

ALL SAINTS

OUR VISION

Introduction

The laws of maths and geometry teach us that the shortest distance between two points is always a straight line. If only the Israelites had paid attention to this when leaving Egypt, perhaps it wouldn't have taken them 40 years to arrive in the Promised Land!

These days when we take a long journey we use the likes of Sat Nav or Google Maps, plotting our course based on a number of factors, such as distance, traffic and weather conditions. In Moses' day they just had the stars - which was in a way, a kind of Sat Nav - but it certainly wasn't the voice of Google Jane reading out the instructions en-route, "You have wandered too far into the wilderness turn around when possible."

Wouldn't it be so much easier if we had a GPS device for faith, and hear the voice of God as clear as our mobile phones, handheld GPS devices and TomToms, helping us to stay fixed to the right path?

The psalmist wrote (Ps 119:105) "Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Trying to articulate God's vision for the church without listening for his Word is a bit like waiting for the Sat-Nav to give directions only to find you've locked it in the boot of the car because you thought you wouldn't need it. The Word of God is what fuels the fire in our hearts, it is what fills the Church with passion, hope and Godly ambition for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A vision without the Word of God is a vision that has only an earthly sense of place and direction, and therefore we are left with a simple and logical utility like 'The shortest distance between two points is always a straight line.'

But as the Israelites showed, sometimes the shortest route is not the best route.

Our obedience to the Word of God may well take us on a slower and more challenging route, as it did the Israelites. In his poem "The Road Not Taken," Robert Frost wrote, "Two roads diverge in a wood, and I – I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference." I think that there is something to be said for taking the easy route because it makes us feel safe. On the other hand there is something profound in taking the road less travelled, even if longer, windier and more dangerous along the way, because in doing so we venture through new territory, experience life and grow in unexpected ways.

God has a habit of working out his plan over the course of time. Very rarely does he call for the 'quick fix', or the 'easy win'. As you read through this vision document you may feel that there is a lot to take in; we have time for this. This is a plan for the next 3-5 years so that we have the freedom to do this on God's terms, and in His way.

The reason why the Israelites took so long over their trip to the Promised Land is because God wanted them to grow and to learn about the wisdom and grace of God, learning to live with a provisionality and dependency on his Word. We must do the same if we are to see the Gospel prosper and our Lord glorified. We must do the same if we are to see God's purpose fulfilled in us and the church. Lifelong and meaningful change in the world can only occur through a lifelong and meaningful commitment to the Word of God, Jesus Christ. So my friends, here it is, our chance to make a difference, to grow in faith, to grow in number, to live for Christ and to seek his Kingdom. Let's do this together.

Yours in Christ

Jeremy

WHAT WE HOPE TO SEE

OUR VISION

To be a Christ-centred, Spirit led, growing Church that proclaims the love of God, in word and deed, to the people of Highertown and beyond.

WHAT WE STRIVE TO DO

DISCIPLESHIP

YOU AND JESUS

At All Saints we believe that **DISCIPLESHIP** is about dedicating one's life to the **WAY OF JESUS**, and to live the way God had intended. We believe that if we **LEARN ABOUT LIFE** from the **AUTHOR OF LIFE** we will all see the **FULLNESS LIFE**.

COMMUNITY

YOU AND ME

At All Saints we believe that the **CHURCH** is Christ's body here on earth, and hence a very special **COMMUNITY** in which we can experience the **LOVE OF GOD** and the **FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Because God's community involves real people it is also an imperfect and broken one. That's why we look to welcome all with love, acceptance, compassion and forgiveness, and to strengthen and support one another in life and faith.

WORSHIP

YOU AND GOD

At All Saints we believe that our purpose in life is to **LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD** with all our **HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH, and MIND**; and to love one another just as Jesus loves us. **WORSHIP** is the wholehearted commitment to this command; in other words, a life of unselfish devotion to God. The greatest praise we can offer God is the full acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

MISSION

YOU AND THEM

At All Saints we believe that every person, Christian and non-Christian alike, is valuable and loved by God. Yet despite this truth the world can still be a dark place, filled with injustice, oppression and prejudice. Knowing that Jesus came to bring life, and **LIFE ABUNDANTLY**, All Saints seeks to be a church that takes seriously the **PAIN OF THE WORLD** and strives to make a difference. Our mission is Jesus' **MISSION**, he came to bring good news to the poor, and proclaim release to the captive, sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed.

MISSION ACTION PLAN

2015-2019



Our aim is to help everyone have a deeper understanding and experience of their place as a Disciple of Jesus, and to learn how our spiritual journey with Him can change the physical world around us.

Over the course of the next 3 years we will seek to develop our church as a place where we and others can hear the call of Jesus, and together, take the courageous path of answering His call. Through devotion and obedience to God we will seek to learn a pattern of church life that will help people to learn about Jesus, to grow more like Him and to share His teachings with others.

We will establish a regular pattern of Alpha and Confirmation courses, to help people make that first step in their journey with Jesus.

We will establish a home group network to encourage everyone in their deepening relationship with Jesus.

We will establish a regular pattern of bible study, and time for theological reflection, to help the church apply what we learn together to our own individual lives.

We will establish a distinct and special ministry to help encourage and bless our young people and young families in their journey with Jesus.

We will seek to encourage a mutual understanding that there are a variety of gifts, and that all are valued highly in God's service. As a church we will commit to encouraging one another in our gifts, and to support one another in using them.

As Disciples of Christ we will strive to see the world transformed in His name and to always seek His kingdom.

Our aim is to be a welcoming and inclusive Christian community that reflects the love of God in all that it does.

Over the next 3 years we will seek to develop our church as a place where all are welcome; where we take seriously our desire to create a Kingdom community, in which the poor, the outcast, the lonely, the marginalised, and all people are welcomed and treated as the precious children of God.

We realise that the church is not the centre of the community but we do want the community to be at the centre of our church. By learning about what life is like for people in our parish we will come to understand how we can support, encourage and bless them.

We will establish a heart for care, openness and welcome, so we can develop a culture of genuine hospitality in our gatherings and in our own lives.

We will develop our buildings so that they reflect the hospitality of God. Paying close attention to thresholds, welcome areas and community spaces.

We will establish regular community events that seek to bless and include the people of our parish, and seek to develop a spirit of invitation where we look to include others in the life of the church.

We will commission a team of Pastoral Ministers to share in the care of the church and its wider community, with a particular focus on the housebound, the sick and the lonely.

We will grow our relationship with local schools by developing a special ministry to support parents, staff and children with life and faith.

To discuss as a church our 'Baptism' policy, and our 'Children and Communion' policy.

As the Body of Christ we will strive to see the world transformed in His name and to always seek His kingdom.

Our aim is to reflect the joy and pleasure of knowing Jesus, and to be a worshipping community that loves the Lord God with all its heart, soul, strength and mind.

Over the next 3 years we will seek to develop our worship so it further reflects our love for God and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ.

We will grow our music group and worship leadership so that we can worship God confidently and take pleasure in the tradition of our church. We will establish a weekly music practice and continue with our monthly Jamming Session.

We will seek to appoint a Worship Leader who can help to grow the music group and share in the leadership of our services.

We will look to nurture and encourage those wanting to participate in the leading of worship.

We will seek to encourage vocations and ministries from within the church family.

We will develop a regular pattern of services throughout the year which reflect our Christian journey and the story of Jesus.

We will look for opportunities to worship alongside other churches and to look for new ways to welcome others so we can continue to learn an appreciation for other traditions.

We will ensure that our worship has a Eucharistic character and keeps to a style of Anglicanism that is both broad and inclusive.

To develop a pattern of preaching and teaching that is both biblical and culturally relevant, connecting the lives of people in our community with the life changing words of Jesus.

In our worship of Christ we will strive to see the world transformed in His name and to always seek His kingdom.

Our aim is to use our God given talents, experiences, resources and spiritual gifts to make a difference in the world. Our mission is Jesus' mission, who came to bring good news to the poor, and proclaim release to the captive, sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed.

Over the next 3 years we will seek to develop the mission of the church

To appoint a mission coordinator, who, with the whole church, will shape the mission of the church both locally and globally. To conduct a mission audit on the parish and to develop further mission priorities.

To establish and grow our relationships with organisations that currently use the church premises, and to grow and support new mission activities such as Acts 435 and Foodbank Plus.

To launch the 10-10 project. (details separate)

To grow our relationship with a few chosen mission partners: (to be agreed at APCM)

To commit to the implementation of the Bishop's Mission Order for Truro. And to work with the Truro Cluster to work out a mission strategy for the new housing development in Threemilestone.

To seek new ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, to welcome people to baptism and make disciples in the name of Christ.

We will join in God's mission and always strive to see the world transformed in His name and to always seek His kingdom.

Resourcing

MISSION

All Saints Highertown

Resourcing and Sustaining the MAP

Stewardship Campaign & Parish Giving Scheme

6th & 7th February 2016 Prayer Vigil and Campaign Launch

Volunteer Posts

Appointment of 10 10 Project Manager

Dec 2015

To coordinate fund applications; fundraising; 106 agreements; architect; building plans and resourcing of project. This person will chair the project committee.

Appointment of Communications Champion

Nov/Dec 2015

The communications champion will focus on keeping the website up to date; updating facebook regularly; production and editing of the parish magazine and contact with the diocesan communications team and local press.

Appointment of Community Coordinator

Jan 2016

To administer complex bookings; property maintenance; letting policies; health & safety; insurance; risk assessments and client relationships.

Appointment of Parish Administrator

Jan/Feb 2016

3 x half days a week to cover such tasks as diary management, notice sheets, administration of marriage banns and wedding enquiries; rota management; responding to misc enquiries; printing of orders of service; booking enquiries.

Mission Coordinator

Apr 2016

To coordinate mission activities and to develop the church's relationship with local and global mission partners. This person will be responsible for communicating updates of mission activities to the church, and church news to our mission partners.

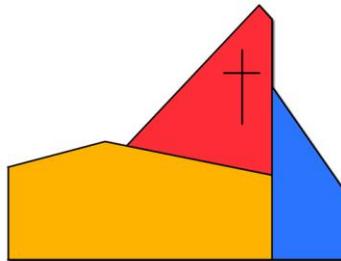
Welcome Team

Jun 2016

To appoint a team of welcomers who will have oversight of hospitality, refreshments and welcoming events. They will also be responsible for the church environment, including the lobby and welcome area.

All Saints

HIGHTERTOWN & BALDHU



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND