A Vision for St Peter's, Over Wallop

We seek to demonstrate the love of Jesus by the way we live.

In June 2018, the people of St Peter's Church gathered to listen to, and discern, God's vision for the parish of Over Wallop. Since then we have been prayerfully considering where we have come from and where God might be taking us, who we are and who God wants us to be. We discerned three areas in which we can demonstrate the love of Jesus by the way that we live our lives: by deepening our own faith, in being a prayerful community, and by engaging with our village and surrounding area.

Dear Jesus, as we seek to demonstrate your love in the way we live our lives, awaken us to a more vibrant awareness of your presence in our homes, our church, and our community.
Holy Spirit enable our hearts to grow in our worship of you, and to strengthen our prayers, that we may be better equipped to love and serve others.

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To deepen our faith

[They] spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number. Acts 2:46,47

Over Wallop is a rural parish with people of disparate backgrounds. Our vision sees Christians, regardless of denomination meeting together to worship, pray and support each other, as they grow in Christ. We envisage this happening through:

- ⊕ Weekly Sunday worship, in a variety of styles.
- ⊕ Worship review.
- ⊕ Improved communication.
- ⊕ Home Fellowship Groups.
- ⊕ Opportunities for deeper learning.
- ⊕ Monthly Home Communion for those unable to attend church.
- ⊕ Discovering ways in which those with more of a looser connection can be supported in their faith.
- ⊕ Valuing the faith of our children and young people and giving them safe spaces in which to explore and develop.

To be a prayerful community

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:5,6

Alongside Sunday morning prayers in church, and those of the fellowship groups, Prayer Groups, our aim is for prayer to become woven into the fabric of community life. We envisage this happening by:

- ⊕ Reinstating prayer walks.
- ⊕ Offering prayer for individuals alongside main Sunday services.
- ⊕ Encouraging people to use our open church for personal prayer.
- ⊕ Finding ways for members of our community to make prayer requests.
- ⊕ Praying for each other in our daily lives.
- ⊕ Being a spiritual focus for cultural events.

Our identity as a worshipping community is reflected in our relationship with the wider Portway and Danebury Team, but especially with our sister church, St Andrew's in Nether Wallop with whom we work and worship together.

Engaging whole-heartedly with our village

On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart…Acts 16:13-14

The church family is already hard working and there may be things that need to be laid down to encourage and release people to better serve the wider community. We envisage this happening by:

- ⊕ Supporting local businesses with our custom and community events and organisations with our presence.
- ⊕ Maintaining our commitment to the village school and nursing home.
- ⊕ Continuing to release funds raised from the church fete.
- ⊕ Supporting those who encounter God through baptisms, weddings and funerals and giving them the best experience of being part of a Christian community.
- ⊕ Enabling our buildings and open spaces to be an asset to the community.
- ⊕ Opening our hearts and homes to be more hospitable.

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First Steps:

To deepen our faith, through worship

Although we currently offer a wide range of worship, we haven't held a worship review for almost a decade. In partnership with St Andrew's and the wider team, our vision is to be able to offer ways in which everyone regardless of age or background feels able to worship.

- To take part in reviewing worship currently on offer and considering what might be missing from our worshipping diet, complete the questionnaire and take part in the open meeting, Spring 2020.
- To further our engagement with those unable to come to church, please consider joining the team that visits Winton Nursing Home. Please contact Stephen Baldock (Sunday Hymn Singing 01264 783540) or Rev Vanessa Cole 01264 782615
- To join a join an existing fellowship group please contact Stephen Baldock 01264 783540, Alix Johnson 01264 781913 or to join a new group contact the Rev Vanessa Cole 01264 782615.

To be a prayerful community, by praying for each other.

Prayer is already offered through our fellowship groups and prayer meetings. We aim to enhance this by offering a safe space in church alongside our 9.30am Holy Communion service for individuals to be prayed for.

To engage whole-heartedly with our village

- Consider making a commitment to a regular purchase from the village shop or becoming a 'shareholder'.
- Be more aware of village events and activities and join in.
- Visiting new 'neighbours' and offering hospitality.

If you think God is calling you to do any of the above, please contact Rev Vanessa Cole 01264 782615 or vicar@stpetersoverwallop.co.uk