

Listening to God's Word, Reaching God's World

MISSION

Here at St Matthew's we consider the Bible to be God's message to us today, and so we believe we should pay close attention to what it says and respond whole-heartedly in prayer and service. We're called to prioritise its clear proclamation, as we believe its message – that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners – is amazing and inclusive news, and has the power to transform lives.

VISION

Our vision is to be a people who are both deeply rooted in God's Word, and engaged in our local community. We want to depend whole-heartedly on the Lord in prayer, equipped and willing to serve however we may be called, and positively distinctive in the way we live. We want to be keen to share the good news of Christ with others, and long to see Jesus known and honoured in every street of the parish.

We also want St Matthew's to be, ever-increasingly, a church that encourages and helps develop other Bible-centred and outward-looking communities in Plymouth, the South Hams, and wider afield. We are committed to continuing to authenticate our message of good news to others by many practical acts of service.

STRATEGY

In order to fulfil our vision we have the following priorities for the next 3-5 years:

Church life

1. Revitalise our Sunday services, with one main morning service for the whole church family, with one more-formal service and one less-formal service continuing to run, through which further equipping and encouragement can be provided (see overleaf for details)
2. Invest time and energy in growing new leaders (e.g. for homegroups), and preachers (potentially for preaching further beyond too) while making sure to support existing leaders e.g. of *Horizons*
3. Regularly run courses for those interested in exploring the Christian faith, and for those who wish to go deeper into it
4. Continue to encourage & develop 1-to-1 discipleship
5. Encourage there to be some biblical content in all ministry groups (Men's Breakfast, Writers' Circle, Crèche, Toddlers, Short Mat Bowls, Discoverers' Walking Group etc.) – even if it's as simple as Scripture being spoken about in conversations
6. Identify all church members with an appropriate homegroup, to make sure everyone is looked-out for, with geographical considerations being made
7. Encourage all members of St Matthew's to be exploring what their gifts may be, and to serve in some way in at least one ministry area
8. Develop a strategy for growing our men's ministry
9. Develop a strategy for growing our children & youth ministries

Facilities & Resources

10. Bring our church décor up to modern standards, both inside and out
11. Prepare for church growth by exploring ideas and designs for new meeting rooms and other potential facilities above the Lower Hall
12. Revitalise our communication, developing a new website and re-assessing our use of social media

Community & Beyond

13. Continue to develop our links with local schools
14. Continue to serve those who live around us through practical means such as offering our facilities for outside events, through supporting ministries that offer practical care in the community, and through running occasional courses, such as for marriage preparation
15. Share our resources and personnel generously with the new church starting in Sherford
16. Review our missionary giving, directing it towards those ministries and missionaries who share the same objectives and priorities

New Sunday Service Pattern from September 2017

8am

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion

(On Sundays when Communion is being celebrated at 10:30am, the 8am service at some point in the future to be BCP Morning Prayer)

10:30am

Main morning service, with regular all-age services, choir items, and Holy Communion celebrated once per month

7pm

'Sunday 7' Informal evening service

Once per month, at 5pm, an additional Book of Common Prayer service is to be offered (subject to annual review)

The original version of this document was produced by a working group of the Parochial Church Council, presented to the church family at 7:30pm on Monday 20th February 2017, and this revised version was approved by the PCC on Monday 15th May 2017.