

St Andrew's future Moving from Good to Great over the next 5 years

Towards the end of 2022 the PCC undertook a 'Good to Great' exercise looking at our strengths and seeing what they told us about the kind of church we are and could become. We came up with what we saw as our core purpose:

"We are a welcoming and hospitable community, sharing our riches of tradition, tranquillity and stability, in the church building, in the churchyard and beyond.

"We are life enhancing.

"We value our relationships throughout the community of which we are a part; adding a spiritual dimension, prayer and practical help, particularly to those who celebrate and to those in need.

"We find joy in our hospitality, in our celebrating community and in sharing our resources with others (especially cake!).

"These are the characteristics on which we wish to build our future under God."

We hope everyone can recognise ourselves in this description.

Then, we reflected on this and suggested ideas which would develop our core purpose into practical action within an achievable timescale

Headlining the coming year (2023-4) we want to:

- Develop hospitality
- Develop social events
- Develop our churchyard
- Improve our publicity

We will build on this in the following year to two years (2024-2026) by developing

- A stronger team for schools
- More times of prayer
- Using church building for other events (eg concerts)
- A stronger team for baptisms
- The feasibility of ways of sharing our resources further afield beyond church
- A stronger team for Ridgeway Rise outreach

Towards the end of the 5 years we may then be in a position to

- Have the church building open more
- Explore partnerships with the local council

This is a flexible plan and there is clearly overlap between the different priorities. However, for the coming year we are intending to develop these priorities as follows

Develop hospitality

- Community lunches during Lent with the possibility of extending into summer holidays
- 'Picnic' Church – monthly family event with bring and share picnic, prayer stations, games and brief time of worship.

Develop social events

- Community lunches contribute to this
- Bi-monthly programme of meals out

Develop churchyard

- Continue bi-monthly gardening mornings (in summer)
- Host RE 'pilgrimage' from local primary schools
- Picnic church

Improve Publicity

- Re-form communications team to develop and implement consistent publicity strategy.

We would be grateful to receive both your reactions to this and your offers of practical assistance. Please talk to me or any PCC member.

Sally Robertson April 2023