

Vicar's Report January 2023

Throughout 2022 we sought to embed the God4All vision more deeply in church life. This was reflected in our PCC agendas and in our standing committee meetings. We found some areas of the vision easier to implement than others. Overall, having this vision has widened our ministry and deepened our existing ministries.

Below is my summary of some of things we have done and what we might look at doing next.

I have purposely left a gap under each section for you to add the bits I've missed and your own thoughts about what God might be calling us to do next...



We will listen to our local communities, and respond in loving service, seeking to transform injustice, challenge oppression and pursue peace & reconciliation

Outcomes:

- To help churches to listen to their local communities.
- To develop effective partnerships with other groups and organisations.
- To help Christians to be a prophetic voice, challenging unjust structures and systems.
- To equip Christians to be peace-makers and reconcilers in all spheres of life.

What did we do?

Emergency Services Choral Evensong

What might we do next?

Thank you month? Invite various organisations to have a display in church? Invite groups to take part in Sunday services?

Hold another Emergency Services Service in Feb/Mar 2023

What did we do?

Healing Hubs training course

What might we do next?

Monthly "Wholeness and Healing" services - very light touch

Further healing ministry training

What did we do?

Warm spot

What might we do next?

Build on the partnerships we have established with the public school, the parish council and others to run other projects for the local community. Listen to what the community is asking for.

Try running a "Friday Fun" group for children in the parish.

What did we do?

Pastoral visiting, Home Communion, Care home visits, Pop-In Café, refreshments after church, food at gatherings, Lent lunches, fundraising for various charities, flowers on Mothering Sunday, gifts at Harvest and Christmas, making Christingles

What might we do next?

Pastoral care team meet regularly to pray for each other and those we are visiting/keeping an eye on.

Rota for Home Communion and care home services and visits

Asking for help when needed, reaching out to new people for help

What did we do?

Support for Ukraine

Engaged with the "Welcome Churches" network

What might we do next?

Consider whether we could be involved in the "Welcome Churches" holiday scheme for Asylum Seekers and refugees

We will help each other to follow Jesus more closely, seeking to grow as his disciples in all aspects of life, both corporately and as individuals

Outcomes

- *To encourage growing Christian faith.*
- *To embed a culture of 'whole-life discipleship' (Monday-Saturday as well as Sunday).*
- *To enable people to encounter and study the Bible, and to explore its application for everyday life.*
- *To encourage a culture of prayer in different contexts.*

What did we do?

Advent Course and Advent Meal "Welcoming the stranger"

What might we do next?

Run the "Welcoming the Stranger Advent Meal" at the start of Advent with an open invitation

Run a Lent course, maybe again in the Mission Community on Zoom?

What did we do?

Start a conversation about "Living in love and faith"

What might we do next?

Explore a Christian response to the issues surrounding gender and same-sex relationships in a small group

Take the conversation wider to the whole church

What did we do?

Ran special services for all ages such as Mothering Sunday and Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle, the Christmas tree service, school services at end of year, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas

What might we do next?

Build on the connections we have made with uniformed groups and schools, baptism families

Continue to work closely with Alison and the orchestra

Follow up on Carlisle Cathedral's offer to bring the "Schools Labyrinth" to the Priory for the Mission Community/Deanery?

Sometime in the summer? (See attached booklet)

What did we do?

Weddings and Marriage preparation, Baptisms and baptism visits, Funerals and care for the bereaved

What might we do next?

Look at building small teams for each of these areas, maybe even just one or two people to work with the vicar on each area?

What did we do?

Plan non-eucharistic services in a small team

What might we do next?

Continue planning services together. Invite others to join the team.

What did we do?

Hosted various events and services, musical, cultural and educational

What might we do next?

Continue to offer the Priory as a space of welcoming and meeting.

Publicise and be more strategic, seeking to link up with the wiser parish

We will share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We'll do this in both time-honoured & pioneering ways.

Outcomes:

- To facilitate giving everyone the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Christ.*
- To equip Christians to speak naturally about their faith.*
- To help Christians speak about Christian viewpoints on the important issues of today.*
- To enable more connections with under-represented groups in our churches, and to plant new churches and worshipping communities.*

What did we do?

Story Service 9am Fourth Sunday of the month

What might we do next?

This service is well attended and has a growing congregation (Mostly mums and Dads and children under 7 - regularly 20 or so in total) They often chat together at the end. Might it be possible to offer refreshments/breakfast?

Some of the parents are keen to be more involved, helping to tell the stories and organising the craft.

The sessions are based on "Godly Play", it might be good for a few of us to attend the training so that we can officially be "Godly Play".

The resources are quite expensive so we need to start inviting families to give money and look at any options for sharing/loaning the materials.

What did we do?

New parishioners welcome lunch at the vicarage

What might we do next?

Several people were unable to make it and more people have started coming since so it would be good to do another one in the first half of 2023.

Also, we have a small online congregation, might it be possible to invite them along to meet the vicar too and to learn more about the God4All vision?

What did we do?

Invited Grace Cooper to help us strengthen our social media and online presence and investigate how we might improve the website

What might we do next?

Continue meeting with Grace and working on this area

What did we do?

Compiled a booklet containing the financial report and reports from all the other Priory organisations for parishioners to read before the APCM

What might we do next?

Do this again for the 2023 APCM

What did we do?

Strengthened the Priory Governance through effectively linking and improving communication between the Standing Committee, Finance, Building and Works, PCC, Worship and Pastoral teams.

What might we do next?

Invite new members to join PCC and appoint another Church Warden.

Work together to identify where specific succession management needs to take place and the steps needed to make the transition.

What did we do?

Christmas tree festival & Christmas tree Fayre

What might we do next?

Run these events again in December 2023, set up trees on the 9th, Christmas Tree Service and Fayre on the 10th.

Rev Becky Gibbs 5.1.23

What did we do?

Added a God4All section the centre of the Parish magazine

What might we do next?

Plan a little further ahead and make sure we have material for each month by a wide variety of contributors

Make this section available on other platforms such as the website and Facebook

What did we do?

Built teams on the fringes of the church ie Holy Mowers

Invited volunteers to vicarage for thank you at Christmas

What might we do next?

Continue to link local volunteers into Priory groups

Consider how to provide opportunities for those on the edge to connect with Christian faith



We will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, seeking to sustain and renew the life of the earth

Outcomes:

- *To develop a biblical understanding of the place of the natural world in God's plans.*
- *To enable more sustainable ways of using our resources in our churches (including their buildings).*
- *To equip Christians with practical, everyday ways of living more sustainably.*
- *To help Christians in expressing a Christian viewpoint on environmental issues.*

What did we do?

Applied for and was awarded Eco Church Bronze award

Replaced all bulbs in the Priory with LEDs

Supported "St Bees Green Future"

Ran an Eco Church Open Afternoon

Continued to forge links with the local community through the vicarage walled garden project.

What might we do next?

Eco Church – Silver award application

Continue to support "St Bees Green Future"

Investigate opportunities to support local mental health and wellness projects through the vicarage community walled garden.