

St. Peter's Church
Chertsey
Vision and Action Plan
2017 – 2022



Vision and Action Plan 2017-2022

Process

The following paper flows from several months of prayer, discussion and consultation within the church. The PCC and Staff Team have been meeting regularly to work through a six-stage process along with consultation and input from the wider church. The Guildford Diocesan 'Common Purpose' has been foundational to our initial discussions.

Six priorities have clearly emerged from the process on which the church will be focusing during the next five years and these are:

- 1) *Prayer Life*
- 2) *Growth in Discipleship*
- 3) *Re-ordering and Renewal of Church Buildings*
- 4) *Developing New Leaders (ordained and lay)*
- 5) *Communication (both externally and internally)*
- 6) *Finance (including significant increases in planned giving and associated stewardship)*

Prayer Life

Whilst there was not a sense of any weakness in our prayer life (it is central for meetings of the staff team, PCC and home groups and in the lives of so many individuals) there was a consistent sense that we need to be challenged afresh about what a life of prayer looks like. If the Kingdom of God is to break out and the Holy Spirit empower and lead us, prayer will become central to all that we do and all that we are.

Action points:

- i. Actively encourage each member of the church to join a prayer partnership in which two or three individuals commit to pray with and for each other on a regular basis. Some prayer partnerships exist already. These need to be encouraged and extended across the church.
- ii. Establish regular prayer through which individuals or couples commit to pray for specific families on a daily basis. This may involve sharing at a deep level some of the joys and struggles of bringing up families.
- iii. Consider the setting up of a 24/7 prayer room in which round the clock prayer takes place for the church, community and wider world. Such a Prayer Room would ideally be ecumenical and involve Christians from churches across the town. The exact location of such a prayer room is under consideration.
- iv. Appoint a volunteer Prayer Coordinator (and small team) to oversee developments in prayer and to become a key member of the staff team. This is a crucial appointment if prayer is to have the key, underpinning, driving role this vision sees it as having.

- v. In the autumn of 2017 begin a major teaching series on prayer both in our Sunday preaching and within home groups.
- vi. Build up and retrain our existing prayer ministry team to provide prayer after both the 9am and 10.30am Sunday services. Build on and develop our existing, but embryo ministry in 'Generational Healing'.
- vii. Create an informal prayer space, as soon as possible, within the current Memorial Chapel. (See following section relating to the redevelopment and renewal of the building).
- viii. Develop further the concept of prayer stations at specific times in the year.
- ix. Consider the possibility of a designated area in a restored church garden, which can be seen and developed as an external prayer space.
- x. Provide occasional workshops on developing prayer life.
- xi. Expand and develop the Intercessory Prayer Team for the leading of public prayers on Sundays.
- xii. Provide regular testimony slots in the context of worship relating to answered prayer.
- xiii. Develop existing email emergency prayer chain.
- xiv. Value and develop praying by children.
- xv. Occasional Sunday evening services for prayer and healing.



Discipleship

Discipleship is at the core of this vision and action plan.



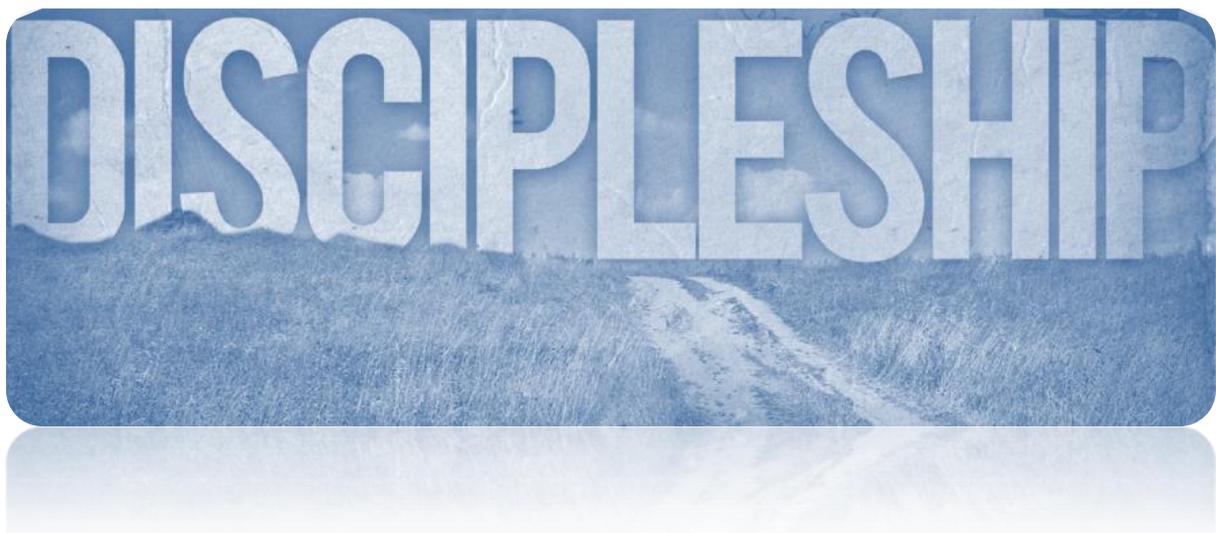
Jesus did not call us to become churchgoers or simply believers, but those whose lives are committed to Him and to His Kingdom.

In brief, we are called to be disciples.

We seek to encourage discipleship in many ways but see the following as particularly important as we move forward:

- i. We will endeavour to foster and encourage individual prayer life as a focal point for our daily lives. We have already outlined our priorities for prayer, which we see as central to discipleship. We will be offering teaching series, workshops and home group studies to deepen and nurture our prayer lives.

- ii. We will continue to encourage all church members to be part of a small group/home group where faith and discipleship can be nurtured.
- iii. We will continue to encourage personal patterns of bible reading using a range of both online and printed resources.
- iv. We seek to encourage every member ministry and believe that God gives everyone a gift to use in the building up of the body of Christ. We will seek to encourage individuals to discover those gifts and in so doing grow in discipleship.
- v. We will continue to encourage and enable individuals to share their faith naturally and intentionally and to work out their discipleship in the workplace, at home and in the community. Preaching, teaching, home groups and personal prayer and study will be foundational.



Re-ordering and Renewal of Church Buildings

The PCC unanimously agreed that now is the time to carry out major re ordering and renewal of the interior of the main church building to enhance our worship, facilitate growing demand for a more flexible space and to provide a large, welcoming resource for the wider community of Chertsey. We have outgrown our existing plant, particularly the hall, and urgently need space for many areas of ministry including work amongst children, youth and the elderly. Our hall is now operating at near capacity during the week and on Sundays. The main church building is under-utilised during the week, and inflexible and uncomfortable for worship. Its fixed seating precludes more creative forms of worship and speaks of a church that is dated, traditional and a brand of Christianity rooted in practices of the past. We therefore plan to carry out the following:

- i. Given the centrality of prayer outlined earlier, we look to the converting of the Memorial Chapel into an informal, relaxed, and comfortable prayer space/room. We plan to glass-in the chapel in order that it can be independently used when the main building is in use, and heated separately when it is not.
- ii. We plan to replace the pews with attractive, comfortable, stackable chairs. This will also require the replacement of the current flooring as part of this process and replacement of current system of heating.
- iii. We are looking to install a ringing platform in the bell tower and a new room below, for which partial grants have been obtained. This will enable bell ringers to ring from a



higher level and provide an additional, independently heated room below when the tower arch has been fully glassed in. Initial plans are currently being discussed. These changes will also allow for entrance to the church through the west door whilst ringing taking place above.

- iv. We aim to improve the current entrance to the church by replacing the large, ‘forbidding’ wooden doors with those made of glass. We will also develop a larger welcoming area, possibly with facilities for refreshments and comfortable chairs.
- v. There is widespread concern over the inadequate state of toilet facilities. This work is to be included within the architectural brief for the works to the main church building.
- vi. We aim to provide increased storage facilities within our buildings.
- vii. We plan to improve soundproofing between the main hall and ‘*The Shack*’ upstairs.
- viii. We are looking at replacement of room dividers in the hall.

It is the PCC’s aim to have initial sketches for the above works (main church re-ordering and WC’s) complete within six months along with consultation with DAC. Architects plans to be produced by Spring 2018 and Faculty (Ecclesiastical Planning Permission) granted by summer 2018. We anticipate major fund raising and grant applications during 2018/19. We aim to be in a position to complete reordering during 2019. The PCC is aware this is a tight but manageable timetable.

The PCC wishes to appoint a Project Manager, preferably from within the church, to drive this project.

The PCC is conscious that hall facilities need updating and extending. However, given the scale of works planned for the church, we feel this should wait until the next vision period.

Developing Leadership

St. Peter's is 'well-resourced' in terms of leadership, particularly with regard to its core ministry/staff team. This strength has been recognised and expressed within the church and by the Diocese of Guildford. However, some specific challenges have been highlighted along with those placed before us by the wider Diocese of Guildford and Church of England.

Developments in this area need to be both organic and intentional. Whilst the New Testament does not recognise ordained and lay leadership as such, we are using these categories to facilitate our focus and to cohere with the Diocesan 'Common Purpose'.



Ordained Leadership

The wider Church of England is challenging parishes to foster vocations to ordained ministry from within our congregations. St. Peter's has a good record of accomplishment in this area, having recognised and nurtured five candidates for ordination in recent years. We continue to be recognised as a good 'Training Parish' in which curates are placed as well as receiving regular placement ordinands from within the Diocese of Guildford for those studying on the Local Ministry Course. Tim also acts as a mentor to new vicars in various parts of the diocese.

St. Peter's currently needs to seek, select and train a new Ordained Local Minister (OLM) to assist the wider team in sacramental ministry across the parish (and possibly benefice), assist in developing pastoral ministry and to take a full part in the conducting of baptisms, weddings and funerals. We have begun the process of discernment and (taking into consideration the selection and training period) aim to have someone ordained and in post by 2021/22.

The discernment of individuals for ordination is the prayerful responsibility of the whole church as well as those in leadership. This process of discernment is subsequently continued by the Diocese of Guildford, and finally confirmed (or otherwise) by the national church through its formal selection process. We ask congregational members to be prayerfully open to discern in members of our congregations people who God may be calling to ordained ministry. Please reflect and pray. Mention your thoughts to potential individuals and to Tim as Vicar. We wish to continue to be a church through which the wider church is resourced in future.

Lay Leadership

Many leaders within the church grow organically over the years; but there is an important place to be intentional in the way in which we discern, train and grow leaders.

St. Peter's needs to continue to develop new leaders in a range of areas as this document makes clear. Additionally we need new home-group leaders, those to minister ministry with children, young people, and the elderly, new people to join our pastoral care team and in a range of organisational roles too.

With this in mind we will be organising a ‘Growing Leaders’ course produced by CPAS and offering short courses on exploring personal gifts.

We are thrilled to have appointed a new ‘Families and Children Worker’ and intend to secure permanent funding for this appointment in the longer term.

The church is blessed with its current leaders of worship. However, many respondents to this envisioning process highlighted the need to plan for on-going leadership in this area in the long term. The PCC and existing worship leaders will be intentional in bringing on new leaders in this area and securing resources, (including finance) for future appointment if and when necessary.

We aim to seek and train new Pastoral Assistants to support and develop the existing pastoral ministry within the church and wider parish.

Over recent years’ we have invited a number of individuals from within the congregation to assist in occasional preaching and teaching on a regular basis. We will continue to develop this practice as well as continuing to encourage them to take part in the ‘Occasional Preachers’ course organised by the Diocese of Guildford.



**Growing
Leaders**



Communication

Whilst there is a sense that we compare reasonably well with many local churches, respondents pointed consistently to areas where there could be improvement.

- i. We wish to appoint someone from within the church to oversee communications across the church both internal and external.
- ii. The main outside notice board is dated, unattractive and needs replacing urgently by something simpler and more contemporary. Notice boards within the church need to be kept updated and in a consistent style.
- iii. Photographs of team and PCC members along with job titles to be in a prominent position and updated regularly.
- iv. Whilst our current website is an improvement on the last it is inflexible, 'clunky' and too complicated to be updated easily. We intend to commission a new website as soon as possible.

We will be appointing a Christian Communications Advisor in summer 2017 to look at all areas of our communication and to work with us in producing an attractive new St. Peter's logo/type face to be used consistently on letter headings, publications, notice-boards and website. The advisor will be commissioned to produce a new website to be up and running by autumn 2017.



Finance

It is acknowledged that there has been consistent teaching on the principles of stewardship over the years and that God has been faithful in his provision, often remarkably. Our expenditure is tightly controlled and we faithfully tithe over 10% of our income. After our tithe has been paid, our income is consistently 5% or more below expenditure. However, with our anticipated growth and development in the coming years, including the internal re-ordering and on-going appointments, we must increase our income substantially. In this context, we move forward with a vision and strategy which has been (and will continue to be) immersed in prayer. We move forward with the biblical principle that



Where God leads, He provides.

The PCC believes it is time for a fresh, creative approach to our planned giving:

- i. A new finance team is currently being formed. This team still requires an individual/s to be responsible for the coordinating of Stewardship. This role will be critical to our vision and will involve, amongst other things, relating to the Diocesan Stewardship Advisory Team and its excellent resource base and experience.
- ii. We will form a team to organise specific events alongside the Vicar and PCC to challenge the church in terms of planned giving and stewardship.

- iii. We will encourage the church and community to consider the leaving of legacies to the church for its continued growth, development and ministry and the provision of appropriate resources.
- iv. Improved resources on planned giving will be readily available both in church and online. There will be wider communication on finance along with regular reminders that we are a self-sufficient church, and encouragement to join our planned giving schemes.
- v. There will be continued teaching on the principles of giving.
- vi. We will set up a specific fund for our re ordering and will, as part of this be seeking grants from external organisations to supplement giving. Additional practical assistance for our existing Grants Coordinator will be needed along with specific challenges to our congregations and wider community.



St. Peter's Parochial Church Council – June 2017

Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to his power that is
at work within us, to him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus throughout
all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21

