



## **Bluntisham Baptist Church Local Mission**

*'The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.'*  
William Temple (Archbishop of Canterbury)

**Project**

**March 2019**

**Identifying and understanding the needs of our communities and those within them, then reaching out to our communities in order to meet those needs and live out the Gospel of Jesus amongst them.**

### **Overview**

I expect Bluntisham Baptist Church (BBC) would be considered to be very active in the community however there are many people with whom we do not connect with in any way in the village and surrounding area. It is suspected that there are many unmet needs within this area and consequently we should be more proactive in outreach. We recognise that our calling is to reach out to everyone in the community and to share our faith whenever possible yet we know that we do not have unlimited resources or the skill sets to address all the issues/needs.

The aim of this project is to identify the needs within the community and to establish mechanisms to meet those needs while recognising that we do not have to "do it all ourselves".

### **Outline Project**

The outline plan was to first clarify the village statistics if possible with information from the 2011 Census which although now out of date is deemed a good indicator of our profile. The second phase was to establish local needs by a series of activities to contact known organisations and services plus specific individual surveys and to identify what is actually provided by various organisations within this area as it was agreed that we didn't fully know what is available.

Once the outstanding needs are clearly defined then decisions may be made on priorities that BBC might fulfil as part of the ACTS process or signpost to appropriate organisations.

Within BBC we would include our actions in the final Mission ACTS Charter

The final phase will be to produce a complete list of what is available in the community with contact details etc. and to ensure effective communication.

### **Surveys**

A copy of the 2011 Census may be found in Appendix 1. The census summary is that Bluntisham has a population that is generally older than the UK average, our health rating is higher than the UK average and we are relatively affluent with low unemployment. For the purpose of this exercise it is considered that the data for the surrounding villages will be similar.

A copy of the Rural Community Profile for Bluntisham has also been obtained from Cambridgeshire ACRE which is based on the Census.

As there is no formal list of activities/resources for the individual local villages this information has been gathered "manually" and a list compiled (Appendix 2) with apologies for any we have missed.

Villages that were included are Bluntisham, Earith, Colne, Sutton, Woodhurst, Needingworth and Somersham.

Copies of the village plans for Somersham and Bluntisham have been obtained and are available if requested. Information within the plans is included in the report when relevant.

Formal Interviews have been held with Sheila Anthony (St Marys Church), Lucy Bird Somersham Time Bank), Sheena Glanville (Parish Nurse), Cherie Williamson (BBC Youth), Cheryl Pomfret (CCC), Tracey Davidson (Parish Clerk), Steve Matthews (First Responder), Steve Criswell (County Councillor), Susan Bate (Care Network Cambs) and Tim Williamson (BBC Minister).

I have also spoken to Hunts Forum and Cambridgeshire ACRE (rural community council for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). Hunts Forum has not taken part in any community surveys although they have now announced a community's support team member who will assist in developing local activities. Cambridge ACRE have worked with Colne and Earith but not Bluntisham and are interested in what we are doing plus will help if possible to support projects.

Care Network Cambridgeshire has offered to help meet the needs that we identify and will be instrumental in supporting our community.

A simple survey form was produced for use with selected groups. A full village survey was not undertaken as the ones who are in the greatest need typically do not respond.

It was noted that Bluntisham Parish Council have not conducted a survey of the village needs at this point in time.

### **Summary of Findings.**

It is not clear what is actually available already in the villages and there are far more opportunities/resources than we are aware of.

In no particular order of importance:

There is a need for an accessible reference directory to clarify what is available

We have an ageing population many of whom are lonely.

Transport is significant problem

The elderly would like to go to shows or a film club

Mental health issues are significant in this area

There is a local problem with education

The local villages would be happy to work together to share resources.

Funding is available for projects in the community if clearly defined.

There is an opportunity to utilise/join existing schemes

There is little community in Earith yet Needingworth is very active

Colne and Earith agreed to a combined Time bank yet Bluntisham declined.

**There is a need to share our faith in everything we do**

## **Summary**

With respect to Local Mission there have been presentations in church from most of the groups that we are involved with in one way or another so that the fellowship have a better understanding of what each activity encompasses. The plan is now to sustain and promote all the groups, with significant growth opportunities identified for the Beacon Café, Little Fishes and Stitch and Steam so far. It is greatly appreciated what we do in the community and how we are striving to meet the local needs.

A team will be established to develop the plan for increased visibility of our local mission activities, produce a local directory/guide and a “Navigator” will be appointed who will be a point of contact for enquiries. We will also develop relationships with other organisations to include Hunts Forum, Cambridge Care Network and Colne Caring Community.

For future plans we should look at how we assess social impact:

1. Define the problem/need
2. Define the drivers (why do what you do)
3. Define who benefits
4. Define the milestones (what you need to do and when)
5. Assess the outcomes
6. Investigate the impacts
7. Decide on measurement criteria
8. Review on a regular basis

## **John Wesley said:**

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as you can

**This is our calling**

We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.”

## **Mother Teresa**

The Local Mission Charter was agreed and signed at the BBC AGM on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2019

## Appendix 1 Census 2011 Statistics for Bluntisham

### Bluntisham Immigration Statistics

These figures for Country of Birth for the residents of Bluntisham are from the UK Census of 2011. Since Bluntisham has a higher level of residents born in the UK than the national average and a lower rate of residents either born in other EU countries or outside the EU, it does not have a significant immigrant population.

COUNTRY	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	ENGLAND
United Kingdom	90.4%	86.2%	86.2%
Republic of Ireland	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Other EU Countries	3.6%	5.4%	3.7%
Outside the EU	5.5%	7.8%	9.4%

### Bluntisham Age Distribution Statistics

The population of Bluntisham as a whole, is older than the national average. The population of Bluntisham is also older than the Cambridgeshire average, making Bluntisham a older persons location.

AGE	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	ENGLAND
Age 0 to 4	6%	5.9%	6.3%
Age 5 to 9	5.8%	5.4%	5.6%
Age 10 to 14	6.1%	5.6%	5.8%
Age 15 to 17	3.8%	3.6%	3.7%
Age 18 to 24	7.9%	9.9%	9.4%
Age 25 to 29	5.8%	6.7%	6.9%
Age 30 to 44	20.8%	21.1%	20.6%
Age 45 to 59	21%	19.5%	19.4%
Age 60 to 64	6.7%	6.2%	6%
Age 65 to 74	9.1%	8.6%	8.6%
Age 75 to 84	5%	5.3%	5.5%
Age 85 and over	2%	2.3%	2.3%
Mean Age	39.9	39.5	39.3
Median Age	41	39	39

### Bluntisham General Health Statistics

The respondents of the 2011 Census were asked to rate their health. These are the results for Bluntisham. The percentage of residents in Bluntisham rating their health as 'very good' is more than the national average. Also the percentage of residents in Bluntisham rating their health as 'very bad' is less than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of Bluntisham is generally better than in the average person in England.

HEALTH	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	ENGLAND
Very Good	48.77%	49.41%	47.17%
Good	35.67%	34.73%	34.22%
Fair	11.61%	11.81%	13.12%
Bad	3.09%	3.17%	4.25%
Very Bad	0.85%	0.88%	1.25%

### Bluntisham Property Ownership & Rental Statistics

Bluntisham has a higher rate of home ownership, either outright or via a mortgage than the national average, which suggests that Bluntisham is a relatively affluent area.

TENURE	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	ENGLAND
Owned	32%	31.9%	30.6%
Mortgage	39.3%	34.1%	32.8%
Shared	0.7%	1.2%	0.8%
Social Rented (Council)	2.6%	6.3%	9.4%
Social Rented (Housing Assoc)	10.3%	9.1%	8.3%
Private Rented	12.5%	14.3%	15.4%
Other	1.6%	1.7%	1.4%
Rent Free	1%	1.5%	1.3%

### Bluntisham Social Grade & Occupation Statistics

Social grade is a classification based on occupation and it enables a household and all its members to be classified according to the job of the main income earner.

GRADE	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	ENGLAND
AB	26.50%	30.67%	22.96%
C1	32.71%	29.41%	30.92%
C2	21.50%	20.11%	20.64%
DE	19.29%	19.80%	25.49%

### Bluntisham Education Statistics

These statistics are for the highest level education obtained by the residents of Bluntisham and are from the UK Census of 2011.

QUALIFICATION	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	ENGLAND
No Qualifications	19.2%	18.9%	22.5%
Level 1	14.6%	12.1%	13.3%
Level 2	17%	14.4%	15.2%
Apprenticeship	3.8%	3.5%	3.6%
Level 3	12.4%	12.6%	12.4%
Level 4	27.9%	33%	27.4%
Other	5.1%	5.4%	5.7%

### Bluntisham Benefits & Unemployment Statistics

These figures on the claiming of benefits in Bluntisham come from the Department for Work & Pensions and are dated . They can often be a good indicator of the prosperity of the town and possible indicator of how hard it would be to get employment in the area. The rate of unemployment in Bluntisham is both lower than the average for Cambridgeshire and lower than the national average, suggesting that finding a job in this area maybe easier than most places. The rate of claiming any benefit (which includes in work benefits) is more than 10% lower in Bluntisham than the national average, suggesting higher salaries than the average in the area.

BENEFIT	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	ENGLAND
Jobseekers Allowance (only)	1.7%	1.8%	3.3%
Incapacity Benefits (IB or ESA)	1.6%	1.6%	2.4%
Any Benefit (includes in work benefits)	8.8%	8.7%	13.5%

## **Appendix 2. Activities/Resources**

### **Bluntisham**

Bluntisham Baptist Church  
St Marys C of E Church  
St Helen's Primary School  
Brambles  
Little Fishes  
Space  
Stitch and Steam  
Ladies fellowship  
Christian Vision for Men (CVM)  
BMAC debt advice, Prison Ministry and budgeting courses  
Credit Union  
Beacon Café  
Holiday Bible Club  
Open the Book School Assemblies  
Church Hall hire  
Village Hall hire  
Football  
Cricket  
Table tennis  
Badminton  
Forefront Fitness  
The Vibe Studio  
Keep Fit  
Pilates  
Zumba  
Beacon choir  
Jaffa  
Rock Solid youth group  
B.E.N.C.H.  
Bluntisham and Colne WI  
Snooker Club  
Brambles playgroup  
Earith, Bluntisham & Colne Over Sixties Club  
Meridian Singers  
Wednesday walkers  
Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Guides and Scouts  
Mobile library  
WEA – local history group  
Ukulele Group  
Ballroom dancing  
Bacstage – performing arts  
British Legion