

This booklet gives an overview of the 6 main ways in which we want to see our vision and mission turned into prayerful action. Please use it for personal prayer and reflection.

CHRIST CHURCH VIRGINIA WATER VISION

INTRODUCTION

The pathway to arriving at a new Vision has deliberately been a slow, prayerful, and consultative process.

We have sought to listen to God, to apply his word to our lives, and do this across the community of Christ Church Virginia Water. We have interacted widely with the congregation, including a day of prayer together. Plus, the PCC and staff have had a whole day away to work on this process, and many subsequent meetings. What has emerged, we believe, is grounded in God's word and reflective of the priorities which we think are important for our Church - Christ's Church - here in Virginia Water.

A few things have stood out for us: our prime mission is to **bring glory to God**. The Westminster Shorter Catechism's first question is "What is the Chief End of Man?" to which the answer is "To Glorify God and Enjoy Him forever". God is worthy of all praise: and one day every human being will bow their knee before King Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11). In the meantime, the Church's mission here on earth is to say, and do, all we can to make much of God; to hold Jesus in high esteem, and for Him to be preeminent in all our lives. We are promised, that when we do that, He will build His Church (see John 12:32).

We have also noted that our Mission is not just about far-flung, overseas endeavours. Of course, we never want to lose sight of our connection to the world-wide Church, nor our commitment to go to the ends of the earth with God's Gospel. However, we also want to remind ourselves of the mission on our doorstep. Our first love, and calling, should be to make disciples in Virginia Water, and the towns and villages around us. We want to bless the communities where we live, as we seek to serve others in the Name of Christ. More: we want to point people to Jesus so they too may know Him as Saviour and King. We are also blessed with rich resources from God, which we want to share with God's wider Church, for His glory.

All our actions, we believe, need to be tested by the Vision which we believe God has given us, and the Mission and purpose which flow from this Vision. We plan, and strategise, to use our time, our gifts, and our resources, to faithfully play our part in bringing in His Kingdom, here in this part of the earth where he has placed us, and in expectation that His Kingdom will be fully realised when Jesus comes again.

Do pray, with us, for this next stage in the life of our Church, and, please be prepared to hear His call, and play your part as we seek to be in the community, for the community, to the glory of God.

Everything should flow from a joyful vision of the love and generosity of God. Pray that we may all be captivated by the vision we believe God has given us, as we pray, learn, worship, and act together!

This booklet is made up of two parts:

- Part One explains the meaning behind the vision and purpose;
- Part Two some accompanying study note for personal or small group use





PART ONE - VISION AND PURPOSE

Christ Church Virginia Water - 2021 onwards

Vision:

"In the community, for the community, to the glory of God".

Purpose:

"Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus Known".

Reaching and Growing — we want to be a Growing Church Maturing and Equipping — we want to be a Healthy Church Influencing and Caring — we want to be a Caring Church Spreading and Promoting — we want to be a Connected Church Serving and Sharing — we want to be a Resourcing Church

IN THE COMMUNITY

Jesus spoke about His Kingdom people as being "salt" and "light" (Matthew 5:13-16). "Light" we get - a beacon of hope for the community of Virginia Water, shining for Jesus. But "salt" implies being rubbed into the community, to prevent decay and to bring out the flavour of all that is good.

I think the point is that Church is not just about inviting people to events and courses. Sure, that still really matters! But it is also about every single person who knows Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour being a salty influence where you live, work and socialise.

In 1 Peter 3:15-16 we are told "... in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander".

This implies that, when you are deeply involved in your community: serving in Virginia Water Emergency Response team, or helping at the Foodbank, or Serving at Good News Café, or volunteering at the library or the school - or whatever you do - that people should a) see your gentle and good, Christ-like, behaviour and want to know about the God who motivates you. And, b) as you are able, to be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have in Christ Jesus.

Now don't misunderstand this: we are always looking for people to serve in loads of ways in the life of the Church (from Sunday School, to setting up Church, to welcoming, to helping with IT etc etc) BUT, there are a few of you, perhaps, who are so busy in Church that you are not out there in the community.

CHRIST CHURCH VIRGINIA WATER VISION

FOR THE COMMUNITY

We are rightly wary about being a hypocrite – all 'talk' but no 'walk'. So, we need to be in the community before we ever have any right to speak about our faith. However, it is equally – if not more true – that many Christians are more like the Arctic River in Alaska – they too are frozen over at the mouth! The Great Commission involves us going into all the world and making disciples of all nations. Men and Women and Children only become disciples by hearing the Gospel and coming to believe it for themselves. And that can't, and won't, only be done by inviting people to Church.

As you are engaged in this community, when was the last time that you "gave a reason for the hope that you have?" Jesus came for the purpose of rescuing us from our sins – and that is at the heart of the good news we have for our community.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

So, the goal of everything we do, is that God may get the glory. It is not a bad thing if we have a reputation as a loving, caring, worshipful and holy Church. But far more important is that God gets the glory in everything we do. And again, that happens as you and I are embedded in, and loving our community, for his sake.

"For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen." (Romans 11:36)

I hope that the following pages help explain what we believe, and how we can help you play your part furthering the vision we, at Christ Church Virginia Water, believe God has called us to.

Simon Vibert (vicar)



A Working Example:

Replacing a CCVW produced magazine "Connection" for space in the new "Virginia Water Magazine". Connection was a magazine produced by the parish for the parish. So, you might say, surely that best fits our vision. And, to some extent yes, although much of the content was not directly Christian, it did come through peoples' door with the reputation of Christ Church Virginia Water attached.

Now that Connection has stopped, we have 4 dedicated pages in a community magazine, and I do think that there is another way of thinking about our role.

When Paul went to the Pagan city of Athens (see Acts 17) he spent his time looking at all the idols, and was deeply moved at how lost they were. He gets up to speak - not in a temple or a Church - but where all the other philosophers of the day set out their stall. He quotes one of their pagan poets, and takes the opportunity to show how lost and ignorant they are: you worship an unknown God, he says, but let me tell you about the God who made everything, who gave you your next breath, and he called them to expect a day of judgment when they will be accountable before Him. And their response: "we want to hear you again on this subject"

Could it be that, while we are in the community magazine, and we offer input for the community magazine, that the readers might seek after the glory of God and through it find their way to faith?

Summary

Our new vision is not just about shining brightly for Jesus in Christ Church, but rather it was about lighting 200 or more candles (YOU!) to shine for him in this dark world.



Reaching and Growing

REACHING AND GROWING - WE WANT TO BE A GROWING CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "reach and grow", by enabling the Church to serve the community, praying for the community, by being present and relevant to the community, and by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community. We want to see more and more people coming to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and be given the opportunity to flourish and grow, in their Christian walk with the Lord.

We seek to build up God's people through God-focussed Sunday meetings, and courses and events, to equip and inspire, so that we may reach the immediate community with the Good News of Jesus. This includes the Wentworth Estate, Longcross Garden Village, and the houses, shops and social places in our Village.

What does growth mean?

Numerical – We have a snapshot of the early Church at the end of Acts 2: they met together regularly, they saw and expected God to be at work, they gave sacrificially, and they shared public and private fellowship, AND, Luke comments, "... the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Act 2:47).

Maturity - Numbers DO matter, but so too does the health of the Church and the spiritual growth of its members. The goal is maturity, "He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." Colossians 1:28. Which means that growth isn't just about evangelism, it is about connecting everyone to the life of the body of Christ, so that they may truly belong, and become authentic Christian family.

How do we reach out?

We call ourselves an evangelical Church. What does that mean? That the evangel, The Good News of Jesus Christ, shapes everything we say and do.

I memorably heard Philip Hacking say this:

To be an evangelical is to HOLD ON to the Christian Gospel (making sure we truly believe it and ensure that everything we do as a church is shaped by the Bible, as God works out his purposes among us by His Holy Spirit)

To be evangelistic is to HOLD OUT the Christian Gospel (opening our mouths to tell people about Jesus and encouraging them to believe in Him for themselves).



Reaching and Growing cont...

Here are a few pointers:

<u>Commend the Gospel with your life and open your mouth</u> to speak about Jesus, as you have opportunity.

Open your home (both personally and in "Connect" groups). Have you invited friends, colleagues, or neighbours to drinks, or a meal, seeking to be a good friend and looking for opportunities to make Jesus known? "... in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Pet 3:15);

Invite people to events and courses: this is the most simple and non-threatening way to connect with people. Don't worry, they might say no! But, actually, Churches have found that the gentle entré provided by YouTube means that people can experience Church quite easily. Two of my tennis buddies have started watching CCVW online as a result of a simple invitation over the last couple of months.

Be involved in community events. As you serve on Foodbank, or the Residents Action Group etc. you put real flesh on the message of the Gospel. It is a shame that we had to cancel Carnival Capers this year, but this event and others help us go out into the community and show the human face of the Church.

Hold evangelistic activities off Church premises. When I was a Vicar in Wimbledon, Carrie and I were invited to several homes of people in the parish along with a handful of non-Christians friends, to meet the Vicar and hear a short evangelistic talk. People were surprisingly open, and we had some lovely meals! Be creative in thinking about ways to do this. Do read anything by Rebecca Manley Pippert (particularly the classic, Out of the Salt Shaker) to find motivation and simplicity in sharing the Gospel with friends.

<u>Let me know how we can resource you best</u>, in order to reach out with the Gospel into the community. The Pastor's prime role is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" (see Eph 4:12-16). So, please press me, to ensure that we do all we can do to equip you!

Just do it! Every one of us - Vicars included - feel nervous and inadequate whenever we try to share the Gospel. But, "... my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19). We must pray and we must act. Acting without praying will not produce any kingdom results. But praying without acting is also not right. We have a Great Commission and a responsibility to fulfil it. It seems that God will only steer a boat that is moving: so let press on with the job of making Jesus known, and God will guide us and bless us in that task.



Maturing & Equipping

MATURING AND EQUIPPING - WE WANT TO BE A HEALTHY CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "mature and equip" the Church to be the body of Christ: growing in our faith, and depth of knowledge of God. We want to focus on the range of ages and background, from 0-100 (and beyond!), in our Church community, providing care and nurture.

Key to the health of the church is enabling every member of the body of Christ to appreciate and utilise their gifts to the glory of God. We want to encourage healthy Church life, building a sense of church community and providing pastoral care across all age groups.

Someone wisely said: "A disciple is someone who has moved from being merely a recipient of the church's mission to being responsible for the Church's mission".

Emphasising connect groups as key hubs in our community – for teaching, fellowship, prayer, service and outreach.

The 'One-by-one' pledge - in one of my previous Churches we used Hebrews 10 to encourage people to sign up for the "one-by-one" pledge. Anglican Churches don't really have a formal membership scheme, but we do want to help people to know what it means to really belong at CCVW.* The one-by-one pledge encourages everyone

- * To pledge to be in Church once every Sunday (as a minimum)
- * To pledge to commit to one small group (Connect Group) meeting weekly
- * To pledge to meet up regularly with one other Christian for prayer and mutual support
- * To pledge to be supporting, loving, and witnessing to one person who is not yet a Christian.

I think that this is quite a simple and practical outworking of the principles of Hebrews 10: let us learn to be Church to each other.

*(note)

If you consider yourself a regular at CCVW please do contact office@cc-vw.org to come on the church's electoral roll.



Maturing & Equipping cont...

A few practicalities related to Connect Groups

New title "Connect Groups" (formerly Home Groups). Not all groups meet in homes, and it emphasises the idea that we connect/commit to each other for mutual encouragement and edification.

New contact details. We publish email addresses for all the groups, which will enable you directly to contact the leader/host. Please contact office@cc-vw.org for more information.

New groups to be started. We have started a few new groups this year, but we need even more if we are going to encourage the whole church to be in a Connect Group.

New leaders need to be trained. We shall be offering more training on how to encourage healthy Connect Groups

New Resources. We have got into the habit of providing YouTube teaching with accompanying study notes – for leaders and for participants. (see www.youtube.com and search for ChristChurch Virginia Water)

New engagement in the community. If we are to be "in the community, for the community, to the Glory of God", then opening our homes for food, fellowship, fun and learning, will help people connect with God and connect with each other.

What a great way to reach out into your street and neighbourhood, and show people Christian love in action.



Influencing & Caring

INFLUENCING AND CARING - WE WANT TO BE A CARING CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "influence and care" by addressing issues of current concern, locally, nationally and beyond.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2).

Through our love and care, we want to help everyone to find their true identity in Jesus Christ. And to be community for all: a true home, and family to one another. We value the work done in setting up Hope in Depression, and similar courses, addressing issues of today, praying in, and for, the community. We hope to give congregation members teaching and resources to be able to address key issues of today, and have a coherent world view which helps answers questions which people are asking.

Very practically, we aim to be the place where lonely people find friendship and hope in Christ.

We need to give our attention to building healthy community, to increasing our connection with each other, to be there for one another, and to provide a true home, whatever your current circumstances.

CHRIST CHURCH VIRGINIA WATER VISION

Influencing & Caring cont...

Here are two foundational biblical concepts which, it seems to me, should shape our view of Church: Family and Friendship.

1. "WE ARE FAMILY"

If you are of a certain age, I would be very surprised if you didn't finish reading those three words with the rest of the lyrics of the Sister Sledge Song!

"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters." Hebrews 13:1 It is true, "you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family". Notice the way Jesus describes it:

He said: "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:34) Peter objects, "We have left everything to follow you!"

"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (Mark 10:28-31)

There is enormous privilege in being a disciple of Jesus Christ. You find that you have been adopted into a family - the big family of God - which gives you a sense of belonging to brothers and sisters all around the world. Although, this also means taking on the family identity, and being treated as Jesus was treated too. It also challenges the modern view of family life as "mum, dad and 2.2 children", and should better reflect the extended family that what part of ancient Israel (and continues in many parts of the world outside of the west).

That sense of ownership and commitment to each other lies at the heart of true Christian Fellowship, I think. If your sibling calls you at midnight to say that they need you, you would respond, right? Christians have those kinds of close bonds as adopted children in God's family, with Jesus as our brother.

Lockdown has challenged these connections and commitments. There is a limit to how much we can connect via zoom! For example I have been concerned about two things as lockdown eases:

That we are in danger of producing consumers, not worshippers. Thank God that we have had the technology to join together in corporate worship but beware of a purely passive attendance. Church is not something which we fit into an otherwise packed schedule: it is a place to meet with our family, and it should be our priority.

Where we mostly meet "virtually", I have struggled with the invisibility of it all. I would only know that you are there if you make contact (or I contact you) ... who is slipping off the radar? Who is in such a difficult place that they find it hard to reach out? How do we maintain kinship relationship at times like these? Zoom, telephone, distanced meeting, etc all help.

It's time to reconnect with our family! Let's do what we can to be there for each other and return to physical meeting as you are able.

Influencing & Caring cont...

2. "I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS" (JESUS IN JOHN 15:15)

Being a friend is a different type of relationship to being family, and equally, if not more, important.

So many people have few friends. Yes, there are business acquaintances, walking/golf/ tennis partners, and fellow members of whatever club you associate with. These are all important.

But, friends? As I have been pondering this topic for a while, I have deliberately made contact with some friends that I have lost touch with - via text or phone call. It has been encouraging and refreshing to do so.

Three brief thoughts on this:

a. Open Up

Friendship requires us to be open and vulnerable - although, not to the same degree with everyone.

Many have noticed that Jesus had different circles or friends:

There was the crowd - fascinated and fickle.

There was the 72 - those sent out on mission.

There was the 12 - an inner circle with whom he shared his plans, food and mission (although one betrayed him, and all denied him).

There was the 3 (Peter, James and John) - they clearly had closer access to Jesus, and he shared his heart with them.

This pattern of friendship would seem to imply that we can't have the same level of intimacy with everyone. It also shows the importance of meeting together outside of corporate worship on a Sunday - in smaller Home/Zoom groups, and in twos or threes.

b. Go Deep

Although we acknowledge that we cannot have deep friendships with everyone, I wonder whether we have that level of deep sharing, prayer and conversation with one or two people. Of course, we don't want to create cliques within the Church, and managing our circle of friends is important. But do you have a prayer partner? An accountability partner? Or just, a good friendship, where you feel you can be yourself? Someone who challenges you in your discipleship (without judgement) and can help you be a better 'you' in Christ.

c. Be a good friend

Many lament that they don't have many close friends, but I wonder sometimes whether it is because we are always waiting for others to make the first move.

Send a text, pick up the phone, arrange for a coffee (or a zoom meet). As we have started to regather as a Church, how can we be open, go deep and be good friends to each other given the constraints of social distancing? Clearly there is a more to be said on this important aspect of being Church, but the main challenge is to look out for one another, and ensure that CCVW is a place where lonely people can feel connected with each other, as well as with God their Father.



Spreading & Promoting

SPREADING AND PROMOTING - WE WANT TO BE A CONNECTED CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "spread and promote" the Good News through contemporary, media friendly communication. In part, this is for those who already attend, but beyond this, to help a sense of belonging for those who may not be physically at CCVW (through web site, live streaming, twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc.). Our hope is that the Good News of Jesus will permeate beyond the physical borders of our parish to reach even to the ends of the earth! Just as the printing press was used in the 17th Century to spread the written word of God, we will use all forms of media to spread the Gospel abroad.

Online and Onsight Church - emerging from a pandemic. Certainly, initially, we had very large numbers attending our online services, peaking at Easter with possibly four times our usual Sunday attendees logging on;

Online meeting enables people to join Christian worship without the big hurdle of stepping over the threshold of a Church building, and I think we all know of people who have attended church "virtually" for the first time during this period;

Many of you have commented on how good it is for whole families to worship together at home, and a place for housebound people to join. This will continue even as more people rejoin onsite worship.

<u>Courses, connect groups and zoom meetings</u> have worked well, as a substitute for meeting physically (although I know many of you are keen that we find a way to return to physical meeting).

We are also aware of the challenges: Online only is a poor substitute for the closeness of Christian fellowship: The hubbub of gathering, coffee after Church, Holy Communion, being able to sing and worship, vocally!

There is also a degree of anonymity online, yes, which means people can easily join and "pop in", but at the same time, unless you make contact with others then we have no idea who is (or is not) attending The casual nature of the worship experience: we've joked about watching in our pyjamas, coffee in hand, and being able to mute the preacher! But it is a serious issue: we don't want to produce "armchair" Christians, nor do we want the hour of gathered worship to be something we catch up with when we have spare time. Plus, we are called to commit ourselves to a local church - not flit between different online offerings. It is sobering to dive into the analytics and note the short average time length of watching of those who log on. The big numbers do not tell the full story.



Spreading & Promoting cont...

Church looks a bit different now?

For me, the key question is: how can we connect deeply and meaningfully, having jumped into the social media world?

I have mentioned before my concern that in our modern world people are "Connected but not Committed".

This model of shared lives continues to be our goal and aspiration:

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

"God's Work, in God's World, in God's Way"

So, a few challenges:

<u>Please</u>, as you are able, return to physical meeting in Church. Numbers are growing, which is encouraging, but we are not yet at safely distanced capacity (and we hope to add more services when we are able). Obviously, if you are shielding, or vulnerable, we don't expect you to put yourself or others at risk. But, please do come if you are able.

Our principle Sunday Services are:

- 08:30 Liturgical Worship
- · 10:30 Contemporary Worship (all streamed live to our YouTube channel)
- · 18:30 Informal Worship

Our desire to reach out into our community - with Christian care, and with the Gospel message;

<u>We believe that Jesus keeps his promise:</u> "I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail over it" (Matt 16:8) - the kingdom of God is so much bigger than the local Church: let's see how we can be sure that we are participating in His work in His world in His way!



Serving & Sharing

SERVING AND SHARING - WE WANT TO BE A RESOURCING CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "serve and share" generously the resources and talents God has given to us: supporting mission, sending resources, and skill, to assist others. Teaching and training our members so they may be a blessing and resource to others. Plus, training men and women to go out from CCVW to serve him in many spheres of life and ministry.

This includes our local and global mission, concern for the creation, resourcing other churches, training new leaders, and being generous with all that God has given us. The Theology Reading Group and Third Millennium Curriculum, and "Reading for Preaching" are some of the ways we can be a wider resource to God's Church.

Some of these things are in progress. For example, we have sent a steady flow of church members off for further training and ministry.

In recent years we have run several online courses: The Bible Course, Faith in a Coronavirus World, The Marriage Course, The Parenting Course. We run Alpha and Christianity Explored, online and in person.

Training is but one part of the vision to be a resourcing Church. For example, we give 10% of our budget towards Mission, and 34% of our budget into the Diocese, by way of our parish share (which, is generously above the cost of the two clergy, Vicar and Curate, paid for by the Diocese).

We seek to foster a strong desire to bless others with the riches God has given us, seek to partner with other Christian work beyond our own parish, and train more men and women for leadership in God's Church.



Next Steps

NEXT STEPS - SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK

Have I committed myself as a member of CCVW?

Joining the Electoral Roll Signing up to E-news and Vicar's letter (via the website) Joining a course for new members, or a Connect Group

Have I offered to serve?

Joining the planned giving scheme and pledging my financial gifts Helping to serve God though ministries within the Church - practical assistance, help putting on Sunday services, involved with children and youth work, serving on committees etc etc

Am in involved in the community, for the community, to the glory of God?

What options am I exploring to serve God in Virginia Water and beyond? Have a signed up for Passion for Life, visiting around Longcross? Serving the Lord near and far?

Over to you....

Please look over the study guide which follows which helps to explain why we believe God has called us to work towards this Vision and Purpose! Please speak to Simon Vibert (Vicar) or another of the staff team if we can help you feel connected with CCVW in any way.

Also connect with us via: facebook - we are Christ Church VW Instagram - we are Christchurchvw our website is: www.cc-vw.org Our YouTube channel is Christ Church Virginia Water the office email is: office@cc-vw.org (to sign up for our fortnightly Vicar's letter and eNews)



PART TWO, STUDY NOTES

VISION

TO BE IN THE COMMUNITY; FOR THE COMMUNITY; TO THE GLORY OF GOD

PURPOSE

"TO KNOW JESUS AND MAKE JESUS KNOWN" THROUGH WORSHIP, PRAYER, TEACHING, AND, COMMUNAL LIFE IN, AND BELONGING TO, THE CHURCH

THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PLANS WHICH FOLLOW ARE:

- REACHING AND GROWING We want to be a growing church
- MATURING AND EQUIPPING -
 - We want to be a healthy church
 - INFLUENCING AND CARING -
 - We want to be a caring church
- SPREADING AND PROMOTING -
 - We want to be a connected church
 - SERVING AND SHARING -
 - We want to be a resourcing church



A. REACHING & GROWING WE WANT TO BE A GROWING CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "reach and grow", by enabling the Church to serve the community, pray for the community, and be present, and relevant to the community, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, with the community. We want to see more and more people coming to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and be given the opportunity to flourish and grow, in their Christian walk with the Lord. We seek to build up God's people through God-focussed Sunday meetings, and courses and events, to equip and inspire, so that we may reach the immediate community with the Good News of Jesus. This includes Wentworth Estate, Longcross Garden Village, and the houses, shops and social places in our Village.

GENESIS 12:1-9

question 1 What do you think the great blessings which were promised to Abraham have to say to modern Church people?

ISAIAH 55:1-13

question~2 What part does God promise to play, and what part do we play, in sending out the invitation to refreshment and joy?

MATTHEW 28:18-20

guestion~3~ What does this verse say about the scope of our mission? About the task of mission? About the message of mission? About the means of mission? And about Jesus' activity as we go?

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

question 4 What should we be praying for? And, what is the big end goal for God's church?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Can you think about proactive ways in which you can share the message with those who are not yet Christians?

How can CCVW mobilise everyone in Church to be active in this role? Whilst we prepare for new work in Longcross, what more can we do to reach into Wentworth Estate, Trumps Green, and every household in the parish and beyond? What should we be doing NOW to prepare to plant a new worshipping community in Longcross.

MATURING & EQUIPPING

In the Community, for the Community, to the Glory of God VISION

B. MATURING & EQUIPPING WE WANT TO BE A HEALTHY CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "mature and equip" the Church to be the body of Christ: growing in our faith, and depth of knowledge of God. We want to focus on the range of ages and backgrounds, from 0-100 (and beyond!), in our Church community, providing care and nurture.

Enabling every member of the body of Christ to appreciate and utilise their gifts to the glory of God. We want to encourage healthy Church life, building a sense of church community, and providing pastoral care across all age groups.

Someone wisely said: "A disciple is someone who has moved from being merely a recipient of the church's mission to being responsible for the Church's mission". Emphasising Connect Groups as key hubs in our community – for teaching, fellowship, prayer, service and outreach.

JEREMIAH 29:12-13

 $question \ 1$ What comfort does this verse give to those who diligently seek God?

COLOSSIANS 1:15-28

question~2~ How does Colossians 1 assume that the Church will mature?

(Particularly, "Christ is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." (Colossians 1:28))

ZECHARIAH 4:1-6

question 3 How will God grow His Church?

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

question 4 What is the role of the Word of God in bringing about our maturity (see also 2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND ACTION

How can we grow and develop our Connect Groups?

What might we do so that our Connect Groups will be places where we feel safe, and are encouraged by other Christians, and yet, at the same, be open to new members and be prepared to reach out to others?

INFLUENCING & CARING

In the Community, for the Community, to the Glory of God VISION

C. INFLUENCING & CARING WE WANT TO BE A CARING CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "influence and care" by addressing issues of current concern, locally, nationally, and beyond.

Through our love and care, we want to help everyone to find their true identity in Jesus Christ. And to be community for all: a true home, and family to one another. Continued support of Hope in Depression, addressing issues of today, praying in, and for, the community. We hope to give congregation members teaching and resources to be able to address key issues of today, and have a coherent world view which helps answers questions which people are asking.

Very practically, we aim to be the place where lonely people find friendship and hope in Christ.

PSALM 40

 $question \ 1$ How, ultimately, does the psalmist think that our most intimate needs will be met?

In what ways is this spelled out in this psalm?

1PETER 3:8-10

question 2

How can we "always be prepared" to "give an answer"? And, why do you think that he says "hope" not "faith"? How will "gentleness and hope" be evident in our answers to questions people ask? And, of course, what kind of lifestyle should we have that will prompt people to ask such questions?

(Particularly, "In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15))

GENESIS 50:15-26

question 3

Think particularly about verse 20. How might we have this perspective on the bad stuff that comes our way? What attitude should we have towards others who might have harmed us? Compare also Romans 8:28.

ACTS 2:42-47

question 4

How could we make Christ Church look more like the description of the young Church here in Acts 2?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Spend some time thinking about how we might be good friends to each other, and how we might reach out to those who are lonely.

What practical ways can we support young families? Teenagers? Students in our area? Newlyweds? Single people? "empty nesters"? Seniors?

SPREADING & PROMOTING

In the Community, for the Community, to the Glory of God VISION

D. SPREADING & PROMOTING WE WANT TO BE A CONNECTED CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "spread and promote" the Good News through contemporary, media friendly communication. In part, this is for those who already attend, but beyond this, to help a sense of belonging for those who may not be physically at CCVW (through website, live-streaming, twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc.). Our hope is that the Good News of Jesus will permeate beyond the physical borders of our parish to reach even to the ends of the earth! Just as the printing press was used in the 17th Century to spread the written word of God, we will use all forms of media to spread the Gospel abroad.

1 KINGS 10:1-13

question 1

What do we learn from Solomon's fame, and the key profile of a united Israel under his kingship – both in terms of encouragement and warning – for spreading the Gospel today?

ACTS 1:1-8

question~2~ How do we continue to play our role in ensuring that the Gospel flows to the ends of the earth? How might we use the resources of the 21st Century to fulfil this role?

(Particularly, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8))

2 KINGS 20:1-7

question 3

Consider how God called Hezekiah to "put his house in order", and then spared him to live another day. What does this tell us about how we should live for God?

MATTHEW 9:35-38

question 4

Do we have compassion on people in the way Jesus had compassion? And, do we pray for the workers to go into the harvest field? How might YOU be part of the answer?!

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Consider the many ways in which we can connect beyond our community, using all the resources which God has given us.

SERVING & SHARING

In the Community, for the Community, to the Glory of God VISION

E. SERVING & SHARING WE WANT TO BE A RESOURCING CHURCH

CCVW seeks to "serve and share" generously the resources and talents God has given to us: supporting mission, sending resources, and skill, to assist others. Teaching and training our members so they may be a blessing and resource to others. Plus, training men and women to go out from CCVW to serve him in many spheres of life and ministry.

This includes our local and global mission, concern for the creation, resourcing other churches, training new leaders, and being generous with all that God has given us. The Theology Reading Group and Third Millennium Curriculum are some of the ways we can be a wider resource to God's Church.

PSALM 133

 $question \ 1$ What is the great benefit of Christian Unity? What does unity mean/look like?

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-23

question~2 How can we develop a healthy perspective on "giving" and "receiving"? And, what should we do when we have more than we need?!

(Particularly, "You {Philippians} shared in the matter of giving and receivingand my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:15, 19))

PSALM 145

question 3

Notice the global concerns of the psalmist, and his confidence that God will bring every creature to acknowledge Him. How do we develop a global concern – for this world, for the whole created order, for the unreached peoples in every nation? What kind of God motivates this mission?

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

question 4

Notice the interconnectedness between churches, and the encouragement they should be one to another. How can we show concern and practical generosity to churches which may be in need?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Think about the rich resources God has given CCVW. How might we use them for His glory? And, consider how we might be in need of the blessings from other Churches – their strengths helping our weaknesses. Also, how might we use our resources for the benefit of others without being "paternalistic"? Our mission should be the overflow of a joyful, worshipping life of God's Church – how can we make sure that this happens?

How can we play our part in training up a new generation of Church leaders?



F. IN THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY, TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ROMANS 11:32-36

question 1

This is a key summary statement which reminds us that God is to be our central focus in everything. How do we do this in practice? What does it mean to glorify God with out hands, lips, ears, feet, heart?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND ACTION

How can we work on these key priorities?

OUR KEY PRIORITIES

To reach out into Longcross, to mature the Church through Connect groups, to understand and show care to the pressing issue of loneliness, to communicate through social media, and to share our resources generously – all require the key foundation of biblical teaching, heartfelt prayer, and a desire to glorify God in and beyond this community.