

# 2009



## Planning for the future



“Go forth and tell, God’s love embraces all; he will in grace respond to who call...

.....how shall they call if they have never heard the gracious invitation of his word?’

St. Bartholomew and  
all Saints Church

2009 September

## WHO WE ARE, OUR VISION

***We, the members of the Parish Church of St.Bartholomew, are working to grow the Anglican Church in Wootton Bassett using the combined energies of all our people to bring greater understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. .***

### **Where are we going?**

At St Bartholomew's we continue to look at new ways to spread the Christian message and to develop the spiritual life of the worshipping community. To help share our ideas and plans, we have drawn up our 'PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE' document.

**Our Church year:** Our liturgical year provides the main framework for spiritual reflection as worship and courses offer hooks for personal and community growth. From November to May, the KINGDOM TO PENTECOST programme helps us to reflect on what GOD HAS DONE FOR US (ME). From June to October, 'TRINITY' season is the time to ask the questions HOW DO WE (I) RESPOND? Respond to the salvation story told from Advent Sunday until the feast of Pentecost.

Our PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE document, working through the Trinity Season, focuses on three key responses to God's generosity, **renewing, resourcing and rededication.**

### **Renewing**

Every so often we need to set aside time for reflection and renewal. We can reflect on the gifts God has bestowed on us and we can consider how we can respond. The aims are to renew our faith, to deepen our relationship with God and to consider how we can use our time and talents to help live the Christian message.

### **Resourcing**

This is an opportunity to ponder on how we are using our resources (people, assets, finance) and ensure that we are able to continue to endow the church for its mission and ministry. Without financial stability and good stewardship we will not be able to grow the church numerically and spiritually.

This work is exciting and ensures the future spiritual life of St.Bartholomew's Church and her worshipping community. Like any organisation or club we use the contributions made in the collection plate to fund all that we do.

The Finance team have looked carefully at the way we spend money and the good news is that we are wise stewards. A concern that needs addressing is the continued shortfall of expenditure over income each year which we cover from Reserves.

## **Rededication**

On the one hand rededication refers to our responsibility as Christians to honour the temple – the physical building that is St Bartholomew's Church. It is also a celebration of the place the parish church has in our hearts and in honouring the many services and events it witnesses every year.

It should also be said that rededication does not only refer to bricks and mortar, it also focuses on us and the rededicating of ourselves to Christ as the 'living stones' of the temple. The last Sunday in October is an opportunity to celebrate and rededicate our Parish Church as the House of God and ourselves to the task of listening afresh to the salvation story as we once more enter the Kingdom season.

### **Our core values:**

- **BELIEF:** We believe that the person, the life and teaching of Jesus Christ will bring us to a relationship with God.
- **MUTUAL RESPECT AND SUPPORT:** We recognise our differences and we respect the views of those whose cultures, ministries and traditions differ from our own.
- **MISSION:** We embrace the 'Marks of Mission'. We will work to develop our vision, maturing in faith in Jesus Christ and bringing people to discipleship.
- **COLLABORATION:** At all times we are stronger as a worshipping community than we are as individuals. We will act in the best interests of our parish, within the deanery and diocese.
- **HONESTY:** We encourage honesty and openness in all aspects of our individual ministries.
- **AUTHORITY:** Authority is located in scripture, reason and tradition. We accept the authority of the Bishop.

### ***Our ongoing objectives:***

- **Renewing:** To deepen spiritually as a worshipping community, as individuals and as a town; encouraging interdependency of church and community.
- **Resourcing:** Enable people to recognise God's call to them and endow the church for future mission and ministry.
- **Rededication:** Honour the temple and develop a stronger cohesion among the groups and committees associated with St. Bartholomew's and increase ecumenical links

## RENEWING:

**To deepen spiritually as a worshipping community, as individuals and as a town; encouraging interdependency of church and community.**

WHAT	WHEN	WHO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2008 TO 2009</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a pattern of worship, retreats and quiet days that are open to all ages.</li> <li>Develop a youth strategy for work across the town.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to develop the church children and ByZ.</li> <li>Involvement with WB School and Christian Union.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Hold a “bring a friend” service with a focus on the community. Church playing its part in community life: pastoral work, local councillors, school visiting, school governors, chamber of commerce, credit union etc.-back to church Sunday</li> <li>Church promoting community events: outings, community clean-up. Star of David on Parvis</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2009 TO 2010</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the pattern of worship, retreats and quiet days.</li> <li>Pottery quiet day</li> <li>Involvement with WB School, Christian Union.</li> <li>Mission week, July 19-24.</li> <li>Provide book bag to reception class at St.Bartholomew’s school.</li> <li>Provide religious book to year 6 St.Bartholomew’s class.</li> <li>Cafe style church in croft for young people.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2010 TO 2011</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the pattern of worship, retreats and quiet days.</li> <li>Church refurbishment programme.</li> <li>All age picnic</li> <li>Review the youth strategy for work across the town.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review progress with the church children and ByZ.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Involvement with WB School, Christian Union.</li> </ul>		

**RESOURCING:**

**Enable people to recognise God's call to them and endow the church for future mission and ministry**

WHAT	WHEN	WHO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008 TO 2009</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a bank of expertise in ordained and lay members of the worshipping community.</li> <li>• Encourage responsible stewardship and financial stability. (Explore use of interest for quota during refurbishment)</li> <li>• Develop LPA training for the Pastoral Team. Pastoral team discussion started for LPA training</li> <li>• Explore how church buildings can be used for the benefit of the community. Church festival</li> <li>• Develop the leaders group and regular sessions.</li> <li>• Establish the Communications Group and develop a common template for Church newsletters, posters, and brochure.</li> <li>• Appoint an administrator to enable better communication.</li> <li>• Set up Nurture Groups</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2009 TO 2010</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewardship campaign May to October</li> <li>• Develop Nurture Groups</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010 TO 2011</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Nurture Groups</li> </ul>		

## REDEDICATION:

Honour the temple and develop a stronger cohesion among the groups and committees associated with St. Bartholomew's and increase ecumenical links

WHAT	WHEN	WHO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2008 TO 2009</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special services celebrating or commemorating the life of community and All-age picnic. Aug 24<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Church refurbishment programme. (Open day July 7<sup>th</sup>). First meeting held, report back with Gantt chart Oct pcc.</li> <li>Continue to develop ecumenical links, monthly mid-day prayers, lent and holy week. Alpha 2008.</li> <li>Set up links with charities nominated via the groups.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2009 TO 2010</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-age picnic.</li> <li>2009 AND 2010 June arts festival, church venue.</li> <li>Church refurbishment programme</li> <li>Set up links with charities nominated via the groups – explore link with Mundri</li> <li>Young People Audit</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2010 TO 2011</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>		
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What are the Marks of Mission: The mission of the Church is to join in not only with what God is doing now but what God has always been doing to redeem the whole of creation. To reflect this, the Anglican Communion has committed itself to the Five Marks of Mission:

- **Tell** - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- **Teach** - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- **Tend** - To respond to human need by loving service
- **Transform** - To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- **Treasure** - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

## NOTES FROM MEETING SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

### RESOURCING ACHIEVEMENTS:

- New faces in church
- Giving time and using my/our Christian experiences to nurture the children
- Using knowledge and skills for crafts to show the word of God, and having a safe area to undertake the teaching of the children but still being part of the service and morning worship
- Home communion
- Any of us carrying out duties/chores voluntarily which would otherwise have to be paid for is a wonderful resource.
- Finance team/not fundraising/looking at ways of using time/talents/giving
- Finance team
- Home groups
- Mundri/trying to engage our community to help those who are not so lucky as ourselves
- Taking a fresh look at church finances
- MU/raising money for overseas funds and UK projects
- House communions
- Communion at Ridgeway
- Home communion fund raising for others as well as church

### RESOURCING IDEAS:

1. Promote gift aid
2. Bible study: home groups/good fellowship/get to know people
3. Breaking the ice for new folk
4. Offering to help!
5. Churchwarden and others awareness
6. Greeters 'spotting' and welcoming new people (identify) and Town Newcomers.
7. Ensure visitors or newcomers know about Croft – after service.
8. Mundri display in Croft
9. Craft day (annually)
10. PEOPLE !!!

### RENEWAL: ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Regular ecumenical prayers together
2. To thank God for my Christian friends
3. Working together
4. Hope that I can lead a more fulfilled life in the church by helping out if I can
5. Welcoming the excluded
6. Courage to speak up
7. Alpha
8. Mission week
9. Tending/prayer for other members of bible study group/friendship/support
10. Worship all ages services
11. All age culture
12. Welcoming children as part of the main service and being more involved with the church
13. Deepening the children's faith and Christian understanding from an early age
14. Willingness to be challenged
15. MU relationships with Methodist women's fellowship and other church groups

### RENEWING: IDEAS

1. Deepen our communal daily prayer life/idea 'vigil office' on Saturday nights.
2. Publicise the pastoral team and others/like the PCC gets introduced in church.
3. Refresh bible study groups/join ecumenical groups/evening group
4. Take the church to the people not the people to the church eg rugby club/open the church to the high street
5. Welcoming the excluded/what does this really mean/very powerful
6. Street pastors/do we need this in Wootton Bassett?/join Swindon group?
7. De-mystify the Eucharist/explain where the ritual comes from/simplicity of the Last Supper/redescover the true meaning.
8. Help with homeless/Swindon food bank/link into pre-existing efforts
9. Financial worries/No pressure on collection – other ways
10. Environment project/church yard?/clear a space for the community?

REDEDICATING – ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. To extend own Christian beliefs outside the church
2. Flower arranging in the church
3. More outreach and youth work
4. To engage with families of young children and encourage them to see the church as a friendly community
5. Regular worship and prayer
6. Childrens corner project
7. Encourage teenagers to stay on with church/clubs for their age group
8. Visiting elderly and taking communion
9. Courage to see things differently
10. Rediscovering bible study
11. Back to Sunday worship
12. Encouraging others to actively participate in services etc
13. Encouraging children in local non-church schools to be involved with church

REDEDICATING – IDEAS:

1. Bible study book/Sunday school or sheet B-wise
2. Communication of services to non church goers