

All Saints Church Holbeach Growth Plan Revisited – 02.04.19

The bits in **bold** and plain text are what we said in 2016, the bits in *italics* are our 2019 responses

OUR VISION – May 2016

In 5 years time we aim to be an intergenerational church at the heart of our community, helping to promote a town in which everyone can flourish, and where people can discover the extravagant love of God.

What about the missing generation 16-40 year olds

WE WANT TO:

Journey together faithfully and prayerfully, serving God in the world and giving of the best we can.

Prayerful * Faithful * Providing quality * Caring * Evolving * Seeking * Learning * Journeying *
Biblical * Worshipful * Growing * Inclusive * Spiritual * Serving God in the community

Good at being faithful. Caring towards those we know. Some are journeying. Inclusive of some. Need to know more about what our congregation are doing during the week. Need to be more specific about our inclusivity

OUR VOCATION

Our calling from God is to prayerfully reach out and provide space for people to encounter God's love and compassion through our loving welcome, care and service.

This doesn't say much about Jesus – we also need to be telling and proclaiming and teaching – Alpha courses etc

In 2011 Holbeach listed what it wanted in its new vicar

- **An inspirational leader who will help us to grow in faith and reach out to those outside the traditional church.**
This was positively affirmed by many
- **Be visible presence in the community.**
This was positively affirmed by many
- **Discern and harness the many talents in our parish.**
This was positively affirmed but it was agreed that more needs to be done. Do we know what these talents are and have we asked the community if they want to use their talents on behalf of the church?
- **Encourage us to explore different styles of worship while maintaining our strong choral tradition.**
This needs revisiting and we need to be more adventurous
- **Engage with our schools and university campus.**
This was positively affirmed but we have not engaged with the university campus

Measuring ourselves re our mission statement

Intergenerational at heart of community

A = Affirm, B = Could do Better, C = Challenges or things we need to Change

- A** *Junior Choir*
AAW
Baptisms
Uniformed groups
Relationship with schools
Carols in the pub
HCL and lunches – (what about breakfasts?)
- B** *Developing awareness in the congregation of the importance of welcoming people who are new and being tolerant of noisy small children x 2*
- C** *18-40s reaching them*
Outreach to housebound, dementia, single parent families
Mums and toddler group
Sunday school
Get into the 21st century

Flourishing of people and town

- A** *Flower Festival*
Christingle and Christmas services
AAW and uniformed orgs
HCL
Book shop
St N fayre.....
Relationship with Holbeach in Bloom,
Saturday Gang
- B** *St N fayre needs better advertising*
Church is at the heart of the community – need to capitalise on this
Encouraging people to feel part of the community & to support the town – things often have to go downhill before rising again
- C** *Tower and window appeal*
lack of young people
people seeing the church as theirs and taking greater ownership of it

Encountering God's love

- A** *Welcoming new people and following them up with faith development*
Everyone who is involved with HCL and cafe
Development of faith and prayer through bible study and prayer group
Crochet group
- B** *Encourage more people to help in the day to day of sharing God's love*
Keeping the church open for all
Encountering God's love at different times and in different services
- C** *Growing pastoral care with a lay team*
Still cliquy
No sense of mission among many members who need to be more welcoming and be willing to share their own faith
A lot of passengers in the congregation
Outreach to those outside the church and young people 18-40

Welcoming new residents

Measuring ourselves by the 5 marks of Mission

Pastoral Care and nurturing community

- A** *Good team effort headed by clergy team
Care home and Holbeach Hospital
Home Communion to the housebound
Bereavement anniversary cards & invitation*
- B** *Not enough 'Popping in' on each other by the congregation
Encouraging baptism families to come to more events*
- C** *Encourage and empower more people to become involved
Need more ALMs
Art rehab group for people with invisible illnesses – encourage people to talk without feeling silly*

Worship and liturgy

- A** *Development of the involvement of the uniformed orgs
AAW is inter-generational
Variety of worship throughout churches year
Healing service – despite lack of support
The Gathering (formerly the prayer lunch)*
- B** *More children at AAW
Training re healing
Encouraging uniformed organisations to come to more services*
- C** *Space to be in church in the evenings for working people – just to come and be
Different venues and styles for young families
menu of service styles to include less formal services
Use the newer version of Lords prayer*

Teaching and Nurture

- A** *Junior choir Christian teaching sessions
Regular assemblies/Collective worship in local schools
Clergy team always available
Accepting disciples who are refugees from other parishes
Bible Study*
- B** *More training opportunities for different styles of church
More accepting of teenagers so they can enjoy their church*
- C** *Retain Junior Choir into their teens
Adult nurturing – Alpha
Do a survey to find out how useful sermons are to our faith, discipleship and growth*

Mission and Outreach

- A** *The M&O committee and its aim to reach those who are disenfranchised
HCL and Cafe connects with a wide range of people at their point of need
The Gathering*

Carols in pub
Quiz evenings

B *More pop-up opportunities – table on market hill, supermarket foyer, article for the Voice*
Fund raising opportunities
More volunteers needed for M&O and care homes

C *Not enough people willing to help out x4*
The number of House bound people
Those with dementia
18 – 40 year olds

Discipleship and faith in the world

A *Lent courses*
Prayer group

B *Encouraging discipleship*
Confirmation groups more regular
Baptism classes
We are still seen as cliquey - fear of saying something wrong
Challenging sermons needed which leave us with questions not answers

C *empower people to share their life and beliefs*
People who sit on the fence with regard to their faith need to be welcomed and guided by good quality written materials and friendly faces without being pushed into something
Less formal teaching bible study – facilitating rather than teaching
Adult learning
Greater integration with other denominations