

## Encountering God's Peace

*Goal: that our beautiful and historic building is enhanced so that it serves the mission of the church*

**What we are building on:** Upwards of 6,000 pilgrims and tourists visit St Oswald's every year, and our church has developed a ministry of hospitality, particularly through the summer months. We also organise a monthly Parish luncheon for elderly and lonely parishioners. This hospitality, together with the excellent church bookstall, provides a firm foundation for any future developments in using the building to tell the Christian story.

**What we aim to do:** We are inheritors of a wonderful resource: our church building. Whilst it would be undoubtedly difficult to bring the building up to current standards in terms of accessibility, warmth and facilities, nonetheless we will continue to develop our inheritance so that it serves a new generation. However, St Oswald's represents a millennia of prayer and compassion, preserved in stone, and is a precious symbol of faith and love: therefore, any developments will have to be carefully managed to ensure they enhance the facilities and are sympathetic to the medieval fabric of the building.

In 2017/18 we will replace the doors and double-glazed windows in the Church Hall, making it more attractive and cost-effective to heat. At the same time, we will consider plans to redevelop the Church office and the toilets.

We will also begin consulting with the congregation and wider town community on prioritizing the next major developments in our development of the church building - among the various ideas are a new West Door entrance porch, providing toilets and a small kitchen within the church, refurbishing the south aisle floor, and enhancing the interior of the church so it tells the story of our faith more effectively.

## Resourcing our Vision

*Goal: to generate sufficient income to meet our current and expected expenditure, and to become ever more generous in sharing what God has entrusted to us.*

### What we are building on:

2016 accounts

| <i>Income</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> |
|---------------|--------------------|
| £108,343      | £128,229           |

cost per week to run St Oswald's 2016: **£2,465**

estimated cost per week for 2017: **£2,600**

**What we aim to do:** the congregation of St. Oswalds is very generous, so the first thing we will do is to ensure that everyone is thanked. However, if the ambitious aims of this strategy are to be made real, we need to find new and imaginative ways of raising funds, and of convincing ever more people that this vision is one worth investing in. Money is important, and we will not shy away from talking about it, but money is not the whole story: we also need to encourage people to be even more generous with their time, their talents and their passions.

We will be very careful stewards of other people's time and money, ensuring that everything is used in the right way and to be best effect. If you feel you would like to contribute your expertise, time or money to our Church vision, please see any member of the clergy team, a church warden, or contact the church office:

St. Oswald's Church centre  
St. Oswald's Church  
School Lane, Ashbourne DE6 OAN  
01335 343 052, [office@ashbournechurch.org.uk](mailto:office@ashbournechurch.org.uk)

if you'd like to contact the vicar (Duncan) directly:  
01335 343 825 [duncan.ballard@me.com](mailto:duncan.ballard@me.com)



st oswald's  
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*Encountering God's Love, Hope,  
Beauty and Peace.*

# Church Vision 2017/18

The direction in which we  
believe God is calling us.

Following a period of prayer and listening to the needs of our community by the PCC and clergy, and a Parochial vision day where we were able to dream a little of what God wanted our Church to be and do, the follow mission statement evolved:

*St Oswald's is a place where all people can encounter God's love, hope, beauty and peace.*

This leaflet outlines some of the ways in which we intend to grow into this Vision of our Church.

*Sue Hasker ©*

Across the whole of this strategy (the full document is available from the Parish Office) there are three principles that will guide the way we work for God's kingdom:

- we will **do a few things well** - by honouring the past and embracing the future, we will build upon all the good things that are already happening
- we will be a **church that likes to say 'yes'** - we want to set all God's people free to be the hands and feet of Christ in Ashbourne. We will be willing to take risks.
- We will strive to be a **blessing to many** - St Oswald's is a house of prayer for all people, where everyone will be made welcome and given space to flourish.

If you would like more information, or perhaps offer to contribute in some way to this vision, please contact any member of the Clergy or a Churchwarden.

## Encountering God's Love

*Goal: that the number of people regarding St Oswalds as **their** church will substantially increase.*

**What we are building on:** St. Oswalds is a much loved Church, and recognised for playing a strong part in the community, especially through Civic services, Weddings and Christenings. We are also known as a caring church, and provide Home Communion to all the Care homes in the town. What's more, our Edward Bear Toddler Church attracts up to thirty families every week, and 'Experience Easter and 'Experience Christmas' brings six local schools into church every year. We now want to build on this good will and give people more opportunities to be part of St Oswalds.

**What we aim to do:** throughout 2017/18 we will develop our Home Communion team, and build a new Pastoral Care group who will visit and care for people in their own homes. We will encourage and support the new Chaplaincy team working across the town of Ashbourne. We will work with Queen Elizabeth School to establish a lunchtime Christian club for the students, and a regular chaplaincy to the staff. We will also establish a new junior choir in this next school year, working alongside St. Oswald's Primary School to provide musical opportunities for younger children.

In addition, next year there will be a fresh focus on welcoming young couples and families for Weddings and Baptisms/Christenings. We will improve the way we make initial contact with couples (through imaginative marketing and professional administration), we will work on the quality of the services we provide and the frequency and quality of our subsequent follow-up and invitations to join the worshipping community.

## Encountering God's Hope

*Goal: that St Oswald's becomes a learning community, where new Christians encouraged and vocations are nurtured.*

**What we are building on:** At St. Oswalds we do a good job at welcoming people and making them feel at home - but currently we don't provide sufficient opportunities for them to deepen their faith. We now need to provide more opportunities for people to explore their faith and give them the tools to share their faith with others.

**What we aim to do:** working with the Deanery Vocations officer, we will help everyone to reflect upon their own particular talents and gifts, and see where God might use them. In Church we will encourage everyone to feel they have a part to play - from administration and paperwork, to teaching and working with children, through to leading worship - we will be a church that likes to say 'yes' to people, whatever they bring! We aim to increase the number of people in authorised ministries by 50% in the next two years (please see separate leaflet on volunteering in St. Oswald's).

By providing opportunities for people to explore their faith alongside others, we will help to build peoples' confidence and encourage them to follow their vocations. Next year we will begin an Enquirers' group (for people with questions about life, faith and purpose), a new Christians Group (for people interested in being baptised or confirmed) and a 'Going Deeper' group (for people who want to explore some of the riches of our faith).

## Encountering God's Beauty

*Goal: to make the main Sunday service a worthwhile and welcoming experience to which the present congregation can confidently invite other people. To double the average Sunday congregation in five years.*

**What we are building on:** St Oswald's church building is a regional landmark and is of national importance: we welcome thousands of visitors and pilgrims each year who find our church a source of inspiration. Our Sunday services are dignified and graceful, and enhanced by beautiful music from our robed choir and a varied programme devised by our musical director.

**What we aim to do:** we will continue working to make our main Sunday morning worship the best it can possibly be, resigning, simplifying and updating the service booklets and ensuring they are as accessible as possible. We will work with our beautiful building to offer worship that attracts and inspires people of all ages.

We aim to make Sundays in St. Oswald's a day that people will not want to miss! Starting in 2017 we will make every 10.30am service a celebration of Holy Communion, and introduce a new act of worship at 9am on the fourth Sunday. This will be Breakfast Church: informal worship with a shared breakfast in the Church hall, aimed specifically at families who find that the 10.30am service is difficult to attend with the number of activities children now attend on Sunday mornings (although, of course, everyone will be welcome). Breakfast church will explore the message of Jesus Christ using video, modern and traditional songs, drama, craft, discussion and bacon baps!