Appendix A: Common issues: the threats and opportunities they present and our response

Issue	Threat	Opportunity	Our Benefice/Parish response
Financial sustainability	Reducing clergy numbers to fit a reducing parish share	A catalyst for fresh and robust conversation about funding parish ministry within the Deanery, the Diocese and the wider Church of England? Engagement with what the next Parish Share model should look like? Seeing giving as a part of discipleship Engaging with Stewardship in innovative ways including: increasing giving, use of reserves, 'friends of', inviting legacies, fundraising and grant applications	
Our buildings	The maintenance of buildings is expensive and time consuming this takes energy and finance that could be used elsewhere Under used buildings Poorly maintained buildings	Each church building has a unique place and history and relationship within its community. This can be an asset for mission and enable a rootedness for prayer. Our communities often love our buildings and they can be places of	

		meeting, connection and service as well as prayer and worship. Increasing church use by exploring alternative mid-week uses and partnerships Maximise the potential of these buildings – often the last community space villages Developing a 'friends of' to help maintain and finance the building Exploring becoming a Festival Church and developing a Trust to help care for Festival Churches	
Sustaining local ministry	Unable to recruit parish officers and volunteers (including school governors and safeguarding officers) to sustain parish ministry	Reducing the number of meetings (joint PCCs meetings, Benefice Councils) to release energy for wider mission. Being part of something bigger can help us to look outwards and learn together. Sharing training with others in the locality	

Administration	The risk is that our time is taken on keeping things going and we lose our missional, pastoral and spiritual focus. We become inward looking rather than outward looking	Streamlining administration and simplifying processes Working together can help us to share admin and lessen the individual load.	