



A VISION FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATE

APRIL 2016

In April 2013 the PCC at St Peter's outlined eight priorities to enable us to respond to the God-given opportunities and responsibilities that we have as St Albans' city-centre church. They are set out in the booklet 'A Vision for Mission and Ministry – Strategic Priorities for the next five years'. The PCC's plan of action for giving effect to its vision is reviewed annually.

This is the fourth of our annual newsletters in which we look back on the progress in 2015/2016 and consider the year ahead.

The review in October 2015 was conducted in the very specific context of the interregnum following the

appointment of our vicar, Revd Anne Hollinghurst to be Bishop of Aston in the Diocese of Birmingham, particularly with reference to drawing up the parish profile for a new incumbent.

The PCC fully supports the priorities of 'A Vision for Mission and Ministry' which have informed activity during the vacancy to date. Future plans and priorities will, of course, be shaped in consultation with our new vicar and we look forward to a fruitful partnership.

Richard Butler, Mission Action Planning Co-ordinator on behalf of St Peter's PCC

We give thanks for ...

Key Tasks 2015/2016

Real progress was made over the last year in many of the planned key tasks on our ambitious list:

Priority – Developing and extending St Peter's core community in terms of discipleship, spirituality and mutual pastoral care.

◆ Older members and Ministry developments:

- Having retired from full-time teaching in July, Canon Margaret Tinsley took on the role of Pastoral Chaplain to develop initiatives with older members of our congregation for pastoral care, fellowship, support and spiritual growth. A monthly social gathering 'Tea on Tuesdays' started in January and is proving very popular.
- Marlborough Road Methodist Church runs a weekly Chatterbox coffee morning and there are mutual invitations from both churches to join each other's groups.
- Margaret Tinsley now also co-ordinates ministry for the bereaved and has established a new volunteer Bereavement Group. Members have undertaken specialist training.
- Charles King, Ordinand at St Mellitus College, joined the ministry team in September on a three-year placement combining academic and parish-based training.



◆ Wider Church Links:

- We continue close links with the other Anglican churches in St Albans, particularly the Cathedral. In June, the Alban Pilgrimage Procession again set off from St Peter's, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- We have strengthened our ecumenical partnerships, especially with Marlborough Road Methodist Church, enjoying regular joint services and worship and teaching during Lent and Advent. We are delighted that the Reverends Rosemary Fletcher and Peter Hudson have received permission to celebrate the Eucharist at St Peter's and Jos Perris has been able to celebrate at Marlborough Road.
- The six city-centre churches – St Peter's, Marlborough Road Methodist, Dagnall Street Baptist, the Salvation Army, Trinity United Reform and SS Alban & Stephen Roman Catholic – produced joint leaflets for services and study during Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas and ran a pop-up stall in the market before Christmas.

Priority - Placing a greater emphasis on passing on the faith to children and young people and nurturing them within this.

Having received the report of the review of youth and children's work at St Peter's, the PCC agreed the strategy and tasks necessary to address the acute need for a coherent approach to the nurture in faith of children and young people, including the need for a part-time youth worker.

- In June 2015 The Revd Jos Perris was licensed as Associate Priest and Missioner for Young Families. She continued to build on St Peter's already significant network of contacts through baptisms, weddings, mid-week baby & toddler groups, Messy Church, etc. and to seek ways to enable both young adults and young families to come to faith and grow in discipleship.
- In September Sarah Brandt was appointed Messy Church Leader and Children's Ministry Co-ordinator to develop the regular Messy Church sessions and develop a programme of teaching in Junior Church with the volunteer team.
- Charles King is focussing on developing our youth work, particularly with Friday@Five and Youth Café groups.

Priority – Making the presence of our worshipping community and something of our Christian values highly visible to the wider community.

◆ Website and Newsletter:

- Last autumn we launched our new website <http://www.stpeterschurch.uk.com>. This had been a long time in the planning and has received a lot of positive feedback. It continues to be worked on and maintained by a small team of people at St Peter's.
- We set up an official St Peter's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPeters.StAlbans/> and a Twitter account <https://twitter.com/stpeterstalbans>. We are posting regularly about forthcoming events at St Peter's and local points of interest linked to St Peter's. This is doing wonders to spread the word about what we are doing and increase our presence in St Albans.
- In July we published the first edition of our now regular Newsletter. This has been a tremendous addition to our community life.
- Becky Gillibrand has taken on the voluntary role of St Peter's Publicity Officer, which covers all the above media. Her energy and talents have transformed the public profile of St Peter's.
- We continue to develop wider e-mail communication within our community and beyond.

Priority – Realistic resourcing of the varied and busy ministry that St Peter's currently struggles to sustain and which will underpin successful achievement of our other priorities and goals.

◆ Physical resources - identifying the present and future needs of St Peter's for physical space:

- The team led by Den Parker has discussed preliminary designs with church architect, Mike Dales, for the re-ordering of the church. Further work has been put on hold temporarily during the vacancy period.

Tasks carried over from 2015 ...

◆ 2016/17 Task – *Volunteering at St Peter's:*

- The task group collaborated in the preparation of a detailed paper which was considered by the PCC. A number of recommendations were accepted by the PCC and this positions us well for developing our volunteer base once our new vicar is installed.
- To develop a leadership programme and to hold the first two courses in 2016/2017.

◆ 2016/17 Task – *Put the financing of music at St Peter's on a more formal and secure footing to enable its development in the present and to safeguard it for the future by:*

- developing the existing fund into a capital fund to generate income; and
- encouraging contributions from people involved in the musical life of the church who would not necessarily give to general funds.

◆ 2016/17 Task – *Explore development of a link with a specific overseas parish or project to enable our community to engage more fully in social justice issues as well as to provide a focus for individual and PCC funding.*

- Follow through the plan to create a link with a specific overseas parish or project to enable our community to engage more fully in social justice issues as well as to provide a focus for individual and PCC funding.
- Identify a champion to take this further.
- Explore whether this can best be achieved through a Diocesan link.

◆ 2016/17 Task – *Resourcing our Mission and Ministry.*

- Having launched the new literature in early 2015 and incorporated into the website a facility for online giving, continue to work on building a culture of giving at St Peter's as part of our Christian discipleship.

We pray and plan for ...

God's guidance in our further thinking and actions to build up our Christ-centred community life as St Peter's enters a new phase of its mission and ministry.

A PRAYER FOR ST PETER'S

Welcoming God,
we give thanks for our church of St Peter's:
for its worship and witness in every age.
Give us your spirit of hospitality and joy
as we seek to serve our city and its people,
to share our rich inheritance of faith,
and to celebrate the good news of your love
in our own generation.
Guide us, by your Holy Spirit,
as we meet new challenges and opportunities
in our ministry and mission.
May we give generously of ourselves
in response to your own generous love.
This we ask through Jesus Christ,
the one in whose company we travel. Amen