

Mission Action Plan

VISION STATEMENT

Rooted in Christ, we seek to be a church where:

Radical Welcome means all can belong and be accepted just as we are;

Inspiring Worship enables our faith to grow and be nurtured with joy;

and **Intentional Service** shapes how we share the hope and love of God within the wider community.

Strand 1: Radical Welcome

What would Radical Welcome look like?	What are we already doing?	What might we need to do: Short to Medium-term?	What might we need to do: Long-term?
<p>Being a more inter-generational church family with more families, children and young people, and young adults in the church.</p> <p>The church being a place that feels like a 'second home' where people feel accepted for who they are regardless of gender, race, sexuality, age or ability. A church community that doesn't take itself too seriously.</p>	<p>We are becoming more inter-generational including Mini Michaels, Messy Church, and Junior Choir. There is a clear sense of 'Church Family', and All Together Worship on 1st Sundays. We also have Men's breakfasts, a well maintained website and an increasing social media presence.</p> <p>Feedback tells us that we are a welcoming church, which is already a reality for some people. We are a place where people are already able to feel accepted.</p>	<p>Introduce Junior Church on Sunday mornings. Develop a culture in which families are a sign of a thriving church. Develop social media presence further, to be more engaging with young adults.</p> <p>Be more explicit in our welcome by exploring becoming part of the Inclusive Church Network. Provide 'welcoming' training for all, not just sidespeople including raising awareness of people with additional needs.</p>	<p>Creating a usable space for Junior Church and future youth provision. Provide better physical facilities including hall/break-out areas and modern clean toilet facilities. Remain alert to the needs of a changing demographic as they emerge.</p> <p>Improved accessibility to essential facilities including toilets, entrances, lighting and sound system.</p>

<p>An awe-inspiring building with access for all and effective lighting heating and sound provision.</p> <p>Being a vibrant and busy Community hub and café hosting various group activities for the church and wider community, such as study groups. A place people visit intentionally not by chance.</p>	<p>The building already attracts casual visitors and provides space for prayer and reflection. The church is open all day every day.</p> <p>We serve real coffee on Sunday mornings!</p>	<p>Continue the process of de-cluttering to help achieve a greater sense of coherence. Provide signage near the churchyard gate. Finger post by main castle entrance. Improved interpretation boards for points of interest. Improved presentation of shop/craft stall.</p>	<p>Reordering project to improve community space in the church, general access including accessible toilets, improved lighting & sound scheme, heating, churchyard paths and lighting, coherent liturgical furniture, and providing flexible seating to enable a wider variety of building uses including a flexible community space with café.</p> <p>This is something that will emerge once the reordering project is completed as the church building is used for a wider variety of purposes.</p>
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By God's grace this will:

- Create a place where all feel genuinely welcome
- Result in a growing, flourishing inter-generational church family
- Enable the building to serve the wider community more effectively
- Provide a vibrant and inspiring worship space
- Enable the building to inspire casual visitors and congregations alike
- Create a community where everyone can find their place – be fully known – become fully the person God has called them to be

Strand 2: Inspiring Worship

What would Inspiring Worship look like?	What are we already doing?	What might we need to do: Short to Medium-term?	What might we need to do: Long-term?
<p>A more inter-generational church family where children and young people feel valued and accepted members of the community with roles to play in leading worship.</p>	<p>All Together Worship provides opportunities for children to participate in the service and be engaged with the talk. Children's corner at the back of the church.</p>	<p>Offer a Junior Church for main Sunday services other than ATW services. This will enable more involvement of children in the services. Explore opportunities for deeper engagement with Ignite.</p>	<p>Provide better facilities to accommodate Junior Church – see notes above.</p>
<p>Having thriving adult and junior choirs led by an inspirational Director of Music offering excellence in music.</p>	<p>We have a Junior Choir which leads worship once a month and two excellent regular organists who play for Sunday services. We also have a 'pop-up' choir which sings for major services and festivals.</p>	<p>Recruit a permanent Director of Music with a remit to grow and develop both choirs and introduce a variety of music styles.</p>	<p>Restore the Harrison & Harrison organ so that it will last for the next generation and attract visiting organists for recitals etc.</p>
<p>Ensuring flexibility that allows a variety of styles and traditions of music.</p>	<p>Including a small number of more modern worship songs in worship.</p>	<p>Explore opportunities for establishing a music group.</p>	<p>Improvements to sound system to enable music group of some sort.</p>
<p>Offering a variety of different styles of worship services.</p>	<p>The All Together Worship services provide a more informal act of worship better suited to families; Monthly Iona or Taizé services.</p>	<p>Consider offering healing ministry within an existing service.</p>	<p>Explore offering something similar to 'Soul Space' – a short time of prayer/reflection following a community group meeting, choir practice etc.</p>

<p>Space set aside for quiet prayer and reflection.</p> <p>A community being nurtured and deepened in our faith through: i) small groups; ii) discipleship courses; and iii) a growing biblical literacy.</p>	<p>St Catherine's Chapel is currently set aside for quiet prayer with prayer requests box and prayer resources. LED candle in place to draw people down to the chapel.</p> <p>Ecumenical Alpha course run in Autumn 2025 with plans to run further Alphas on a regular basis (at least annually). Regular Men's Breakfasts and a St Michael's ladies' group.</p>	<p>Provide prayer resources on the welcome table with signposting to St Catherine's Chapel.</p> <p>Introduce 'Going Deeper' sessions which offer a variety of topics for discussion; set up some small groups led by church members. Make provision for Alpha small group.</p>	<p>Monitor and adapt to needs as the groups develop and grow.</p>
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By God's grace this will:

- Enable us to be a church community whose response to worship is joy-filled and hopeful
- Result in people being deepened in their faith and strengthened in their Christian confidence
- Allow people to encounter God in the quiet stillness of the church building as well as in communal worship

Strand 3: Intentional Service

What would Intentional Service look like?	What are we already doing?	What might we need to do: Short to Medium-term?	What might we need to do: Long-term?
<p>A church community that is able to make clear connections between our faith and the difference it makes to our lives each week.</p>	<p>Outward service into the community including the work of the Pastoral Care Team and volunteering in the community. School outreach including 'Open the Book', clergy-led Collective Worship services, school governors and helping children by listening to their reading. Outreach within the church building includes School Eucharists, Mini Michaels, Messy Church, and the Christmas Tree Festival.</p>	<p>Consider introducing a revised dismissal at the end of all our services that clearly articulates the importance of taking our faith out into our daily lives: <i>'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord that you may see lives radically transformed'</i></p>	
<p>The way in which we intentionally lead our lives flows from our faith.</p>	<p>Interacting with the community in our daily lives.</p>	<p>Be more intentional about our witness amongst our colleagues/families etc.</p> <p>Consider running an Evangelism course in order to equip us to be more ready to share our faith.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for us to share our stories of how we live out our faith in our daily lives, to give inspiration and encouragement to others to do the same.</p>	<p>Actively pray for and encourage vocations for evangelists within Authorised Lay Ministry.</p>

<p>Thriving baptism and marriage preparation groups.</p> <p>Being alert to the needs that exist within the church and local community and being open to respond to them.</p> <p>Make better, more intentional connections with existing youth provision in the town (such as Ignite, NE66, Gallery Youth).</p>	<p>One-to-one preparation with baptism families and wedding couples.</p> <p>We already respond when aware of a need.</p> <p>Several members of the congregation already volunteer with or are part of management teams for Ignite and Gallery Youth.</p> <p>Offering the Parish Hall to Cyrus Pattinson to help young people use aggression positively.</p>	<p>Consider how we might reintroduce regular group baptism and marriage preparation sessions.</p> <p>Consider using some sessions of our 'Going Deeper' group(s) to undertake a specific course, such as Growing Good (CUF) or Growing on The Frontline (LiCC).</p> <p>Work on building closer relationships with these groups, to ensure we are aware of their needs, and respond where we can. Make it clear that these groups and the individual young people among whom they work are welcome in our buildings and our services.</p>	<p>Monitor and adapt to needs as groups develop and grow.</p>
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By God's grace this will:

- Enable people to see, by what we do, the choices we make and the way we live, that we are living lives of faith.
- Allow us to be better equipped to share our faith with others, both in conversation and action.
- Help to transform the lives of those amongst whom we live and work through loving service.