



St. Peter's Church, Folkestone **Blueprint for Mission, 2018**

Developing a Creative Mission

Challenges:	Signs of the Times	2
Vision for Mission:	Pathways to the Future	3

The following document is pointing towards a 'Blueprint for Mission', outlining some of the current challenges of mission in St. Peter's Parish and possible solutions.

The Blueprint is the basis for ongoing discussion and was intended to have formed the basis of Parish 'away-day' debate. This was cancelled due to the sudden death of our Priest. It is not yet a concrete 'Mission Statement' and is a constantly evolving document.

We hope to find a Mission Priest to help us to rise to the challenges and to help us to deliver a visionary response to the opportunities which they present.

Challenges

As with many parishes in the Catholic tradition, the last twenty years or so have thrown up a number of difficulties. Nevertheless, our faith in Christ has maintained us and we are ready to serve our Parish with renewed enthusiasm alongside our new Mission Priest.

School relationships

We are working hard to improve the working relationship with the three schools in the Parish but considerable challenges remain.

Re-connecting to the grass roots

The Parish presents complex pastoral needs in an area of high but hidden deprivation overlaid with increasing gentrification. Seaside Parishes present a particularly complex mixture of challenges. (see *Beside the Seaside*, in supporting documentation). The Church was built to serve the fishing community, which it successfully did for many decades, but its relationship with them and the other communities of our Parish, has become increasingly disconnected.

Care of the Weak

The Parish has two retirement homes for the elderly, *Clement Court* and *Philippa House*. We would like to strengthen our ministry in this area.

There are no Community Centres; Youth Centres or Hospitals within the Parish.

Lack of physical facilities (kitchen/meeting space)

Whilst we have occasionally used the School's St. Andrew's Hall kitchen, and/or the Vicarage kitchen to provide for occasional Parish Breakfasts, these do not provide a reasonable solution for the ongoing need for better amenities/facilities to provide for Church mission events.

Ignorance

In a society that is often unaware of the Christian faith, and Catholic tradition, we want to be able to express and teach the faith in a relevant way that breaks down the suspicions of a secular society and invites people to explore more.

Broken Networks

Although we play a full part in the Diocese through Deanery and Diocesan Synods and are active in the Forward in Faith Network for Canterbury Parishes, we would like to work more effectively with all of our local partners, in other churches and in the local community.

Vision for Mission

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie, once commented that he viewed St. Peter's as "the powerhouse of the Anglo-Catholic movement in Canterbury Diocese". This remains our vision: to be a powerhouse of the Christian Faith across South-east Kent and beyond; a light shining through the darkness for all.

Re-claiming the Parish/Leadership

The Church needs a strong Priest to re-establish the self-confidence and identity of the Church community; to help us grow; and to lead the congregation in developing the work of the Church.

The Parish also needs a strong Priest. The secular team is frequently asked when a Priest will be coming. People are looking for a visible presence, engaging with everyone in our Parish.

Evangelism/Catholic Crusade

Employing 'evangelical' or 'Catholic Crusade' mission techniques in an unashamedly high Catholic Church (see *Championing the Poor*, in supporting documentation)

Feeding the poor

Parish Breakfasts before Sunday Mass; Sunday (or weekday?) lunch discussion groups; Parish meetings as coffee mornings – at least one targeted at school parents, so timed for them to pick up their children. Engage more actively with the Rainbow Centre soup kitchens, winter shelter etc.

Redevelopment of part or all of the garage space in order to accommodate this?

Campaigning Redemption

From its foundation, St Peter's was the focus of a long campaign to improve the slum housing of the fishing community, something finally achieved between the wars. Is there a similar need in our community today that would provide such a focus for mission?

Re-invigorating the Pathways to God

The Physical Church building has been considerably renovated over the past five years and is becoming fit for purpose. Of course, there is still more to do, to ensure that the building remains a 'gateway to the Divine'.

Continue the arts-based community heritage enhancement and engagement projects started through the demands of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant-works. Projects completed or nearing completion to date include the Community Mosaic; the Parish time capsule; the Sesquicentennial Parish Frieze; and the Votive Fleet.

Further ideas include creating heritage/memorial artworks using the 2nd World War bullet holes from the flèche; and the original and replacement finial etc.

How can we use our building to better proclaim and explain our faith?

How can we re-invigorate the musical tradition of St. Peter's Church, so that music might again become part of the transcendental pathway of the Church to the Divine?

Healing the sick

Can we develop a new kind of service with Churches Together in Folkestone, combining Taize chant with evangelical enthusiasm, hands-on healing and re-invigorated Benediction?

How can we enable God's reconciliation in a society that needs it?

Might we establish a Christian Counselling Service that acts as a pathway to the healing redemption of the Confessional?

Growth

In line with the Diocesan Mission Plan (see supporting documentation) , we aim to grow in numbers but also spiritually and are exploring what this means for St. Peter's.

Youth Work

What can we do to re-activate Christian Youth-work?

Deepening Understanding

As part of growing spiritually, we need to have opportunities to study the Bible together as well as offer opportunities to explore other aspects of Christianity, not least from our own tradition. This could be offered to the Diocese as a whole, as part of our distinctive input into the life of the wider Church.

Festivals

We have a rich heritage of local festivals, including the Blessing of the Fisheries. We need to explore how we could use these better and through them make better connections with our community.

Renewal and Reform in Coastal Towns

The Parish is actively engaged in the new initiative of the Church of England, *Renewal and Reform in Coastal Towns*, and is currently in discussion with the Diocese over the development of active mission programmes that can work through this scheme (see supporting documentation)

Wider Mission Strategies: Diocese/Forward in Faith

The mission work of the Church is to be executed through, and with the dual inspiration of, the Mission Strategy of Canterbury Diocese (*Changed Lives – Changing Lives*) and the Mission Strategy developed by The Society of St. Wilfrid and St. Hilda for Forward in Faith Parishes (*Forming Missionary Disciples*). Both strategies may be found in the supporting documentation.

