

OUR GOALS

We are determined to be ambitious for God and his kingdom so that we can truly be good news in Newbury and bring good news to Newbury.

As we seek to fulfil this vision, and to grow in our worship, fellowship and mission, we have identified eight specific goals to be achieved over the next three years:

- 1** Restore the centrality of prayer in our church, equipping and enabling every member of the church family to deepen their personal prayer life and connect with our corporate prayer life.
- 2** Review our Sunday service pattern, responding to recent growth in our morning service and making space for future growth across our services, including consideration of a new congregation and/or church plant.
- 3** Create a clearer pathway for newcomers, building on the recent progress in our welcome ministry, for people of all ages and from all backgrounds and cultures to move from 'being welcome' to 'belonging'.
- 4** Encourage every church member, at every age and stage of life, to regularly ask two key questions: 'How am I growing?' and 'Where am I serving?' – and ensure we offer a variety of opportunities to work out the answers.
- 5** Raise the profile of Thursday mornings at St Nic's (both our Coffee Morning and Communion Service) as a significant opportunity for our church to offer meaningful community and connection, and to be and bring good news to Newbury.
- 6** Recover our calling to our church school, St Nicolas, looking for new ways to serve and bless the school, and championing it as a key part of our mission in Newbury.
- 7** Conclude the work to agree and adopt a development plan for our church building, to better serve the current and future ministry of our church and the wider Newbury community, and to create a more welcoming, worshipful environment for all visitors, seven days a week.
- 8** Review our staff team and structure, including consideration of new posts and/or expanded roles, to ensure we have sufficient resource for our current needs and to plan and invest for future growth.

OUR CHALLENGE

This vision for St Nicolas Church is not just for a few people but for everyone.

We are one church, made up of different people with diverse gifts. We believe God calls every member of the congregation to play their part in fulfilling this vision. For some, this will mean continuing in an existing ministry. For others, this will mean taking on new challenges in response to God's call. For all of us, we pray that it would increase our unity, and renew our sense of purpose as we serve him together.

Please join us as we seek to be good news in Newbury and to bring good news to Newbury.

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God

MARK 1:14



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OUR VISION



BEING GOOD NEWS

We are called to be good news in Newbury

Just as our historic church building lies right at the heart of the town, so we want to be a church that is actively involved and engaged at the centre of life in Newbury – meeting needs, making a difference and, above all else, demonstrating God's love in everything we do. We long to be good news in our town.

BRINGING GOOD NEWS

We are called to bring good news to Newbury

This is the good news about the God who made us, who loves us and who sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to restore our relationship with him. Through Jesus, we have a message of love and life; of security and hope; of joy and peace; of forgiveness and reconciliation. We long to bring this good news to our town.

As we seek to fulfil this vision, we are called to look UP, IN and OUT – in worship, fellowship and mission.

The following pages express our vision for each of these areas of church life and how we want to grow in them.

OUR WORSHIP

Looking Up



Growing our relationship with God, both individually and corporately.

OUR VISION IS OF A CHURCH WHERE:

- God is known as our loving heavenly Father
- Jesus Christ is exalted as our only Lord and Saviour
- the Holy Spirit is at work, bringing rebirth and renewal
- the Bible is central to what we believe about God and how we live for God
- prayer is essential for everything we do
- everyone is growing towards maturity in faith
- we are committed to following Jesus, however he calls us and whatever the cost
- we gather in expectation that God will speak and act, whenever we meet
- our corporate worship enables us to encounter God and connect with one another
- our worship continues throughout the week, in words and actions for the glory of God

OUR FELLOWSHIP

Looking In



Nurturing the Christian life we share and celebrate together at St Nic's.

OUR VISION IS OF A CHURCH WHERE:

- we are the body of Christ, growing and building itself up in love
- we are all different, yet united in Christ
- everyone is equally valued at every age and stage of life
- everyone can play their part – we are an orchestra not an audience
- newcomers are warmly welcomed and quickly enabled to feel part of our family
- we offer particular support, prayer and encouragement to one another during life's difficult times
- we invest in our children and young people as the church of today and the leaders of tomorrow
- our life together is strengthened through a variety of mid-week groups and meetings
- we value our relationships with churches across Newbury and especially our sister church, St Mary's Speen

OUR MISSION

Looking Out



Expressing our desire to work for God's kingdom in the world.

OUR VISION IS OF A CHURCH WHERE:

- we are Christ's witnesses in the world, filled with his Spirit and sent by him to make disciples
- we have confidence in the power of the gospel to change lives
- we offer regular opportunities to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ
- we are equipped and encouraged to share our faith with others
- we demonstrate Christ's compassion through offering practical help and hope, addressing real local needs
- our central location, historic building and beautiful garden are used as tools to further God's kingdom
- our church school, St Nicolas, is championed as a key part of our mission in Newbury
- we join in with God's work beyond our parish and around the world, especially through our mission partners
- we seek to be good stewards of God's creation in all the decisions we make

Love the Lord your God.
Love him with all your heart, all your soul,
all your mind, and all your strength.

MARK 12:30

Let us consider how we may
spur one another on towards
love and good deeds.

HEBREWS 10:24

You are the salt of the earth.
You are the light of the world.

MATTHEW 5:13-14