

## **2020 PURPOSE & PRIORITIES**

(All Saints' Ockbrook with St Stephen's Borrowwash)

### **Introduction:**

Throughout September 2014 our church family were asked to complete a questionnaire about our parish vision, encapsulated in our Purpose Statement (the context for our church structures and direction), and about the current congregational life of St Stephen's. This information was used at the PCC away day on 11<sup>th</sup> October and from that the PCC have done the following three things.

- The Purpose Statement has been finessed, making it more overtly Christian, with an emphasis on making Christian disciples.
- There are now an agreed list of Priorities to help implement the Purpose Statement.
- Thirdly, an agreement regarding the short-term future of St Stephen's.

Please find below all the details of the above three points. These will begin to be implemented in January 2015 and if you have any comments or questions relating to any of this information, please speak to Tim Sumpter, one of the Church Wardens or any PCC member (details of the PCC are up at the back of each of our churches).

### **2020 Purpose statement:**

Making disciples of Jesus Christ committed to loving God, loving one another and living out God's love in the world.

### **2020 Priorities:**

#### Loving God:

1. Increase our variety of worship styles.
  - \* Explore possibilities of a *Julian Service* and a *Café Praise* (summer 2015).
  - \* Pilot a 4ALL/Messy Church type service, at St Stephen's, (Jan. 2015).
2. Commitment to personal growth, learning and church membership.
  - \* Encouragement of attendance at one weekly service (not just when on a rota).
  - \* Continuation of regular Quiet Days.
  - \* Serving God as a life-vocation both in church and outside.
  - \* Prioritising prayer lives (see below)

#### Loving one another:

1. Networking to enhance relationships and friendships:
  - \* Re-launch Home Groups in January 2015 (train leaders in Nov. 2014) and encourage more church family members into groups as a context for discipleship.
  - \* Appoint a new Home Group co-ordinator ASAP.
2. Prioritising prayer life:
  - \* Encouraging a cell-network of smaller prayer groups (i.e. prayer triplets)
  - \* Reinvigorate Prayer Ministry Team (ongoing training, beginning spring 2105), contact Acorn Healing Trust to offer some of the training and explain in our churches what this ministry entails.
  - \* Advertise the many existing regular prayer meetings.
3. Create opportunities for service (inside and outside of church):
  - \* Develop a church Yellow Pages as a resource for the promotion of Individual's skills and resources (spring 2015).
  - \* A gift analysis to help all to discover, develop and deploy their gifts (to procure a small team to pilot this, initially with a Home Group or another small group, in the autumn of 2015).

4. Plan a Church Weekend Away (for some time in 2016):
  - \* Coalesce a team (representing each of our congregations), book a venue, craft a programme around a theme, book a speaker and begin to advertise.
5. Advertise and promote regular social activities:
  - \* Via the administrator, news sheet and publicity team.
6. Offer training for leaders responsible for specific areas of church life:
  - \* Pilot the Growing Leaders Course (from CPAS) beginning September 2015
  - \* Appoint deputies to support each of our co-ordinators (spring 2015).

Living out God's love in the world:

1. Mission Training:
  - \* Faith sharing session in November 2014 for final Alpha evening, open to all.
  - \* A course on mission/evangelism in 2015 (offering practical opportunities).
  - \* A parish mission (staffed by an outside group) sometime in 2016.
  - \* Sermon series (and Home Group sessions) on evangelism, service and the secular/Christian context of contemporary mission late 2015 or 2016).
  - \* Develop more opportunities for community engagement (i.e. *saturday*s; run/support a food bank; develop contact with other community groups etc.).
2. Missional Prayer:
  - \* Prayer Triplets to specifically pray for our unchurched friends/family/neighbours.
3. Making our church buildings fit for our 2020 Purpose:
  - \* To support the work of the current Working Party (Buildings).
  - \* To develop All Saints' as a flexible space for corporate worship and community groups and events and to progress the quinquennial work at St Stephen's.

**The Future of St Stephen's:**

1. We felt it right to maintain an Anglican presence in Borrowash and saw this community as an important mission context for the future.
2. We acknowledged the need to continue to review the current 'monthly menu' offered at the Sunday 9.15 am services.
3. We warmed to the idea of a church-plant into the St Stephen's building from a group at All Saints' (developing a Messy Church or similar congregation) and felt that:

- This could happen in the future as the 11.00 am service continue to grow numerically.
- We should do something immediately and agreed to pilot a Fun, Food & Faith service beginning at 4.00 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Jan. (25<sup>th</sup>) 2015. This will be advertised in our Christmas and New Year services and we will need volunteers from St Stephen's along with the 4ALL Team from All Saints; to help.

**Conclusion:**

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information which is designed to help set the shape and direction of our church life up to 2020. This information will form a major part of the focus at our next AGM which will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April following a short joint service at All Saints' Ockbrook, beginning at 10.00 am. It is hoped that following the AGM we will have a shared lunch and fellowship together. Please put this date in your diaries now!

**Tim Sumpter (Vicar)**  
**November 2014**