



Colour code: Green—started during lockdown; Blue—in the pipeline

## Rethinking in the light of Covid...

Some aspects of our mission and ministry are changed beyond recognition for the foreseeable future, or possibly forever. For example, our work with schools. Not having been able to visit our schools for months we have started to make Open the Book on film; we've sent in resources to support the Year 6s make the specially tricky transition to secondary school in September; once term restarts we'll be working with our schools on how we can continue to support and inspire staff, pupils and families. Our ministry in the hospital and in care homes has also been restricted and is likely to continue to be, and we need to work out new approaches.

But we know we have immense wells of imagination, courage and generosity to draw on. That can be seen for example in how easy it has been to open and clean St Mary's now that we have chairs. The remodelled North Door entrance will offer a warm, inclusive welcome and access to all. Our new digital ministry has been reaching far more people than we could ever have anticipated and many of us have learnt new skills and ways to keep in touch and to worship.

So I'm asking you all to pray, to listen to friends and neighbours about their hopes and fears, what would help or support them at this time, and to imagine what our Christian response could look like. Think too about what we might need to stop to make space for the new; what we might need, or have the chance, to do very differently now.

### Some useful questions to help us review what we're doing:

- 1 What's going well? (In what ways is this Inspiring Faith, Hope or Love? Or in what ways is this growing Christian disciples, growing inclusive, intergenerational, church)
- 2 What sticking points, issues, difficulties, are we encountering?
- 3 What positive insights, pointers, opportunities, can we build on to go forward?

### Three vision questions to help us explore new ideas/opportunities:

- 1 Is this Christian?
- 2 Is this in line with our vision?
- 3 Who benefits?

### Next Steps:

\* There will be a display going up in St Mary's soon to help us give thanks for all we are, and have been, and imagine what God is asking of us. We'll be asking for contributions and photos.

\* Later in August I'll also be talking about how our PCCs have an important part to play in leading the vision forward and keeping our focus on mission and ministry.

\* Pray, listen, imagine and please share your thoughts, offer your skills, resources, time, expertise, insights, prayers. Contact me on: [Sean@rossparishes.uk](mailto:Sean@rossparishes.uk)



## Taking forward our 2020 Vision

Christians in and around Ross on Wye over the centuries, have lived, and passed on the faith, through many challenging times. None of us could have imagined back in January 2020, as we were reflecting on our calling to pass on the faith in our generation, the challenges we were about to face!

In such a changed context we have lived and ministered, prayed, cared, and worshipped over the months of lockdown. As lockdown gradually lifts, it's time now to reflect, to see with new eyes, to imagine the ways in which God is inviting us so unexpectedly to live out our 2020 vision in this time of transition.

**Inside this leaflet** you will find a "starburst mind map" of many of our areas of mission and ministry—ways we have been seeking to "grow an inclusive, intergenerational church that inspires faith, hope, and love". The diagram certainly doesn't include everything, but it gives a flavour.

**In black** is what we were doing before Covid: some of that has been able to continue, but by no means all. **In green**, are new areas of mission and ministry started during lockdown, or approached in new ways. **In blue**, are pieces of work that are in the pipeline, or that we know we need to take action on. On the back of this leaflet are some thought and prayer starters.

We are in such a different place from the one we were in as churches, society and individuals at the start of 2020. Now more than ever we need to set our spiritual compasses on Jesus Christ and on what he is calling us to be and to do. I ask you to pray, listen, imagine, as together we rethink ways we can grow in faith, hope and love ourselves at this time, and inspire faith, hope and love among the people of Ross on Wye and beyond

*In faith, hope and love Sean*