



Emerging 2020 vision...?

Update 2: Feb 2020

Over recent weeks we've been praying, sharing, imagining, listening together for what we hear God calling St Mary's to be and to do in the 2020s. Here is an update on the emerging vision.

Our emerging vision of St Mary's:

"To be growing as an inclusive, intergenerational, church, inspiring faith, hope, and love, in each generation, across Ross on Wye and beyond"

Unpacking the emerging vision

St Mary's... "growing as an inclusive, intergenerational church"

Our emerging vision is of a church *"where all ages and backgrounds can find a welcome and a home"*.

A church that is **INCLUSIVE** – *"All of us; people born in Ross, and those new to Ross; all nationalities, colours and languages; refugees and migrants; people who are not here now. The young and old. Families. Those working or unemployed or retired. People of all abilities. Those who are parents and those with no children; people who are single, married, in partnerships, widowed; People irrespective of gender or sexuality. Those of faith, or no faith, and everyone in between."*

A church that is **INTERGENERATIONAL** – where people of all ages mix, value one another, are growing together in friendship and in faith - *"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"*.

A church which is a bit like an extended family - where there is a **MIXED ECONOMY** of congregations and opportunities to worship, to meet, to explore and grow in faith – *"traditional and non-traditional"* – on different days, at different times, in different styles and venues. Times too, when we all celebrate together, especially on special occasions or festivals.

A church that is **GROWING** spiritually and numerically *embracing the transformation that has begun here.*

St Mary's, a church that is Inspiring Faith...

As the only Anglican Church in Ross on Wye, serving a population of 11000 people (and growing), we have many opportunities to inspire local people to explore faith or grow in faith – through our extensive schools work; when people come to us at times of joy or sorrow in their lives; through our civic ministry such as at

Remembrance or at national events; through our ministry to visitors and through our daily lives – through how we live as well as what we say – in our homes, work, schools, neighbourhoods...
 Our emerging vision is of: *“A church where all can hear the good news”. “A church where there are a range of ways to explore faith”. “A church that goes out and doesn’t wait for people to come to us”*
“A church where we are learning how to share our faith...passing on the faith—just as others have passed it on to us; inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to explore faith and grow in faith.

St Mary’s... Inspiring Hope

At a time when many people and families are under pressure, our emerging vision is of growing as a church where we practically care for people in need – irrespective of their age or background – and where we encourage and enable mutual support and growth.

“A church which cares about, and brings together, people of all sorts and needs - being supported, and supporting each other” *“A church that is good news to the suffering, disadvantaged”*

St Mary’s... Inspiring Love...

Our vision is rooted in God’s great love for all people and creation. As part of the Church of England we have a particular concern for the wellbeing of the people and places we serve, with many opportunities to explore to work in society for healing and reconciliation in a divided world.

“A church of healing love and loving courage” -“in the messy reality of life”
“A church where God’s light is shining at the heart of its life – and in our daily lives”

In each generation...

Our emerging vision is of standing confidently in a long line of Christians worshipping and witnessing at St Mary’s who have inspired faith, hope and love from generation to generation in Ross on Wye – using our imagination and creativity to share the good news of God’s love in ways that speak to this generation.

Across Ross-on-Wye... and beyond...

St Mary’s the only Church of England church in Ross on Wye... and as such have a special Anglican calling and responsibility to all the people who live in the parish; St Mary' shines as a beacon with the light of Christ with new opportunities for inspiring locals and visitors from miles around today...

An emerging vision of who we are called to BE as well as what we are called to DO



Through our praying and listening the values of *welcome, warmth, courage, imagination, generosity*, offering the very best we can (*excellence*) have emerged, underpinned by *prayer*.
 And, from our themes of FAITH, HOPE and LOVE (1 Corinthians 13), we’re called to be people who live out God’s love, as Christians together, and in our daily lives.
 Love that:
“is patient, and is kind... does not envy, does not boast, is not proud.”⁵
That does not dishonour others, is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs. Love that does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”⁷
Love that always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1Cor 13: 4-7)

Next Steps?

How does this emerging vision chime for you?

Please continue to pray, share, imagine, feedback, share in discerning and shaping our emerging vision of what God is calling us to be and to do in the 2020s. Email vision@rawchurch.org.uk

**Grant us, Lord God,
 a vision of our church as your love would make it...
 Give us the inspiration and courage to build it,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

