

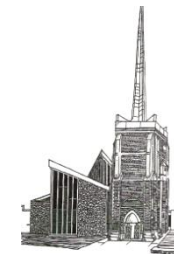
‘Partners, in the Mission of God’

Refocus on the 2023 Parish Conference Objectives

16 November 2024

The Background

Over these ten years, All Saints has continued a journey commenced in 1862.



At that point, some 155 years ago, the founding 'lay fathers' met with the express intent of creating a large new church, open freely to all and very much in tune with the radical thinking of the time. The notion of creating an 'open house church' within the Catholic tradition was challenging. That it should recognise and focus upon the needs of 'working classes' (and out-of-work class), be open to all and engage in preaching and mission that was forceful and imaginative disturbed the status quo – in both Diocese and City.

Our challenge, in this generation, is to remain true to the original ethos.

The focus of our attention can be tracked through the following events and supporting literature. The two key documents to look at are [this document](#) and the ministry and missional focus identified at the [Parish Conference 2023](#).

■ Parish Conference 2016

Diocesan Strategy
Creating Connections
Releasing the Energy

■ All Saints Mission Plan 2017

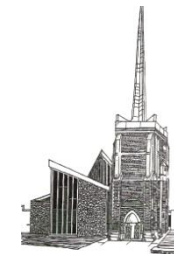
■ Annual Objectives 2018

Communication and Visibility
Growth in Faith
Connecting with the Community

■ Parish Conference 2023

Growth in Faith
Senior and Mature Residents of the Parish
Families, Children and Younger People
Communicating and Promoting
Using All Saints Buildings
Wider than the Parish

Transforming Church. Together



The Bristol Diocese 'Transforming Church. Together' strategy invests in the way we work together; reimagining the way we form collaborative relationships, which may bring more people to Christ and more sustainable culture change. The five high level objectives in this strategy are stated as:

- ☐ **Cultivating belonging in our communities** by nurturing open, generous, creative, and brave partnerships with all our neighbours, and being more inclusive.
- ☐ **Introducing people to the powerful message of Jesus** by releasing, empowering and equipping our leaders and parishes to reach out and spread the Good News.
- ☐ **Being recognised as a force for Gospel change** by working within our communities to relieve hardship and amplify unheard voices.
- ☐ **Building an environmentally sustainable diocese** by encouraging worshippers to hear the cry of the Earth and work with us towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- ☐ **Securing the future of the Church** by working with partners to generate funding, which maximises the impact of our transformation.

These have been shaped into a number of 'work-streams' which are listed on the next page. The question we ask ourselves is *'to what extent do our plans and objectives at All Saints map onto the Diocesan Strategy?'*



Building
pathways into
lived out faith



Church
Buildings that
best serve our
communities



Building
partnerships for
gospel change



Releasing
Ministers to
Flourish



Supporting
Our
Volunteers



Carbon
Net Zero



Engaging
Under 18s



Right form of
Church in the
right place




Priority
Communities



Inclusion and
racial justice


Transforming Church. Together ‘Work-streams’



**What are positive success stories
here at All Saints
that relates to any one
of these ten work-streams?**

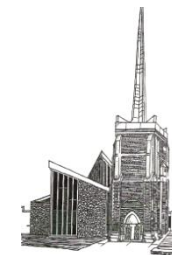
What Does Success Look Like?





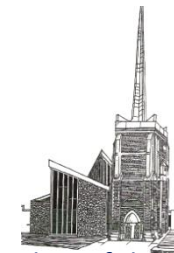
**Which of the ten work-streams
would ‘you’ like to be
actively engaged with?**

The Selected Topic Areas



- 1. Growth in Faith**
- 2. Senior and Mature Residents of this Community**
- 3. Communicating and Visibility**
- 4. Using the Buildings**

Growth in Faith



Introduction

The growing faith of a worshipping community sits at the heart of parish development and our understanding of the nature of worship, ministry and mission. A worshipping community should also find pathways to enable others, on the fringe or on journeys of exploration or looking for sacred/special space to come closer to God.

Our faith, and the consequent expectations, really do sit at the heart of all we do.

There is much that takes place at All Saints – and there is significant opportunity to extend this.

- Open To All!
- Two regular and differing forms of worship (also 'Teaching Themes' at Early Worship)
- Catholic liturgy – combining ceremonial, music, readings, teaching; Daily office and weekday Mass
- Additional acts of worship, reflection and contemplation (Advent Pilgrimage, Good Friday Devotion, Choral Evensongs, Musical Reflections, Stations of the Cross)
- Parish Retreat annually (also support for private retreats), offer of Spiritual Direction
- Lent Programme (2024 - Holy Week Leader, Lent Course, Lectio and Lent Conversations)
- Promotion of Diocesan events (eg in 2024 'Pioneering Parishes' and 'Rhythm of Life')
- Festivals and maintain the Churches Year, regular Occasional Offices and Confessions
- Support for worship and ministry in United Benefice of AL&LW; and worship across the Deanery and within wider Bristol
- 'All Day, Every Day' space for quiet, prayer and reflection

Activities for engagement:

- Reintroduce the 'Let's Talk About....' series or 'educative talks' (pilgrimage, retreats, scripture, key topics and faith subjects)
- Produce updated 'Mass Book' and 'Introduction to Anglo Catholicism' booklet (see Communication and Visibility)
- Continue to promote Diocesan events (e.g. in 2024 'Pioneering Parishes' and 'Rhythm of Life')
- Consider adding 'Healing Services' and 'Taizé Services' to the range of worship and reflection
- Add Lectionary reflection and commentary to the Lent Programme
- Develop relationship with Cathedral and communicate events and talks

Senior and Mature Residents of this Community



Introduction

'*Engaging under 18s*' is a focus of the Diocesan Strategy. However contexts between parishes and worshipping communities differ significantly. Not losing sight of the activities at All Saints aimed at young people and families (Early Worship, St John's School, Clifton High School, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, UWE, Bristol University, 57th Brownies, Adventure Babies and Baby Massage), ministry tends to be more directed toward senior and mature members of the community.

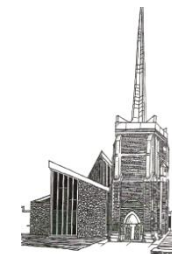
Ministry and activity that is aimed toward this population - our worshipping community, the local community and further afield varies. It may be seen to include:

- Pastoral team (home communion, regular calls and visits)
- Church and Community Working Group
- Friends Café
- Dementia Aware Church (and link with BDAA)
- Church activity (Flower Team, ASC Artists, and similar)
- Concert programme (and Candle Light Concerts and Noods Radio – directed toward a younger age group)
- Link with Clifton Down Community Association

Activities for engagement:

- Pastoral team – renew membership with lay chair
- ASC News – undertaking from congregation to deliver ASC News copies
- Continue supporting the Dementia Awareness work
- Support Atrium work to increase accessibility, create a warm space and grow community relevance

Communication and Visibility



Introduction

Communication is always sited as an issue within organizations. There are two aspects to this; our individual responsibility to engage and connect (to seek and not rely on being told), and the organization's responsibility to actively communicate as widely as possible. Recent academic research in Bristol identified that parishes need to be *'much more proactive in effectively communicating what is on offer, when a building is open, what it is like inside the church, who activities are aimed at.'* (Research October 2024 – Bristol Diocese).

A point summarised by the authors as **'shout louder!'**

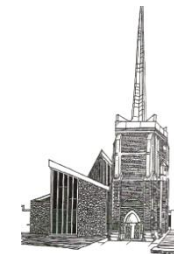
Very positive aspects of All Saints communication are recognised as: the ASC website, the twice yearly 'What's On' and the weekly ASC News. Items announced in the notices during Mass are always communicated in the ASC News. Acknowledge the strength of the Early Worship teaching themes. Unsurprisingly, specific items identified under 'communication' relate directly to 'Growth in Faith', 'Mature Residents in Community' and 'Use of Buildings'.

In Deuteronomy, God incites us to use every tool we have at our disposal to communicate his love for all creation.

Activities for engagement:

- Introduction to Anglo Catholicism
 - New edition of previous pamphlet - as a booklet in modern style (like Piper Windows). Identify editor.
- Christmas and Easter Cards
 - Power of 'What's On' is recognised – benefit from introducing modern card style Easter and Christmas services.
- Parish Mass Book
 - Rewrite in modern simpler style. Identify editor.
- Actively communicate position and support for topics such as Inclusion, Social and Racial Justice.
- Introduce and use equipment for streaming
- Teaching sermons, nurture courses and contemplative worship (see 'Growth in Faith').

Using the Buildings



Introduction

All Saints has a very significant annual footfall – amongst the highest in Diocesan Parish Churches. With the Atrium Development, plans exist to support this relevance to the local and wider community and maintain our presence as an anchor institution. This is further underlined by our commitment to achieve 'Net Zero' (with the solar array and air source heat pumps) and provision of an inclusive, accessible building (with the new toilets and full accessibility).

With this usage come some challenges. There is a cultural shift for all to recognise the place of All Saints within the community as relevant, welcoming and open to all. Additionally, there is the impact that this level of visitors have on the fabric of the building (cleaning and care); aligned with expectations of the quality of facilities (heat, toilets, caretaker, etc). There are also opportunities. A significant element of our income comes through the commercial letting of the building, there is the recognition that an element of this is missional (and the 'human' welcome given to visitors is an important part of what we do), and there is our charitable support (some 'users' benefit from reduced rates – e.g.. student groups – or occasionally 'free' space – e.g.. Bristol Dementia Awareness of Clifton Down Community).

Activities for engagement:

- Management of the Buildings
 - Annual review of building management, booking policies and fees already takes place (December 2024)
- Cleaning Plan
 - Commercial cleaning plan exists (primarily for Randall Room, stairs, Atrium, kitchen for heavy impact areas)
 - Perhaps form a regular 'Church Volunteer Cleaning Team'? Look for team lead and volunteers.
 - Sacristy Cleaning – twice yearly, would benefit from increased volunteers

