

*This is a summary of the vision day conversations and flip chart notes as an aid to reflecting, developing, distilling. Please do contribute reflections, prayers, suggestions, feedback to vision@rawchurch.org.uk
Updates on the vision process will be published on paper and on the benefice website over the coming weeks.*

From the final session of the day:

Sean: *Am I right that I am hearing a positive vision...?*

... A vision of a warmly welcoming and inclusive community

*which values everyone and values excellence
welcoming of those we know and those we don't
at every stage of their lives?*

That we feel that God is calling us... to learn how to share our faith?

...To be a church that celebrates

...And celebrates a "mixed economy" of worship – traditional and non-traditional?

A church that is open to the transformation that has begun here?

A church that supports one another, shares faith with one another, and outwardly?

A church 'passing on the light', inspiring this generation?

A church enabled by God – not in our own strength, but with the confidence that God will supply what we need...

From the flip charts and feedback notes...

1 WHO we hear God cares about... vision for St Mary's?

"We are hearing that God cares about all people... all ages, all backgrounds..."

- * All of us; children and families; young and old
- * Unlikely people matter to God, but we ALL matter – every single person - all ages and backgrounds, visitor, newcomer, working, housebound, unemployed, retired, parenting, caring, single, married, in partnerships, widowed
- * People who are searching, doubting, wondering, no faith, exploring faith, growing in faith, strong faith
- * All nationalities, colours, languages, rich, poor, all abilities, gender, sexuality
- * Marginalised, "poor in spirit"; lonely, hurting, in abusive relationships, refugees, migrants, sick, trapped,
- * People of different denominations and different faiths
- * People who are not here or not interested



We picture:

- * A church of all ages and backgrounds
- * A church where all ages and backgrounds can find a welcome and a home... "Whoever you are you will always find a welcome here"
- * A church of people of all ages and backgrounds, nationalities, income, colour, stage of faith, ability, income, newcomer, and long established – the people of Ross!
- * A church where everyone matters to God – and to us
- * A church that goes out and doesn't wait for people to come to us

2 What sort of church do we hear God calling St Mary's to be?

As above, AND:

*Common theme of FAITH

- a church where all can hear the good news
- a church where there are a range of ways to explore faith
- a church bringing God's love to others
- a church where we live in the reality of the challenges of walking with God
- a church where we are growing in confidence in sharing our faith
- a church passing on the faith to each generation as others have to us



*Common theme of HOPE

- *A church that is good news to the suffering, disadvantaged
- *A church which cares about and brings together people of all sorts and needs - being supported and supporting each other (e.g. carers, bereaved, lonely, unemployed) – like at TOAST, bereavement coffee morning, job club



*Common theme of LOVE

- * A church where God's light is shining at the heart of its life – and each of our daily lives
- * ...where joy is obvious and contagious
- *A church that knows that God is present in, cares about, the ordinary things of life – with us in the pain and mess
- * ...which cares and has courage about life's big issues facing all people & creation - environment, relationships, division, sexuality, immigration, prejudice...
- * A church where the town can see us taking a lead and we are visible
- * A church of healing love and loving courage



*And... also we hear God calling us to be:

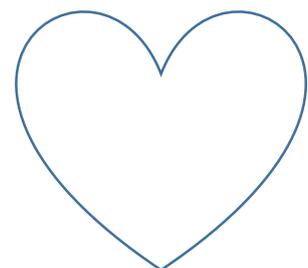
- * A church which **goes out** and doesn't wait for people to come to us
- * A church which is **a bit like an extended family** of all ages and types - sometimes getting together but wherever we are and whenever we meet, connected by love
- * A church that **really is on the move** – and you really can tell
- * where we continue to search diligently for God and his purposes

* And on worship:

- The 9.30 is one service among what is/ could be / needs to be, a growing wider range of worship and other opportunities – keep what is excellent – and add to appeal wider – days, times, styles

Qualities and values:

- A church where: all are welcomed
 - where we look to God for inspiration
 - joy is obvious and contagious
 - the Holy Spirit is flowing down
 - the fruits of the spirit can be seen
 - you can sit and pray or get involved
 - everything is connected
 - where we are not afraid/slow to say sorry



Words we were hearing in the final session of the vision day:

Light Shine Hope Love Faith Kingdom
Excellence Inclusivity
Opportunity Connecting Welcome Outreach Outlook
Joy Courage Trust
Understanding Challenging Positive
Holy Spirit Pray Closer
Inspiring faith, hope, love (1Cor 13,13) Walking with God
Word and Deed Riverside

Insights/Aha moments

- Today was a very important opportunity to share [with one another]
- **Celebrate** and give thanks for what is – AND build on it, move on... a church on the move
- God IS touching lives through every part of the life and worship of St Marys – whether that is the 9.30 or TOAST, LEAF, job club, schools work, hospital chaplaincy... clues to next steps...
- The 9.30 is one service among what could be / needs to be, a growing wider range of worship and other opportunities – keep what is excellent – and add to appeal wider – days, times, styles
- Build on the good things
- Try different things, new things, the same things again!
- Think outrageously!
- We need to get out to where people are
- We all have important parts to play and gifts to give
- There is a GAP between the emerging vision and where we are now...
- **God is with us all the way!**

Other things that came up less often that were important – still small voice?

- * Prayer
- * Welcome AND invite
- * Take opportunities to invite, befriend, build relationships

Also some emerging “hows” and ideas

Pentecost on the Prospect?
Music group / band?
Invite those who leave prayers to give their contact details – and include in intercessions