

Vision – 2020 & beyond.....



Jeremiah 29: 11-13 – 'I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope'

Hebrews 10: 23 – let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

This proposed Vision for the Parish of Clifton (Clifton Parish Church, St Mark's, Rawcliffe and Clifton Moor Community Church) came about after a series of meetings of the PCC and of the different congregations in 2019. Many thanks to all who were involved – we hope that some of what you dreamed of and talked about can be seen in this Vision.

The Vision is divided into 9 sections covering all the work we are called to do as Christ's body here in Clifton. We are conscious of two things

- this can all be seen as very daunting – and yet if a vision does not challenge us and lead us forward, then perhaps it is not a vision at all.
- we can not do all of this at once. At our meeting in January, the PCC decided to initially concentrate on two particular aspects of the Vision – Pastoral Care and Small Groups. All this would be covered in Prayer.

Please continue to pray that we would fulfil God's Vision for us here, that we would be aware of His timing, and that He would provide all the necessary resources/people we need.

We welcome feedback on this proposal – the PCC will continue to discuss its implementation in the next year or so – and we would value your comments/involvement. You can also tell us if you have not heard about the Vision for a while – to remind us of our responsibilities and commitments.

Vision – seeing tomorrow so clearly it shapes today

In the next 5 years, we want to reach everyone who lives, works or studies in Clifton Parish with the Good News of Jesus, so that they can come into a living relationship with Him, proving clear stepping-stones of faith for everyone. We will give everyone the opportunity to grow in the likeness of Jesus through our outreach, our worship, our love shown in action. We want to see the numbers attending all our services grow as people are drawn together in fellowship and community.

The Diocesan Vision is 'Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples' that has been in place for several years. Following a consultation process in 2016, the following goals were adopted:

- Reach people we currently don't
- Move to growth
- Establish sustainable giving

Growth

- In deeper trust of God and following Jesus more closely
- In numbers – more people becoming disciples of Jesus Christ
- In service and blessing to the wider community

The Five Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform the unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Five Values of a Missionary Church

- Focussed on God the Trinity
- Incarnational
- Transformational
- Makes disciples
- Relational

The Vision is that in five years' time, Clifton Parish will have moved forward significantly, having attained the ministry goals set out here, which are specific, attainable and measurable.

Our Context – 3 churches, 1 Parish.

- CPC – 150 years old
- St Mark's – 50 years old
- CMC (LEP with the Methodists) – 20 years old

What are the particular opportunities/challenges to being seen as a Community Church?

Anglican Church within the Diocese of York – opportunities (resources)/challenges (expectations/rules)

Our tradition is low-church/informal – CMC keeps its Methodist influence.

The Dashboard for the Parish of Clifton (2008-17) and the 'Getting to know your Parish' information from the last Census (2011) help to give us our social and economic context. Over 16,000 people now live within the boundaries of Clifton Parish.

4 distinct morning congregations – distinct evening services on 3 Sundays per month.

Our desire is for Clifton Parish to attract and disciple large numbers of all ages, from young children to senior citizens, through activities which are

Rooted in the Word of God - Centred on the Son of God - Open to the Spirit of God

Biblically Strong – Prayerfully Committed – Communally United – Missionally Courageous

To continue to promote the worship of God through a variety of Sunday services which are accessible to all kinds of people, both those with long-standing Church backgrounds, or with little, or none. To constantly review our concern for all people living in the Parish in practical ways so that they are welcomed, drawn into our fellowship, brought to faith in Jesus Christ, shown how to be His disciples, taught Biblical truths, their gifts identified and used, helped to grow to maturity, and sent out in service of God and others, living and witnessing in the power of the Holy Spirit. To acknowledge perpetually our dependence upon the blessing of God by seeking personal and corporate spiritual renewal in which prayer and the study of the Scriptures are priorities.

Our Motto/Mission – to know Jesus and make known His transforming power.

Our mission is to proclaim and demonstrate in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is in order that God our Father is glorified, and His rule extended, in us as individual believers, among us as a fellowship of disciples and through us in our Parish and further afield, in our country and overseas.

Our Purpose – To go and make disciples (Mt 28: 19)

Our purpose is to lead people to Jesus to become part of His family, teach them to worship the Lord, help them to grow spiritually, and equip them to use their gifts in the church and in the world.

Values

Our relationship with God

We are: God-centred

Open to the work of the Holy Spirit

Confident in the grace of Christ

We believe in the power and the practice of prayer

We believe the Bible to be the Word of God

It is our guide for living, teaching and training

Through teaching, study and reflection, we make God's Word relevant to our everyday lives

Our relationship with each other

We are family and community orientated

We seek to be non-judgemental in our acceptance of others

We celebrate unity in our diversity

We have a high value of children and young families

We encourage every member involvement

Our relationship with the world

We seek to be generous in spirit

We want to be a positive influence on the community and world around us

We desire to express our faith in mission and evangelism

We try to reach out to others with relevance to current issues

Attainable Goals (for the next 5 years)

Pastoral Care (Eph. 4: 1-16)

1. Ensure all the pastoral needs of the Church family are met
 2. Motivate every Church member to discover their God-given skills and gifts to serve one another within the Church and the local community
 3. Form a pastoral team to share the visiting of baptism families, the bereaved, the sick and lonely, as well as a team to welcome visitors and help integrate new members
 4. Invite Church members to share in the care and nurture of new Christians
 5. Encourage and develop the Christian healing ministry in the Church, as well as identifying listening and counselling ministries
 6. Organise regular social activities for the whole Church family to deepen relationships
 7. Ensure we keep high standards of safeguarding through training, checks and information – and to have the necessary risk assessments in place timeously
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Small Groups, Prayer and Bible Study (Heb. 10: 19-25)

1. Invite all members of the Parish to participate in or associate with a Small Group
 2. Train future leaders by delegation and instruction from within the existing Small Groups
 3. Motivate Small Groups to plan for growth, and welcome new members with the aim of increasing the number of groups meeting regularly in the Parish
 4. Encourage personal and corporate learning and practice in devotional prayer and spirituality so that we grow to know and love God more deeply
 5. Plan opportunities for Small Groups to initiate and run evangelistic or worship events
 6. Organize occasional quiet days, retreats, and teaching on prayer, along with devotional events coinciding with the Christian festivals.
 7. Encourage Small Groups to be involved in our Sunday services
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Evangelism (Mt 28: 16-20)

1. Ensure every parishioner has the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ
2. Identify the particular needs of the people in Clifton, and see how we can help to meet them
3. Develop a wider network of personal contacts with the community
4. Initiate a strategy to visit and welcome those new to the Parish/our congregations
5. Run a Christian nurture course (Start/Alpha, etc) at least once a year

6. Arrange regular and occasional evangelistic events (breakfasts, welcome suppers, etc)
 7. Work and pray towards the Parish growing in membership by 10% per year
 8. Produce a new Welcome Pack that can be given to all visitors to our services
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Youth and Children (Mt 19: 13-15)

1. Enhance the means by which children in the Parish come to know and love Jesus Christ, co-operating particularly with the Sunday groups and with local schools.
 2. Recruit sufficient leaders and helpers for every Sunday morning group
 3. Make sure that the groups have sufficient resources/accommodation to thrive.
 4. To work toward Sunday groups growing in numbers and in regularity of attendance
 5. Encourage a greater sense of awareness that young people very much belong to and have an active role with our Parish extended family
 6. Finance and support a Youth Work Leader and a Children's Worker who will train others to work alongside them, expanding the work with children, young people and their families, and more fully involve them in the life of the Church
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Sunday Services (Acts 2: 42-47)

1. Make the Parish a focus of giving our best to God in music, worship and ministry
 2. Enlarge the team of musicians and singers assisting at all the parish services, and train a children's choir and music group
 3. Expand the team of those assisting as worship leaders, readers, intercessors, stewards, welcomers, etc.
 4. Enhance our commitment to worship of all kinds/styles, and cultivate a greater openness to new worship resources in response to God's leading.
 5. Achieve a balance between reverence and informality within our Anglican tradition both before and during services
 6. Arrange occasional 'seeker-friendly' services specifically with non-Christians in mind
 7. Encourage an openness to the Holy Spirit, so that people feel free to share words of knowledge, prophecy and testimony.
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Mission (Acts 17: 22-31)

1. Encourage the development of closer contacts with existing mission partners and agencies, perhaps using the 5th Sunday united services to invite people we support to come and preach/share what they are doing.
2. Broaden our contact with other mission agencies in areas of ministry and parts of the world not yet covered

3. Deepen our awareness of and involvement in the wider Anglican as well as universal Church
 4. Reach parts of our Parish that are unreached at the moment (Kingsway North, the new estates)
 5. Co-operate more fully with local and national agencies addressing particular social needs such as homelessness, drug abuse and loneliness.
 6. To continue to explore bringing a Syrian refugee family to York through the Reset Scheme
 7. Challenge members to consider opportunities for full- and part-time Christian ministry
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Training (2 Tim 2: 1-15)

1. To continue to be seen as a training Parish, both producing ordinands, and providing opportunities for curates/ordinands to train
 2. Identify and train more Church members as Readers, Recognised Parish Assistants, youth leaders, Small Group leaders, welcomers, counsellors, etc.
 3. Provide basic evangelism training on a regular basis
 4. Arrange counselling courses covering pastoral issues both for the churches and the wider Parish
 5. Provide teaching emphases on contemporary issues such as family life, the environment and human sexuality
 6. Make use of Diocesan and other local training courses to enhance our ministry
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Stewardship (2 Cor 8: 1-15)

1. Educate and motivate the congregations to give by regular teaching on stewardship
 2. Meet each year's budget so that Gift Days, if agreed, can focus on ministry beyond the Parish
 3. Number of electoral roll members involved in planned giving to increase by 10%
 4. Income derived from planned giving to the Parish to increase by 10% per annum
 5. Income from cash collections and donations to increase at least in line with inflation
 6. Outward giving from the Parish funds to be at least 10% of our income
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Buildings and Facilities (1 Peter 2: 4-12)

1. Provide appropriate and God-honouring facilities for all Parish activities
2. To redevelop the Parish website, to maintain it to a high standard, and to enable services and sermons to be streamed through it.

3. Review and fulfil our health, safety and security obligations
 4. Develop a programme of agreed, prioritised and continuous improvement and replacement of our facilities
 5. Maximise the use of the churches in the parish during the week for ministry, outreach and community.
 6. Maintain, and as necessary upgrade, the house the Parish owns on Clifton Moor.
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Each of these goals would ideally have a sub-committee/working group looking after it, reporting regularly to the PCC. Some of these goals already have such a working group – Youth and Sunday School, Stewardship, Small Group Leaders – other groups will need to be formed, consisting of members of the PCC and the different congregations.

Parish activities detailed in the last AGM report

Sunday morning services – Sunday evening services – Wednesday Communion – Small Groups – Women’s breakfasts – Start Course – United Parish services – Jingles parent & toddler group – First Steps parent & toddler group – Youth Café – Work in local schools, assemblies, etc and visits from schools to churches in the Parish – JAM – Jam residential – Mentoring – Youth drop-in – other youth work at Vale of York, etc - Messy events – Pathways – Sunday morning activities for children – Community events – walking group – Prayer meetings – Prayer chain – Welcoming newcomers to the neighbourhood – Info2go and info2you – 50th anniversary (St Mark’s) – 20th anniversary (CMC) – Care Home visits and services – Young at Heart – Litter pick – Mission abroad – Hospital support – The Shed (men’s group) – Crafternoons at CMC – Light Party at Halloween – Concerts & performances – Occasional offices – Memorial service in Nov – Women’s weekend at Wydale – building relationships with our different hall users – Christmas Fairs at CMC and St Mark’s - Ministry in Clifton House, a secure psychiatric unit – Coffee mornings on Saturdays at St Mark’s – Birthday cards to baptismal families –
