



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 - May 2025

Vicar's Introduction

FROM BUILDING TO GROWTH

As we continue to hold our vision of living God's transforming work in and through St Peter's Church – the future of our mission is founded on GROWTH.

- **Growing for the future.** Making the most of our new space to grow our church through our current and future activities.
- **Growing 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.
- **Growing 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.





ST PETER'S
ST ALBANS

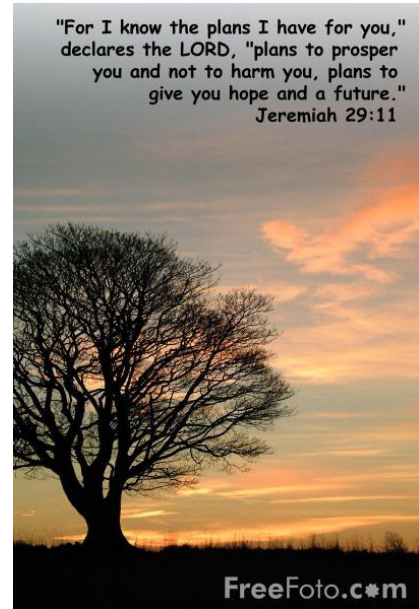
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Our Values

- **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, age, 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

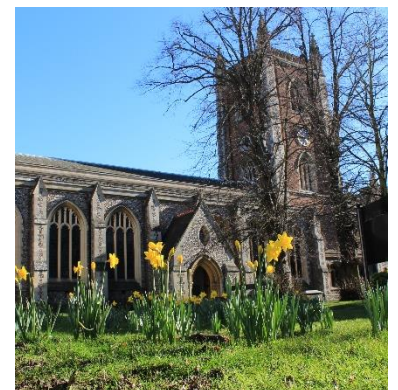
One – Growing for the Future

Our objective as we planned our SPRING (St Peter's Reworked – Inspiring New Growth) building project was 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 versatile and accessible.

Following 9 months of the church building being closed we reopened our doors in May 2024. The key highlights of the project are a new stone floor in the main body of the church, underfloor heating, new seating and increased electrical outlets. These changes will preserve this beautiful building and have created a new flexible space for the wider community and future generations.

There are still many things we would like to do to enhance our space and its useability. These include adding a kitchenette at the back of church, glazing the South door, improving our car parking facilities, and upgrading our audio-visual facilities. We will continue our fundraising initiatives to work towards being able to realise these.

During 2025 we are reviewing our giving and stewardship which is currently complicated and can be confusing. Using new card readers, improved literature and communication on our website and evaluating joining the Parish buying scheme, we will simplify this process with a target of achieving increased donations to allow us to fulfil our objectives for growth.





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Two – Growing a Culture of Taking Part

Our volunteer teams are vital to being able to achieve St Peter's vision and mission by assisting with services, events and activities.

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 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.

There are many opportunities for people to join in, and our objective this year is to fill all our volunteering roles. 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!

Overseen by our Volunteer Coordinator we will create role descriptions, clarify how people volunteer and who they should contact, and develop training and support systems. All of this will be done ensuring safeguarding policies are followed.

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

Volunteers are essential for the long-term sustainability of St Peter's. Without volunteers, many activities, events, and outreach projects would not be sustainable. Volunteers allow us to function effectively, expand our reach, and fulfil our mission in ways that wouldn't be possible without their time, energy, and talents.

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

Three – Growing 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.

St Peter's is one of the largest open spaces in St Albans and this is now a flexible space that can be used for a range of different events. Since we reopened, we have held a murder mystery night, hosted a charity conference, held concerts in different locations in the church, run Family Fun days, Repair Fairs, Cards for Good Causes and even had a bouncy castle in church! We are keen to explore other opportunities for the space and engage with local organisations to understand how we can make the most of our wonderful new space in the heart of the city with St Peter's being a resource for the local community.





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Focus Areas

Children, Youth and Families:

Our goal is to develop and grow the community of families meeting at St Peters both in Junior Church, the choir and the wider Baby and Toddler time.

Activities to achieve our goal;

- Regular Junior Church sessions which meet weekly except for All Age services and some Sundays during the school holidays.
- Family Fun Time which currently meets four times a year.
- Baby and Toddler Time which meet weekly for an hour and a half during term time.
- Table tennis some Fridays for the children in the choir.
- Regular social events – e.g. a family lunch to include the young children not yet old enough for Junior Church and a summer tea for Junior Church families to mark the end of term time.
- Develop Toddler Time so that it finishes with a service for toddlers once a month.
- To continue to use Baby Time as a way of inviting families to consider baptism.

Resources needed;

- There are now six teachers and five helpers of Junior Church. The time commitment therefore is about once a month. This has seen an increase of buy-in from the families.
- A children's worker or someone to run Baby and Toddler time.

Discipleship:

Our goal for discipleship is to seek to encourage a larger proportion of our Sunday congregations into fellowship groups as a way of taking part (a) in our exploration and development of faith; (b) as a means of drawing new arrivals into St Peter's; (c) as a 'next stage' following attendance of an inquirers' course or wedding preparation; and (d) as a vehicle for community engagement.

Activities to achieve our goal;

- Active promotion to the community beyond regular worshippers at St Peter's of the Being With course as an inquirers' course.
- Re-run the "Hard Questions" pub discussion sessions.
- Offering fellowship groups and prayerful care with a focus beyond Bible study (e.g. book groups, theatre group, Odyssey Cinema group, churchyard maintenance group, lawyers at St Peter's group, etc.)
- Encouraging fellowship groups of all kinds to take up a community engagement project.
- Lent Course, possibly in collaboration with one or more other City Centre Churches.

Resources needed;

- Banners to advertise inquirers' courses.
- Book purchases for Lent courses and inquirers' courses.
- Contingency budget for community engagement projects which flow from fellowship groups (e.g. litter pickers, perhaps).
- Growing a team of group leaders.



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Worship:

Our goal is to continue to offer patterns of worship that enable all to open their hearts to God, and in so doing to know the love of God that heals our hurts, inspires our vision and transforms our lives to be more like Christ. Alongside this we actively work to encourage others to develop roles in leading worship, as well as new participants in the choir and the all-age orchestra.

Activities to achieve our goal;

- As we develop our worship at St Peter's we are looking to share our services on screens to save paper while maintaining a mix of styles, from All Age to regular Communion services. Nick will continue recruiting for the choir and All Age orchestra.
- Explore other opportunities for shared worship, e.g. a regular toddler time midweek informal service, a greater variety of service patterns for evening services and a different pattern of worship for Sundays in August.
- We'll host 10am services outside near the choir vestry, when possible, to create informality and reach those preferring not to be inside.
- Evensongs will showcase the choir's versatility, connecting BCP liturgy to mindfulness, with high-quality preaching.
- We are monitoring the 8am BCP Communion as attendance declines due to the health of regular attendees. We'll discuss future hopes with the 8am congregation.
- The Tuesday 11am Communion is growing, and we aim to make it more accessible and meaningful, with appreciated post-service refreshments and chats.
- Seasonal special services will continue, with increased publicity to mark significant events.
- Our goal is for St Peter's family to offer who we are to God, not just on Sundays but throughout the week.

Resources needed;

- Funding for a new PA set up with screen, etc.
- A growing team of those who lead worship.
- Creative means for publicising regular and special services
- Prayer

Pastoral care:

Our goal is that we all share the call to support, encourage and care for one another both those within our more immediate community and all who come to the church, for whatever reason. We seek to develop further our reputation as a friendly and caring and welcoming church.

Activities to achieve our goal;

- We have a strong Pastoral Team and seek to develop this by further input and training so that any problems and joys within our congregation are noted and acted upon. We shall maintain and enhance our ongoing work in supporting those in care homes and sheltered housing as well as those not normally able to attend services. In addition, we shall continue to nurture and support those who attend regularly and provide a caring social environment especially for older people and those who are lonely. This will extend to those who have no affiliation to the church through such activities as Tea or Lunch on Tuesday, the Wednesday concerts and, in the colder months, Warm Spaces. We shall continue to work with Anna Chaplaincy and to support Holiday at Home, organised by the local Methodist churches. The Bereavement Team will receive further training so that support can be given to those suffering loss.



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- We will support and welcome asylum seekers and refugees who attend our church and in the community through offering an opportunity to cook and share a meal once a month, through signposting them to other organisations to access laptops for learning English and other items they need, and through ad hoc help and friendship.
- We will offer pastoral support and a welcome tea and service for competitors and host families for the International Organ Festival. Members of our church will be invited to host the competitors in their homes.

Resources needed;

- Tea on Tuesday unintentionally makes a profit which can be used to defray pastoral expenses. Further monetary support might be necessary to cover gifts for Christmas and special occasions. Volunteers who feel drawn to pastoral work are always welcome.
- We shall need support from Aid in Sickness to fund the cooking and lunches for asylum seekers and volunteers to buy the food and host the cooking.

Supporting St Peter's

There are many ways that you can support St Peter's and the worship, events, activities and outreach work we do.

Fundraising and Donations

There are several ways you can donate to St Peter's;
St Peters website - Donate button or use this QR code
www.stpeterschurch.uk.com



Just Giving – St Peter's PCC St Albans
www.justgiving.com

From your bank account to ours -

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

Please contact our Stewardship Officer, Peter Court (peter.e.court@gmail.com) for more information or to discuss leaving a legacy.

Volunteer and take part

There are a wide range of different teams that you can join at St Peter's. For more information please speak to Revd Mark Dearnley (vicar@stpeterschurch.uk.com)

Tell our Story

Invite someone you know to come to a church service or event. There is so much happening at St Peter's and often people are just waiting for a personal invitation to join in. See our website for details of upcoming events. www.stpeterschurch.uk.com

Prayer

Please pray for St Peter's as we continue on our journey of growth.



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This Mission Action Plan has been created following consultation with different groups during the course of the last 2 years. Some of the discussions were at a Church Away Day, Leading Your Church into Growth Conference, PCC Away Morning, Have Your Say event and our Vision for St Peter's presentation.

Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to these.

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