

# Harborough Resourcing Church



Back in January, St Dionysius, one of five churches in the Harborough Anglican Team, launched its first new congregation. The 9:15am worshipping community is a new weekly, all-age led congregation aimed at helping people know more of God's love, calling and purposes from Monday to Saturday, as well as on Sundays. Over 80 people of all ages gathered for the first service, around a quarter of which were new to church. This is the first of what we expect to be a new congregation, with the expectation of forming other new congregations somewhere in the Team roughly every year for the next six years.

All-age led, it is expected that everyone, whether attending for the first time or the hundredth, takes a role. Some roles are more practical, some more prayerful; some involve leadership, some hospitality. Each week there are seven ways of engaging with the same Bible passage, reflecting the different ways that people learn. After people have engaged with the Bible in as many ways as they want, the community gathers to share what we noticed, what God might be saying to us and what difference it will make in the week ahead.

Market Harborough is a market town with a population of 22,000 and the Harborough Anglican Team is the first rural resource church in the country, developed in response to the Church of England's Renewal and Reform programme. This programme is aimed at helping the Church of England become a growing Church for all people and for all places. Resource churches are part of this national approach, which will help support mission and growth in the wider local area.

We expect to see significant growth in the next few years as we seek to better connect with and serve the 93% of the town who are not currently part of any Christian community.

Revd Barry Hill  
Team Rector Market Harborough

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