



ST PETER'S  
ST ALBANS

#### Our values

- Everyone is included
- Loving and generous service is celebrated
- Faith is nurtured and developed
- Everyone is inspired to reach their God-given potential

# BRINGING OUR VISION FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY TO LIFE

Mission Action Plan - June 2023

## Vicar's Introduction

### CHURCH ON THE MOVE

As we continue to hold our vision of living God's transforming work in and through St Peter's Church the next 18 months will be transformational for us. The theme of our mission is Building;

- **Building for the future.** Re-pitching our space for our current and future activities.
- **Building a culture of taking part.** So much is achieved when everyone joins in. By supporting each other we encourage all to be involved, and celebrate the gifts, time and talents everyone brings.
- **Building church and community engagement.** St Peter's Church is for everyone. The community around us is enhanced and cared for by our values and our open door to all.



Therefore encourage  
one another and  
build each other up,  
just as in fact you  
are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



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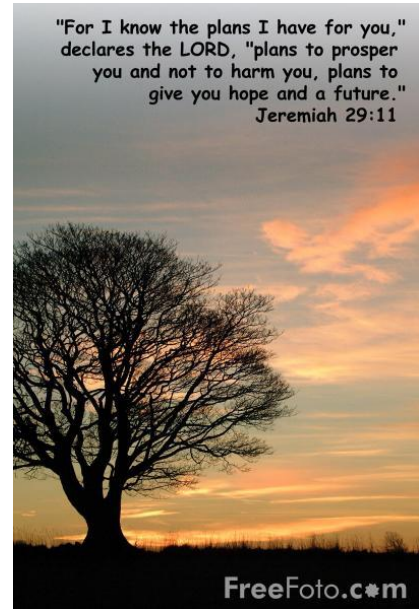
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## Our Values

- **Everyone is included** – St Peter's is a welcoming church where all who come are accepted and valued. This means we foster an environment which does not discriminate on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. Everyone is welcome.
- **Loving and generous service is celebrated** – In continuity with the witness of faithful believers at St Peter's across more than one thousand years, we will acknowledge, celebrate and affirm their legacy by being committed to serving others today.
- **Faith is nurtured and developed** – We will encourage, teach and walk alongside all who seek to be disciples of Christ according to our own gifts and capacity. By personal prayer and study we will develop our own faith and our ability to nurture others. We embrace our special responsibility to cherish and encourage the faith of children and young people.
- **Everyone is inspired to reach their God-given potential** – By our example, with our encouragement and through our teaching we will seek to inspire all who come to St Peter's to reach their potential as disciples and as human beings made in God's image, and to live God's gift of life in all its fullness.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11



## The 3 pillars of our MAP

### One – Building for the Future

Our goal is to make St Peter's a place that captures the wonder of its heritage while, at the same time, upgrading our building and facilities to be more accommodating and accessible.

2023 sees the vision we have been developing for many years become a reality through our SPRING (St Peter's Reworked – Inspiring New Growth) Project. We have delivered several important aspects of our plan already such as upgraded LED lighting in church, a new boiler, refurbished and accessible toilets, new kitchen, and new vestries. Now we are embarking on the major initiative of new flooring in the main church. Not only will this preserve this beautiful building, it will also create a new, flexible space for our wider community.

Through careful stewardship over the years we are in the fortunate position of being able to fund most of the essential work we need to upgrade our building, but we have a gap. We have established a fundraising team with a goal to raise £150,000 by the end of January 2024 and have a number of initiatives planned to enable the church and wider community to support these vital plans.

Work begins in Summer 2023, at which time our main building will close.





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## Service pattern 30 July to 3 September 2023

Service	Time	Location
BCP Communion	8am Sunday	Octagon
Morning Worship	10.30am Sunday	MRMC
Midday Communion	12pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	MRMC
Evening Service	6.30pm Sunday	Octagon
Midweek Communion	11am Tuesday (from 1 August)	Octagon

## Service pattern 10 September 2023

Service	Time	Location
BCP Communion	8am Sunday	Octagon
Morning Worship	10.30am Sunday	MRMC
Midday Communion	12pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	MRMC
Evening Service	5pm Sunday	MRMC
Midweek Communion	11am Tuesday (from 1 August)	Octagon

## Planned reopening Spring 2024

### Two – Build a Culture of Taking Part

Our goal for the life and cultural feel of our church is to build community that lives out our core values of;

- being inclusive
- celebrating service
- nurturing and developing faith
- and inspiring everyone to reach their God-given potential.



We seek to develop leadership, enable learning across the ages, explore vocations and focus on faith at work.

We will know we have succeeded when we recognise a cultural change to church life demonstrated through seeing our core values enacted more in Sunday and weekly activities, and members of our church family feeling supported in their faith with love and well-being.

We are so grateful to our wonderful volunteer team who support so much of our life and work at St Peter's.

We will encourage our community to 'jump in', learn new skills and make a difference through our many opportunities to volunteer and get involved, including welcoming, flower-arranging, tech and AV, gardening, children and youth leads and supporters and more!



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We will establish a team of assistant church wardens to support the ongoing work of our church and prepare for the changes we will see in 2023 and 2024.

We will celebrate our volunteers in special services and raise awareness of the depth of opportunities to volunteer throughout the year.

## Three – Build Church and Community Engagement

To build our church and wider community we will focus on our work with children, youth and families, discipleship, worship, and pastoral care. This is all underpinned by our communications activities.

As we plan for the renovation of our building and our move to share Marlborough Road Methodist Church, we will focus on bringing our community together throughout that time and will host a 'Big Community Launch' when we reopen in 2024. Our communications team will focus on keeping St Peter's involved in the community throughout and engage with local organisations to explore how we can make the most of our wonderful new space in the heart of the city.



### Children Youth and Families:

- Our goal is to engage, encourage and empower those aged 0-18 and their families as they encounter God on their spiritual journey. We aim to:
  - **Engage** Children, Young People and their families in age appropriate activities throughout the year in order to bring them into their own relationship with God. These include (but not limited to) Junior Church, Messy Church, SPY, Family Time, Family socials, Baby and Toddler time, those bringing children to be baptised and through the local schools.
  - **Encourage** Children, young people and their families to feel like they belong to the community of faith at St Peter's as they encounter God in new and different way, as well as grow a team of volunteers to help with the work.
  - **Empower** Children, Young people and their families by giving them the tools needed to continue to grow in faith and encounter God for themselves as they find their voice and place in the Christian community.

### Discipleship:

- Our goal for **discipleship** is to grow a church family across all ages called to learn together in love and fellowship and inspired in our exploration and development of faith, so that we can live God's gift of life today with increasing confidence.
- Following two years of relative isolation experienced by many in our church family as a result of the pandemic, we will seek to offer opportunities for shared learning and development of faith in ways which suit the diverse circumstances and concerns of individuals.





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- We will encourage regular, occasional and new members of our congregations to consider joining a home group to enjoy the fellowship and faith development which they can provide.
- We will organise and resource courses for inquirers where there is demand, ongoing development of faith courses, and Lent Groups, considering collaboration with one or more other city centre churches where it seems appropriate.

### Worship:

**We are creating and sustaining patterns of worship that are inspiring, accessible, and enable all to engage in offering who we are to God.**

In building on an established heritage of thoughtful, well led and mixed worship styles we will continue to review and update service patterns and literature; enhance our all-age focus; make better use of our space; and grow our sense of enabling others to join in and lead. We will know we have succeeded when the style and feel of worship becomes more accessible, others become more involved, and our space and logistics have been developed to enhance our worship at St Peter's.



### Pastoral care:

- Our pastoral care is primarily led by a team of people who share responsibility for the well-being of those involved in aspects of church life. However, we all share the call to support, encourage and care for one another and those within our community. Therefore, we will maintain and enhance our ongoing work in supporting those who are not normally able to attend services, nurturing and supporting those who attend regularly and providing a caring social environment including the more elderly or lonely (with or without connections to the church). We shall also offer bereavement support from the Bereavement Team. Above all, we would like to develop further our reputation as a friendly and caring church.

### Key Dates

**3-15 July International Organ Festival events at St Peter's**

**Friday 7 July 5pm Parish BBQ**

**Sunday 23 July last services in church at St Peters**

**Friday 28 July Graffiti afternoon and evening events**

**Sunday 30 July first joint 10.30am service at MRMC**

**Monday 31 July Contractors start work in church**

**3 and 24 August Family Mornings in Octagon and churchyard**

**Sunday 17 September Heritage Open Afternoon**

**Saturday 14 October Church Away Day**

**Saturday 18 November PCC Away Morning**



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## Appendices

# St Peter's – COVID 19 experience Reflections and Planning

<p><b>What have we lost in the last 4 months that must remain lost?</b></p>	<p><b>What have we lost in the last few months that we must regain in the weeks and months ahead?</b></p>	<p><b>What has been gained in the last few months that must now be retained or developed?</b></p>	<p><b>What has been gained that was fine for the season – but can now be lost?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time pressures / overwork (for some), the <b>hustle and bustle!</b></li> <li>• <b>Overdependence on fewer people</b> to achieve things -</li> <li>• <b>Paper</b>, paper, paper – dramatically reduced reliance on paper</li> <li>• <b>Rigid</b> church structure / culture</li> </ul> <p>Emerging themes for focus (to review in context of MAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Processes</b> (paper / staff / volunteering) - <b>Carolyn</b></li> <li>• <b>External engagement</b> (building, community, fringe, access, music) – <b>Carolyn and Alex</b></li> <li>• <b>Children and Youth</b></li> <li>• <b>Channels</b> (digital, communication, website, branding) - <b>Alex</b></li> <li>• <b>Worship</b> (funerals, baptisms, hymn books etc, music) – <b>Ministry team</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funerals</b> – number of church families missed the last wishes / usual ceremony.</li> <li>• Our own personal <b>confidence</b> in returning to face to face situation – comfort with return to normal</li> <li>• <b>Human contact</b></li> <li>• <b>Music</b> The choir / singing / concerts</li> <li>• <b>Home</b> groups</li> <li>• <b>Income</b> / funding</li> <li>• <b>Access</b> to the building – regain a sense of home, inviting people and finding ways to welcome people back in and comfortable</li> <li>• <b>Community activities, external focus</b> (lunch time concerts, baby group, Tea on Tuesday)</li> <li>• <b>Contact with those on the 'fringe'</b> (those outside core church attendees e.g. confirmation group, infrequent attendees)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More people supporting</b> activities and events - need to maintain this engagement (Lara)</li> <li>• <b>Digital engagement:</b> tech skills; Capacity for wider reach, different ways of connecting with people as a church body and individual to individual, new networks</li> <li>• <b>Children and youth</b> connections</li> <li>• <b>Thoughtful themes:</b> More care and attention to ensure each service has a theme – thinking more thematically</li> <li>• More <b>accessible</b> – to the very busy and those at home</li> <li>• <b>Electronic giving</b> – regular donations (Standing orders / DD / cashless)</li> <li>• <b>Flexible working for staff</b></li> <li>• More frequent and effective and <b>online Management and Ministry team meetings</b></li> <li>• <b>Prioritising</b> the important – connections, community, individuals</li> <li>• <b>Trust in financial accounting system</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over reliance on Zoom, everything digital - Some personal '3 dimensional' contact is needed</li> <li>• We need to achieve a balance of communication channels to meet the needs of the congregation</li> </ul> <p><i>Take opportunity now to review services and servers: Servers every Sunday – just high days and holidays? Let's see how this significant event can inform the future of the church from reviewing pattern of services, what hymn books we need to defining what sort of church we are. We have an opportunity now to shape the future...</i></p>

## Overview of MAP Process

<p><b>REFLECT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019 MAP and COVID reflections – pre read</li> <li>• Homework for PCC</li> <li>• Think about where we are now and where we want to be – imagine church in 2023</li> </ul>	<p><b>VISION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCC Away day</li> <li>• Create a vision for our church for the future – using each MAP category</li> <li>• Present as a newspaper headline</li> </ul>	<p><b>PLAN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will help us get there / what will block our path</li> <li>• Opportunities and barriers</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can we do in 2022 to move forward towards the church we want to create</li> </ul>	<p><b>CONSULT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarise and share with congregation</li> <li>• Invite ideas, conversation and comments</li> </ul>	<p><b>SHARE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate; create updated MAP</li> <li>• Communication plan to congregation and wider community</li> </ul>
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## Fundraising

As we embark on the next stage of our exciting SPRING building project we are raising funds to bridge the £150,000 funding gap we currently have.

Please consider whether you are able to donate towards this and speak to Mark Dearnley ([vicar@stpeterschurch.uk.com](mailto:vicar@stpeterschurch.uk.com)) or our Stewardship officer Peter Court ([peter.e.court@gmail.com](mailto:peter.e.court@gmail.com)) for more information and details about how to get involved.

There are several ways you can donate;

St Peter's website - Donate button or use this code

[www.stpeterschurch.uk.com](http://www.stpeterschurch.uk.com)



Just Giving – St Peter's PCC St Albans

[www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)

From your bank account to ours -

Name	St Peters PCC
Sort code	40 52 40
Account number	00024240
Reference	Spring

Please pray for the success of this project and support our fundraising events as you are able.



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