate with other organisations
 - Have a set of 3 or 4 goals and actions MAP
-
- The role of the church?
 - Be relevant in the community
 - Have Fun!!



How Village Churches Thrive

Being the Heartbeat of the Community



Thank you for listening

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