

***St John's & St Luke's Together***

**MISSION ACTION PLAN**

**2016**

**OUR VISION:**

***MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE JESUS KNOWN***

The Mission Action Planning Process which we as a church embarked on in mid 2015 has **4 stages**

1. The **LISTENING** stage - this was where we sought to discern where we were as a church primarily through
  - a. listening to God through times of prayer
  - b. Listening to our congregations via the congregational survey
  - c. Listening to our community via the various community surveys
2. The **DISCERNING** stage - this was when we held a Vision Day in November 2015 where we sought to hear what we felt God was saying to us through the various listening activities and by our prayerful interaction with each other. We were especially reminded that *'vision is about the destination we want to reach rather than the means of getting there'*, and any vision statement needed to reflect this.

The day moved us on significantly in our understanding of ourselves and where we were, but did not result in a clear outcome as far as a vision statement was concerned. Therefore the discerning stage was carried on at the December meeting of the PCC, and again at the January meeting.

At this January meeting the PCC unanimously agreed that our vision statement should be - **to make disciples who make Jesus known.**

The thinking behind this was quite straightforward - the absolute priority for St John's and St Luke's has to be to make sure the foundations or roots of our faith are secure and strong, and in order for this to be the case, we need to excel at **making disciples**, by which we mean enabling all of us to grow deeper in our love, knowledge and service of Jesus and of His world.

If we get the 'making disciples' part right, then it is our hope that:

- we will be inspired and equipped to make Jesus known through who we are, through what we say and through what we do, both as individuals and as a church;
  - we will be a church which, motivated by the love of God, produces a great variety of fruit, for example in terms of making a difference to our community, in terms of new ways of 'doing church' alongside the old; in terms of seeing people come to faith, in terms of being a fellowship which is a welcoming, nurturing, loving family for young and old (and those in-between!).
3. The **PLANNING** Phase - this is where we plan carefully so we can put our plan into action, to put down **ROOTS FOR FRUITS**, to contextualise what we are seeking to do!. To help this happen, the PCC has agreed that there should be **four priority** areas
    - i. Growing Disciples
    - ii. Growing Leaders
    - iii. Growing Fellowship
    - iv. Blessing Others

Of course these are very much broad brush stroke headings - thus below is a little more detail:

1. **THE PRIORITY OF GROWING DISCIPLES** - we will seek to
  - Re-envision and re-invigorate our **housegroups** - Simon and the new team vicar, Andy, will oversee this. A key principle will be to get the groups to ask *'What are we hearing from God?'* and *'What are we going to do about it?'*
  - disciple our **young people** via fully supporting our Sunday children's and youth work, 'Blastoff' for years 7 to 9 and especially our new Youth Group which started in Feb 2016 - Simon & Andy in

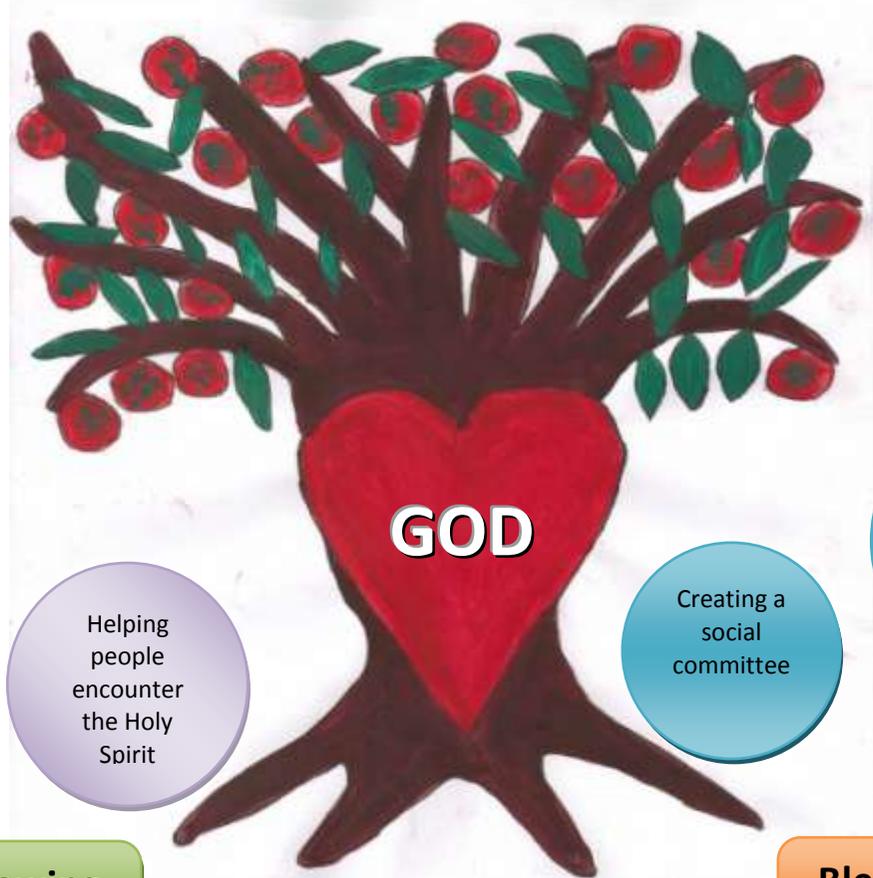
- close co-operation with Anne Saxon, our children's and youth work co-ordinator, will oversee this area
  - teach about and offer opportunities to experience the **Holy Spirit** and his gifts for the church. This has already begun
  - put into place a strategy for developing **the prayer life of St John's and St Luke's** - Pippa, our ordinand on placement, will oversee this
  - **encourage people to invest in their own discipleship**, possibly through the 'Step Up' course - see <https://stepupteam.wordpress.com/>
  - aim to establish at least one '**Huddle**' - where a group of people meet together on a regular basis to be 'intentionally discipled'.
2. **The priority of Growing Leaders** - we will seek to invest in existing and potential leaders in various areas of church life by considering running the CPAS Growing Leaders course from September (or possibly Jan 2017)
  3. **The priority of Growing Fellowship** - we will seek to build one another up, encourage one another, love one another. To this end we in the short term we will:
    - establish a **social committee**,
    - in the longer term consider doing the '**Everybody Welcome**' course as a church which aims to grow the church by helping people new to church and those who have been part of it for years feel like they belong
  4. **The priority of Blessing Others** - we will seek to be a church that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with others via
    - Offering opportunities to people to engage directly with the claims of the Christian faith through courses such as Alpha - this is already happening
    - Doing what we already do for the community better- e.g. seeking a bigger team for *Little Fishes*, our parent/carer and toddler group, and by investing in Smelly Yellow Welly Club
    - Seeking to become a '*dementia friendly*' church - Helen Mayers is taking the lead in helping this happen
    - Seeking to participate fully in Bilton and Harrogate Churches Together - for example via the newly formed Harrogate Hub - a town centre premises signposting people to what the church across Harrogate can do for them - Andy has been involved with the creation of the Hub during his time at St Mark's, so is ideally placed to take the lead in this area.
    - In the longer term considering running money management, parenting or relationship courses open to all and getting more involved with the Harrogate Food bank and Town Pastors
4. The **Action Stage** - where we put all the above into action

Of course all of this will take time to implement and what we are proposing at the moment is all about getting the foundations or roots in place, hence we are calling this phase, somewhat tongue in cheek, '**Roots for Fruits.**'

We are aware all this may seem like a lot to take in, so overleaf is what is hoped is a useful summary.

St John's & St Luke's Vision -  
Making Disciples who make Jesus Known

**STAGE 1 - ROOTS FOR FRUITS**



- Investing in our small groups
- The Step Up course
- Deepening our prayer life
- Starting a new 14-18 youth group
- Starting a Huddle
- Starting the Growing Leaders Course

Helping people encounter the Holy Spirit

Creating a social committee

'Everybody Welcome' course

Parenting or Marriage enrichment groups etc

Engaging with the Harrogate Hub

Becoming a dementia-friendly church

Alpha

**Growing Leaders**

**Growing Disciples**

**Growing Fellowship**

**Blessing Others**