

**Together at All Hallows:  
Looking to our future  
as a parish church  
community for the next  
3 to 4 years  
October 2014**

**From the Rector and PCC  
to all members of the parish**

**Together at All Hallows: Looking to the Future of this Christian community**

**In all we do: May we pray diligently for each other so that God's work among us can be done with energy, faith, love and hope.**

**There is much to do: with God's help we can do this work, in our time, in this place.**

**A Prayer**

*Dear good and lovely God, we ask you to give us vision for the future,  
faith in you, hope and trust in each other  
that we might love and serve you and each other  
and that through our life together the Gospel may be shared  
with all our sisters and brothers  
so that they might come to loving and living faith in you  
our dear and blessed God Amen*

**WHAT DOES GOD CALL US TO DO AT ALL HALLOWS?**

**What must direct us always in what we set out to do is the question:**

**What does God want us to do?**

**To find an answer to this we turn to Bible,  
especially to what Jesus says to us in the Gospels,  
we need to listen and talk to each other  
and we need to pray.**

**Fundamental Aims for All Hallows parish for the next 3-4 years**

**In everything we now must do we must aim**

**One: to reach out courageously into Gedling to draw new members of all ages to our Church life**

**Two: to retain our present Church membership of all ages by seeking to meet more deeply the needs of each and every one of us.**

**To accomplish these two foundational aims:**

**we need to review what we are doing,**

**to keep what we have which is useful**

**and to move on from what we have which is now less than useful.**

**So we need to blend: retaining the useful in what we have, moving on from what is no longer that useful, and creating what is new and needs to be done so that our core work for God can advance.**

**Particular Aims and Objectives for the next 3 years**

**Three:** to review every aspect of what we offer on Sundays and on the weekdays (the Sunday Experience and the Weekday Experience), to retain the useful, leave aside the not so useful, and add to our programme of life what is new and what needs to be done. Within this review: to explore what we offer throughout the year in our Church and community celebrations. (Rector: to undertake and to report to PCC and from there to whole parish)

**Four:** to deepen and improve every aspect of our public worship together, and within this to consider what resources we might need to take forwards our worship together (Living Worship Group). To work with the Growing Disciples Group in the further development of learning and worship for All Ages.

**Five:** to help every member of our whole Church community to grow more deeply in daily prayer (Living Worship Group)

**Six:** to deepen our celebration of baptism, of weddings and of funerals: improving our preparation for, our celebrating and our following up of these events (Living Worship Group)

**Seven:** to offer a coherent programme of growing in Christ for every Church member, through well-ordered programmes of learning and teaching for all our members of every age at every stage, adults and children alike, of their Christian lives. Within this to develop further opportunities for us all to grow in our knowledge and love of Holy Scripture (in this working with and building on the already existing Bible Study sessions). To work with the Living Worship Group in the development of learning and worship for All Ages. (Growing Disciples Group)

**Eight**: to work closely with the schools in our parish to deepen our relationships with them: to continue and to build upon our experience of work on the Gedling Trail: to work closely with Junior Church in our work with children and families. (Growing Disciples group)

**Nine**: to offer opportunities for the people of Gedling to learn about our faith and move closer to the life of our Church (Growing Disciples Group).

**Ten**: to continue to create patterns of pastoral care within the Church community and for the whole people of Gedling, whether at home or living in institutions (Pastoral Care Group) (Within this work there is and will be involvement by members of the Ministry Team, the Pastoral Care Group and all members of the parish).

**Eleven**: to bring about deeper knowledge of God's call upon to seek justice and peace and to care for God's creation and to provide opportunities for us all to engage more profoundly in the work of bringing about God's justice, peace and care for all creation, locally, nationally and internationally (Seeking Justice Group)

**Twelve**: to ensure our church building is safe, secure and in a good state of repair: ensuring PCC is regularly reported to on these matters (Building Committee)

**Thirteen**: to clear the church building of items and objects which are no longer needed or which serve to make the church building less well-ordered for its present and future work (Churchwardens to direct this work and to report to PCC on these matters and to consult where it is necessary)

**Fourteen**: to continue the processes of church re-ordering, with the full involvement of the PCC and of the whole Church community (All Hallows Refurbishment Committee)

In this it will bear in mind:

the living role of the church building in the life and work of the members of the Church community and in the life and works of the local community

the historic nature and role of our church building

the role the church building needs to play in at least the following:

- our essential ministry of mission and evangelism, the proclaiming of the Gospel to the people of our neighbourhood;
- worship and prayer throughout the year, in as many forms and styles as are necessary for the Church today;
- pastoral care;
- the celebration of the sacraments and the occasional offices;
- learning and teaching for all our members of all ages, and with and for our local institutions for learning and teaching;
- the celebration and proclamation of justice, peace and the care of God's creation;
- essential Church meetings;
- the social life of the parish;
- cultural events and celebrations;
- civic events and celebrations;

**(Fourteen) : thus: proposals for re-ordering need to bear in mind these principles:**

**How the church is to be ordered needs to be flexible and adaptable enough that it helps us to make provision for at least all of the purposes we have set out.**

**Change for its own sake is to be avoided, as is resistance to any changes at all:**

**what matters is that the church building helps us to do as best we can God's work for us all and for all who might come to join us in our time in our place**

**Fifteen: to review all of our means of communication, both within the Church community and as we speak with and to the world around us, and to develop further these means of communication. (PCC: working with Churchwardens, Magazine Committee, those who maintain the website and those who produce the weekly pew leaflets): to take especial care to enable the parish Committees and Groups to communicate effectively one with another.**

**(Jane Palin has offered to undertake a review of communications in our Church community and to present this report to PCC for its consideration, approval where appropriate and action. Full co-operation from all Committees, Groups and individuals will be asked for and encouraged in the process of this review**

**Sixteen:** to re-create a register of the work done by Church members, lay and ordained, responsibilities held within the parish community of All Hallows, and job descriptions for these tasks and responsibilities; to ensure this document is kept up to date and is publically available to all members of the Church community (possibly: Churchwardens, PCC Secretary, Parish Administrator)

**Seventeen:** Finance: Finance Committee: to consider how any actions we have to take as a Church can be funded and how each of the things we do should or can become generators of income for us. In the end: to draw in new members and to sustain present members cannot but have healthy effects on our parish finances; this responsibility, of course, depends not on the Finance Committee but on all members of the congregation (Finance Committee)

**Eighteen:** to set up consultations with Lambley parish community as to how the relations between Gedling and Lambley might proceed in the long term; to review and develop any ways in which we can establish good and useful connections between the two Church communities; to keep under review any arrangements we make about the pattern of the life of each congregation which affects the life of the other (PCCs, Rector, Area Dean)

**Nineteen:** work with other local churches to re-establish a Council of Churches (PCC and Rector)

**Twenty:** to explore the possibility of employing a Youth Worker for All Hallows: this exploration will draw on work being considered in the Seeking Justice Group and will be related to the work of the Growing Disciples Group and the Finance Committee, and, of course and crucially, to the PCC.

**Twenty One:** To consider all the means All Hallows has for major fundraising, to support and develop this work.

In all of these matters and in all we do together for God, may we support each other in patience, kindness, prayer and love.

PCC and Rector All Hallows Gedling    October 2014