

## Vision Meeting January 30<sup>th</sup>

### St John's Church, (after the service, 11.30 for 11.45 start?)

Our aim is to be a Christ-like church: compassionate, courageous and contemplative. We followed verses showing Jesus' teaching:

**The great commission:** "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20b)

**Which is the greatest commandment?** 'Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)

These commands can be broken down under five headings:

1. Evangelism
2. Worship
3. Service to others
4. Discipleship
5. Fellowship

We would, ideally, like to see in the future:

- Growing in faith, prayer, attendance in church and home groups.
- Giving and using our assets biblically
- Eco church

Crucially, we want to involve as many people as possible in discerning how God wants us to develop each of these five categories of our mission/ministry before implementing any change. This is the reason for a benefice-wide church meeting.

It is still being decided whether to discuss all topics together and bring a packed lunch, or split into groups to discuss one topic each, followed by feedback with the possibility of a suggestion box for other ideas, and finish in time to go home for a late lunch. Please let the ministry team know if you have a strong preference. In all cases coffee and cake will be available.

Of course, all plans are provisional depending on the virus, safety, and rules in place at the time.

## Ideas for discussion

Issue	Suggestion	Category
Make people more aware of importance of prayer and that it doesn't always have to be leadership team praying	Have visible prayer for leaders at the front before the service (we all need prayers!); teaching series of sermons on prayer; prayer day to demonstrate different ways of praying; offer prayer at the end of morning services	Worship
Increase membership of home groups	Offer a daytime group, raise profile of groups in all parishes, encourage <u>everyone</u> in the benefice to belong to/attend a home group	Worship Discipleship Fellowship
Increase attendance at church with diverse age range, ethnicity, disability etc	Invite parents to attend a course such as Christianity Explored; run courses regularly for new people; offer a service aimed at people who have no knowledge of Christianity at all, make it very accessible and unthreatening (Stephen can advise); more social events; involve children in ministry taking part in range of services; extend communication both in and out of church; provide a 'welcome pack' for newcomers; increase our links with the community particularly the Family Centre; run a toddler group in St Britius; become an inclusive church; demonstrate concern for the environment	Worship Discipleship Evangelism Fellowship
People growing in faith, more lay leaders	Personal Discipleship Plans: make people feel appreciated and able to offer their gifts	Discipleship
Use our assets biblically	Consider employing a youth worker part time or expand ministry team; meet needs in this country (food bank, meals for children in summer holidays) and abroad (e.g. toilet twinning)	Service Evangelism
Become an 'eco church' (younger age groups would relate to this in particular)	Follow eco church scheme (St John's is a Bronze eco church); Billie can advise <a href="#">Eco Church   The Church of England</a>	Evangelism Service
Giving	Giving is not a tax! Foster the idea that £ can do good and isn't just intended for church maintenance!	Service Evangelism
Trip to Jerusalem, perhaps in 3 – 5 years' time	Set up a saving scheme, encourage those who can to give a little extra to help those who wouldn't be able to afford it, we could use discipleship fund if necessary	Fellowship
Use a standardised agenda for PCC meetings, following Jesus' commands	Use the 5 headings so that any subject must relate clearly to Jesus' teaching N.B. finance goes last!	All