

Appendix 8 Deanery vision plans from the Parishes and Teams

RIDGEWELL ST LAURENCE

In the light of God's call and our situation here, our vision is to be a welcoming beacon, spreading god's love in the community through faith.

STURMER

In the light of God's call and our situation here, our vision is to continue and enhance the established faith and fellowship of St. Mary's Church within our community.

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH TOPPESHFIELD

In light of God's call, and our situation here, our vision is to promote Christian faith and fellowship in our community by:

- Being available to all when needed
- Setting a Christian example in all we do
- Being inclusive of all, especially the young
- Being relevant to today and forward-looking in how we worship and work together
- Being involved in the community and sensitive to its needs
- Safeguarding the physical church for future generations as a living symbol of our faith in this community
- Gaining strength from the other parishes in our benefice by sharing resources and acts of witness
- Being united in faith and purpose
- Welcoming all contributions to God's work, however small or indirect
- Communicating joy in what we do and what we stand for

THE CHURCHES OF GREAT & LITTLE YELDHAM, STAMBOURNE & TILBURY-juxta-CLARE

In the light of God's call, and our situation here, our vision is to promote Christian faith and fellowship in our community by

- Proclaiming the Gospel of God's saving love through Jesus Christ
- Worshipping God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit with joy and sincerity
- Welcoming all who come to our church, respecting our differences
- Serving one another and this community in the power of God's grace
- Developing our church buildings to attract better attendance and greater community use
- Improving our communications with residents of the parish
- Working with the other parishes of the benefice to promote the effectiveness of our witness
- Praying for parishioners in need, and people with particular responsibilities
- Paying our way
- Doing all that we can with care and joy
- Twinstead
- In God's name we strive to make Twinstead Church once again the focal point for the village, a place radiating a warm welcome for everyone

St Giles Church. Great Maplestead

WE HAVE:

- A regular but aging congregation with children and young families attending occasionally.
- A substantial legacy- several re-ordering projects are about to start.
- Many volunteers available for cleaning etc.
- A parishioner training for ordination
- Several worshippers outside the village

OUR PRIORITIES ARE

- To provide worship for all, welcoming newcomers, the young, and of course our regular congregation.
- To support the Rector
- When the building work is complete, we hope that our improved facilities will enable us to find ways to draw more people to the church.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH. PEBMARSH

To increase the awareness and practices of the Christian Religion in the Parish of Pebmarsh.

To achieve this we need :

- a) To overcome the apathy towards Church attendance on a regular basis so that the Minister can teach the Gospel to as many people as possible.
- b) The PCC to lead by example and to help the Minister whenever they can by:
 - The Village Hall Service
 - Visiting people, and getting to know as many as possible
 - Building up good relations with the school
 - Trying to increase the influence of the Church in the lives of young people after they leave Pebmarsh school
 - To show an interest in the Youth Club
 - To encourage people to come to Morning Prayer at 9.15am on
 - Thursday and Friday mornings
 - To nurture new believers
- c) The PCC should help to promote friendship and good neighbourliness in the village:
 - By providing coffee after some services
 - Supporting the Quiz night
 - Co-operating with the Pub, which has once again become the focal point of the village.
 - By responding to human need through loving service-
- d) To take away as much as possible from the Minister the burden of Church maintenance, fund-raising etc.
- e) To be a 'Fairtrade' organisation and to promote environmentally friendly activities wherever practicable.

In John's Gospel Chap 15 v 4, Jesus said "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." May Christ guide us by His Spirit?

The Five Marks of Mission

- 1) To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom.
- 2) To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- 3) To respond to human need by loving service.
- 4) To seek to transform the unjust structures of society.
- 5) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

A VISION FOR THE HALSTEAD AREA TEAM

In the light of God's call and our situation here our vision is that by working together as a Team we can

- build on our strengths
- support each other where there is weakness
- develop the potential that is held inside all 6 parishes
- thus enabling us to make the Christian faith more attractive and to grow the Kingdom of God.
- We can achieve this by
- sharing worship, skills, gifts and resources
- encouraging each other to use and develop our gifts and to serve the community around us
- developing pastoral care, church for young people, diversity and quality in worship, our sense of belonging together, our responsibility to and awareness of the broader Christian Church.

Halstead St Andrew's

In the light of God's call and our situation here, our vision is:

- To be God's People
- A people walking with God, concerned not with our own vision, but engaged in discerning God's vision for us.
- In God's place
- A dynamic presence in our community, meeting people where they are and carrying them into the presence of God.
- Doing God's will
- Engaged in outreach both at home and overseas, especially through the development of our work with young people, and by extending the arm of pastoral care and love to all.

Earls Colne

1. Meeting the present needs of the Parish by

- (a) Maintaining the provision of one service of Holy Communion each Sunday.
- (b) Reaching out to the housebound and those in care homes by arranging communion to be taken at least once a month. If necessary setting up a group to organise and administer this.
- (c) Developing and consolidating on our successes such as the Choir, Sunday school, Prayers and Bears, Prayer Groups, Bell Ringing, Cleaning Group, Flower Group, Social Group and Bible Reading Groups etc..
- (d) Setting up a Church minding group so that the building can be open during the week for prayer and meditation.
- (e) Continuing to work with the other Parishes in the Team by supporting joint services and activities and sharing their expertise, clergy and lay readers etc.

2. Meeting the Future needs of the Parish by

- (a) Setting up a worship group to train and help those running the non Eucharistic Services, with a view of adapting one of the services each month so that it is more suitable for children and families.
- (b) Developing Family Worship Services.

(c) Setting up weekday services in Church, such as a mid week Communion or midweek matins and evensong.

(d) Pursuing the drive for toilet and kitchen facilities so that the building can become more user friendly and be used for concerts, exhibitions and other meetings during the week.

(e) Striving not only to finance our Parish Share, but also to provide enough funds to extend our mission.

A VISION FOR GREENSTEAD GREEN

In the light of God's call and our situation here our vision is to grow God's family through the loving the community around us. This is expressed through our care, prayer, help, listening visiting and sharing with others. It is proclaimed in our lives and through our words.

A VISION FOR GOSFIELD

In the light of God's, and our situation here, our vision is to encourage, nurture and strengthen Christian faith and fellowship with in our church and community.

- To value the gifts and talents of all through each stage of life
- To encourage the relationship between church and village
- To encourage the further development of a young people's church
- To nurture children's faith into adulthood
- To respond to the needs of parents and children
- To make Christian faith and fellowship relevant to everyday life
- To baptise confirm and nurture faith
- To encourage partners to find Christ in their marriages
- To encourage a strong vein of fellowship within the worshiping family and community
- To respond to and support those who meet adversity
- To care for God's world

A VISION FOR ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, BIRDBROOK

- To strengthen Christian faith in this parish through prayer, fellowship and care for the community.
- To encourage all to "step inside" this beautiful church to find peace and refreshment.
- To provide regular weekly worship with sharing the gospel.
- To welcome people at every stage of their lives especially for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.
- To make provision for children to learn and enjoy church, with activities, teaching and opportunities for them to contribute.
- To use every opportunity to get more people involved in the life of this church and helping to preserve this historic Christian building.

VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. MARY'S GESTINGTHORPE

We have a tiny congregation, under 3% of the population most Sundays. The rift within Gestingthorpe over bell-ringing has been deep and unsettling. Our regular giving is not enough for our parish share.

But there are green shoots:

- Completion of the organ fund
- Regular fund-raising events
- Occasional attendance by young families
- A small nucleus of hard working volunteers.

Our agreed priorities are:

1. To keep the Christian faith alive here
2. To welcome new people, especially the young, into our congregation
3. By increased giving, to meet our parish share and have a surplus for charity
4. To find a second churchwarden
5. To support our Rector.