

St. John the Evangelist, Milford

Diocese of Guildford.

Transforming Church, Transforming Lives.

Church Development plan

May 2021

The Holy Spirit is a shared gift freely given to us all.

Ministry and worship

Finance

Pastoral

Nurture

Community

Social

Achievements

Our Quest: To be the Parish Church for our community enabling worship and service with love for one another in the faith of Christ.

Our Vision: To connect with God through Christ to be a people of prayer and centred on the Eucharistic ministry of our Church.

This paper is a follow up to the Church development plan of 2016 and the St. John's Fundraising Strategy paper 2018-2020.

Ministry and Worship:

To continue in building our ministry team.

To enhance our worship with Music to celebrate God's love.

Build upon Fresh initiatives such as 2x crib services and Advent Day

Service. To explore re-developing the carol service into a seasonal festival.

Pastoral:

To continue to develop the Pastoral Team.

To explore the training of up to two Diocesan trained Pastoral Assistants.

To grow in understanding in support of Black Lives Matter and Love, Life and Faith and to be aware of Climate Change issues so to engage with world and local issues with a willingness to change and accept.

Finance:

To encourage growth and build a finance group to explore fund raising initiatives.

To recognize our limitations yet build for a stronger future.

To prepare a Trio style Annual Stewardship campaign.

Nurture:

To redevelop the House group system

To continue to encourage courses for learning together

To continue to develop our Children's work.

Community:

To continue to work closely with Witley Parish Council.

To continue to invest in our schools' connections.

To explore how to develop our work amongst the Housing developments planned for our Parish.

To understand and explore the possible re-building of a new Village Hall.

Social. To explore ways to promote more social occasions, building upon the BBQ, Tea and Swim, Quiz Night and Fete.

To encourage more 'open Gardens' and Coffee mornings that can assist fund raising.

Achievements:

To recognise and give thanks for our on-going work with ministry.

To celebrate:

The new entrance lobby doors, re-decoration and carpet

The improved lighting in the Church.

To build upon our technical advances in the working of the parish such as Wi-Fi in Church and the use of Zoom for services and meetings.

Safeguarding:

To ensure the safekeeping of all members and visitors to our Church and to keep our Diocesan Safeguarding policy at the forefront of all we do.

In keeping with the Diocesan initiative 'Transforming Church, Transforming Lives', we pledge ourselves to be a people of Prayer and service.

We encourage the Anglican 5 Marks of Mission.

1. To proclaim the good news of the kingdom.
2. To teach and baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

These 7 marks of a healthy Church shall be a benchmark for the future of St. John the Evangelist Milford.

1. Praying so to be energized by faith.
2. Keeping an outward focus.
3. Seeking to establish God's will for us.
4. Facing the cost of change and growth.
5. Growing as a witnessing community within our structure of worship and service with love.
6. Keeping an open policy for all our community.
7. To keep realistic and if only able to do a few things to ensure we do them well.

Dear Lord. Encourage us to be the Church you wish to see. Through your loving spirit. In Christ we pray. Amen.