



Rhythm Of Life
Resident Community St Peter's Bourne
June 2015

Executive Summary

This document outlines the ethos and values associated with community living at St Peter's Bourne (SPB). It also aims to define a structure within the Community and its connection to the directors of SPB Management Company and to the St Peter's Bourne Trust.

The directors believe that the activities of SPB contribute to the public benefit by:

- Spreading knowledge of the Christian Faith to any person without discrimination
- Helping people to be better Christians, and better members of society in general
- Offering a welcome to all without discrimination
- Providing opportunities for poorer members of society to enjoy the facilities
- Working together with churches to equip their members for mission and service
- Working with churches of various denominations through Churches Together to promote mutual understanding and co-operation in community service, e.g. the Winter Shelter for the Homeless
- And promoting the healing power of faith

The Community aims to live and operate within the framework of these activities, although not bound by them, and achieve its purpose by focussing on outcomes.

The community growth is organic, both in people and purpose, and so these frameworks may develop and grow over time as new waves of opportunity present themselves. This will not, however, impact the mission and values or Rhythm of Life, which define the very nature of the Community in the first instance.

As an individual or family looking to join the Community, the principles set out in the document are to be considered carefully. Each application will be considered with the overall benefit to the Community in mind.

Mission and Values

The common purpose of this Community is to **engage** with God, fellow Christians and the local community, to **equip** each other for personal and spiritual development and to **empower** those around us to reach their full potential in Christ.

Three areas create a framework of values within the community; worship (focusing on God – **up**), internal community (focusing on those living within the community of SPB – **in**) and external community (focusing on the local community and outreach – **out**).

WORSHIP

- To hold an ecumenical faith believing in one God (and the Holy Trinity), who sent his only Son to die for our sins, before rising on the third day, ascending to heaven and promising to return.
- To be active in worshipping God individually and to have regular opportunities to worship as a community
- To be devoted to reflective prayer, prayers of intercession and praying with others
- To participate in weekly Communion

COMMUNITY – INTERNAL

- To commit to a minimum of 1 year in the community
- To create a safe environment for oneself and others
- To be honest, open and trustworthy within community
- To attend a community meal when possible
- To encourage discipleship through reflection on faith, concerns and personal growth
- To be accountable about struggles and hopes with at least one person

COMMUNITY – EXTERNAL

- To be in employment (including being self employed) or studying/volunteering for at least 16 hrs a week
- To attend a Church on a regular basis
- To be involved in a ministry area outside of the community e.g. homeless outreach, alpha etc
- To financially support our local church and be accountable for giving
- To be, if possible, involved in a social, group activity (secular or otherwise) for a recreational purpose
- To be actively involved in planning and delivering the SPB programme, along with the whole Community

It is expected that those who join the Community will strive to achieve these values and be accountable for them during their residency.

The Rhythm of Life

Aspirations

As a living, worshipping and growing Community, there are some core aspirations at the heart of all that takes place at St Peter's Bourne. These are as follows:

- Welcoming – To be a welcoming community to all people not only to promote equal opportunity but also to love, encourage and uphold all that connect with the community.
- Discipleship – To accept and assist in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. To grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. To put Jesus first in all things and to follow his teachings. To be prayerful and read the Bible to promote fruitfulness in our lives. To love each other and share our faith with one another.
- Accountable – To share life and be real in our interactions with one another. Express and present ourselves truthfully, without malice or deceit. To be open and invest time in building deeper relationships with one another and with God. To support each other in prayer and deed.
- Outreach – To act in response to God's calling of support to the local community and beyond. Whether through work, recreation or activities being promoted through St Peter's Bourne, all community members are to aspire to be involved in a structured outreach programme for the good of the local community.

Spiritual practices

These practices are designed to challenge, shape and empower us individually and as a Community to fulfil our purpose in Christ and are as follows:

- The practice of prayer and meditation – Daily prayer and meditation will be available at regular times and days during the week. It is expected that prayer times will be attended at least twice a week to devote oneself in the rhythm of prayer as the foundation of daily life. These communal prayer times are to be a supplement to ones individual prayer life. Prayer in the Community has no boundaries or restrictions. People shall come as they are and pray for what is on their hearts, acknowledging the full support of the Community members.
- The practice and facilitation of communal worship – Specifically the practice of sung worship, in line with the SPB programme, either as an inward focus or for the facilitation of inviting wider networks of people to the house. Equally, there may be times where the Community will support local Churches to lead sung worship at other venues.
- The practice of mission - assisting people to explore and experience Christian spirituality, being a soul friend to those in and outside of the Community. Mission creates its own opportunities through relationship and opening our hearts, minds and souls to the people

and situations around us and allowing God to work through us in these times. Further opportunities will be activity lead by using the resources we have and will involve intentional 'mission', which will be planned and delivered by the Community and FSPB.

- The practice of learning – We are all called to be disciples, challenging each other in discussion, bible reflection and reading, spiritual direction and attending training programmes run by external organisations.
- The practice of mercy and justice – Not only globally but also in one's life with people known immediately (in relationship) and locally. The Community will practice love and compassion to all, especially those who are vulnerable and in need. If there are specific calls to action within our local community, it may be necessary for all Community members to work together for a desired outcome.
- The practice of accountability – As we are all sinners, this practice allows us to be vulnerable, open and willing to change. Your accountability partner(s) does not have to live in the Community, but be located nearby to have regular contact. Other support can be from having a mentor, counsellor or leadership from within a Church.

Organisational Structure

Personnel – The following key roles are to be appointed, in the first instance by the St Peter's Bourne Management Company and by the Standing Committee thereafter:

Chaplain - an Ordained Priest in the Church of England. Their role is primarily to provide a ministry of word and sacrament to the community and its activities. This will include ceremonies of baptism, marriage, confirmation, Holy Communion/Eucharist, as well as giving input on liturgical form. Summary of key responsibilities are:

- To provide a collaborative ministry called into shared leadership with the Prior.
- Oversee sacramental ministries of baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, Eucharist/Holy Communion where required.
- To take a lead on liturgical form and formation.
- To be accountable under license to the local Diocesan Bishop.
- To lead on discipleship and formation.
- To provide pastoral care in and outside of the community.
- To play a part in the local structures of the Church of England and the Diocese.

Prior - The Prior will be a resident that has been designated, in the first instance, by the Sub-Committee. Once elected, the Prior will hold this responsibility for 1 year before being re-elected (or standing down). The position can be held for a maximum of 3 years. Subsequent elections will be made by the Community (the Guardian shall have a deciding vote where there is a tie).

The Prior has the main role in developing the health and wellbeing of members of the community, and also addressing matters of interpersonal conflict. The main responsibilities are:

- To promote and develop healthy approaches to personal and communal well-being.
- To help the community to develop healthy approaches to inevitable interpersonal conflict.
- To promote mindfulness and the spiritual postures of the Community.
- To assist the Chaplain in forms of pastoral care, particularly sign posting towards appropriate services for psychological and mental health support.

Warden – Appointed by the St Peter’s Bourne Management Company and employed full time to carry out their role, the Warden will be responsible for the following:

- Manages the administration of St Peter’s Bourne.
- Responsible for the maintenance, safekeeping and availability of all the consecrated and un-consecrated goods and ornaments.
- Have the right in law to remove from the grounds anyone who is causing a disturbance or who threatens to do so
- Stewardship of equipment and physical resources owned by St Peter’s Bourne and the community.
- Completing other activities required by the St Peter’s Bourne Management Company as defined by the job description.
- Oversight of the building and facilities.
- Managing the practical day-to-day running of St Peter’s Bourne and the requirements of the community.

Guardian – As a director of St Peter’s Bourne Management Company, the Guardian will actively promote the mission and values of the community and ensure these are understood and adhered to with the support of the Standing Committee. The Guardian shall have the following responsibilities:

- Lead the Standing Committee in meetings and have a final word in decision making.
- To assist the Community in addressing issues of conflict and in finding consensus and a way

forward on difficult matters.

- To ensure that the Community is adequately supported and accountable for its decisions being guided by (God's will as revealed in Scripture and the life of Jesus) the Gospel and the ongoing discernment of God's will around new and existing initiatives.
- To assist the Community to ensure it meets all its legal responsibilities regarding good practice and the deployment of staff/volunteers.
- It is expected that the Guardian will have qualifications and/or experience in management, operational leadership and pioneering new missional communities.

The Standing Committee will aim to meet on a quarterly basis, or when it is required in the following circumstances:

- To deal with a conflict or grievance in line with the grievance procedure (*see Governing Constitution*)
- To deal with an investigation where the Tenancy Agreement has been breached by a Community member
- To shortlist candidates and conduct interviews to recruit new Community members

The overall responsibilities of the Standing Committee are to ensure the smooth running of the Community, to assist with its ongoing development and to keep those involved accountable to the mission and values described in this document.