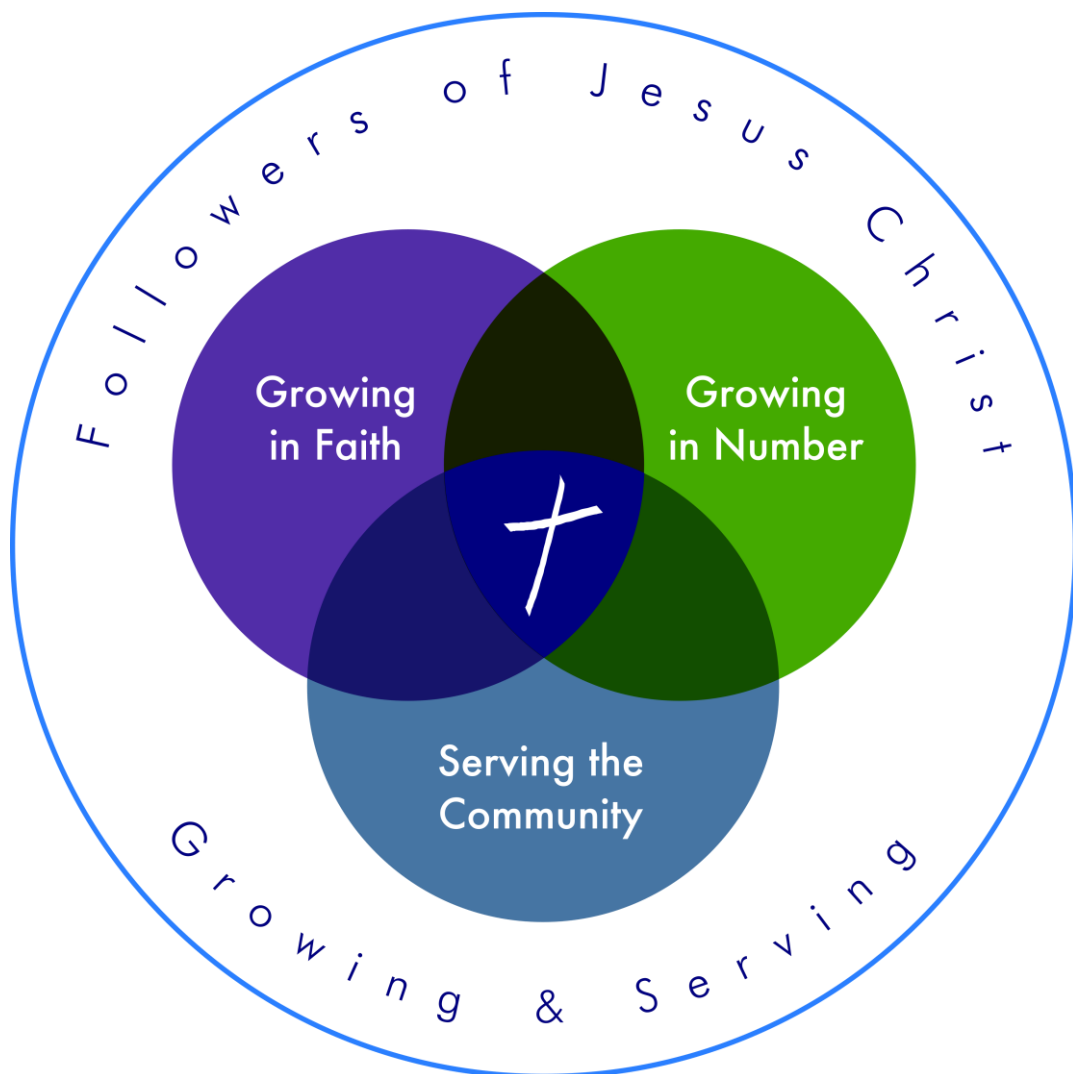




## Vision 2018



## Introduction

This booklet has been written to share the key elements of our vision for St Andrew's Oxshott, and to help you think and pray about what it means for us as a Church and as individuals.

In 2016, the diocese of Guildford published its own vision called *Transforming Church, Transforming Lives*, setting out 12 goals to help churches in this diocese fulfil their God-given calling. Many of the goals can only be achieved by churches across the whole diocese working together. However, each individual church is challenged to achieve two of the goals namely, 'Making disciples' and 'Increasing believers'.

Given this, we embarked on the task of revisiting our vision for St Andrew's. A team has spent several months meeting, listening to God and to each other, and carefully crafting the words for the vision. This has now formally been adopted by the PCC.

Our vision is to be

'Followers of Jesus Christ, growing in faith and number  
and serving the community.'

To ensure we keep the vision to the front of our minds, we have incorporated a summary of it into our logo - 'Growing & Serving'. In addition, we have developed a simple diagram of what that vision means for us as individuals and as a whole church.

The following pages detail what the vision means to us and how we can respond to it. I am excited by the new possibilities God has given us with this vision and look forward very much to growing and serving with you.

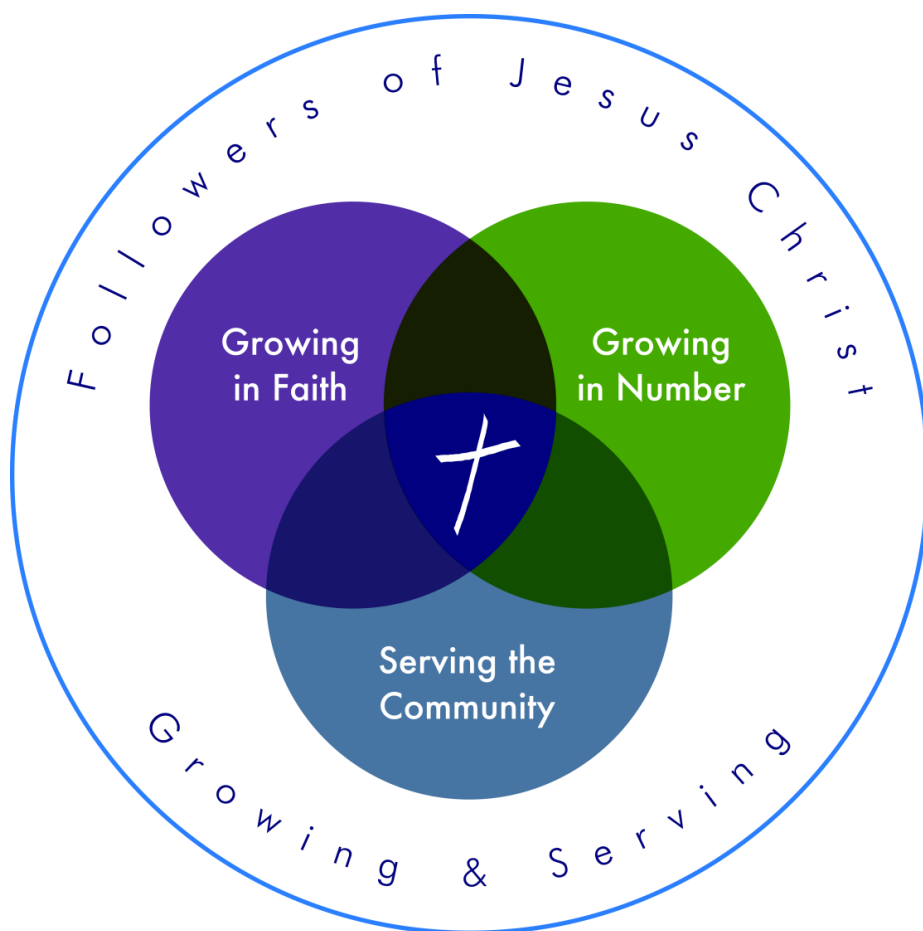
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Revd Frances A Trickey, Vicar of St Andrew's Oxshott**

## What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?

Jesus calls us to follow Him and to respond wholeheartedly to His call; to put our faith in Him. Faith is a journey not a destination, and we are called to grow day by day into prayerful, mature disciples.

Jesus wants us to be obedient to His Command to make more disciples. As we grow in faith, so we grow in number; and we find ways of putting our faith into action every day of the week - not just on Sundays - following Jesus' example of serving others around us.



The following pages explain what is meant by 'Growing in Faith', 'Growing in Number', and 'Serving the Community' and give ideas to consider how we can put this into practice.



## Growing in Faith

### **Ephesians 4:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup> The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup> We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*

### **Philippians 3:12**

*<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*

### **The Calling to Grow**

- Faith is a process, not an end state; a journey, not a destination
- We are called to grow into prayerful, mature disciples
- We are called to do this together
- We are saved by grace as individuals but we then become part of the church, the body of Christ, called with the other members of Christ's body to grow in faith
- We must recognise the gifts God has given to us and to others, and use them to build up the body of Christ
- We must encourage each other in our faith 'habits' - daily bible reading, prayer, and regular worship
- Growing in faith is a process that will last the rest of our lives
- Even Paul had not arrived, yet he continually pressed toward the prize

### **Consider**

We can often be reticent about claiming to have any gifts. What do you believe your gifts to be? What would others say are your gifts? How will you use them to grow in faith as part of the whole body of Christ at St Andrew's?



## Growing in Number

### **Matthew 28:16-20**

*<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

### **1 Corinthians 3:5-7**

*<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

### **Acts 2.47**

*And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

## **The Calling to Make Disciples**

- Jesus gives an order to his disciples and to us
- He wants us to be obedient to his command to make disciples
- We should take every opportunity to share the Good News!
- We may feel excited, daunted or worried about this challenge, but we must take it seriously
- As God's servants, we each have a part to play in sowing and watering the seeds of faith, but Paul's letter to the church in Corinth underlines the fact that making disciples is God's work; He alone gives the growth
- In the power of the Holy Spirit we are called to join in the work of the one who has all authority in heaven and on earth in growing his church.

## **Consider**

Good news is catching; it spreads fast and is welcomed.

How would you explain the good news of Jesus Christ to someone who asked? Think about your own story: when was the last time you told this to someone who was not a member of the church?



## Serving the Community

### **Matthew 22:37-39**

*'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* <sup>38</sup> *This is the greatest and first commandment.* <sup>39</sup> *And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'*

### **Matthew 25:34-40**

*'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'* <sup>37</sup> *Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

## **The Calling to Serve**

- Jesus told us to love our neighbour as ourselves
- We are to follow Jesus' example to serve those around us
- Jesus makes putting our faith into practice a very high priority; because it is evidence of our faith and our love for God
- When we serve others in need, it's as if we are serving Jesus
- Every day there are opportunities to serve or help in every part of our lives. We are called to be 'whole life disciples' not 'Sunday Christians'

## **Consider**

Who is your neighbour? Is it the community of St Andrew's? Where you live? Where you work? Where you go? How well do you know your community? How could you get to know it better? What is the greatest need in your community? How could you help? What do you find most difficult about helping? What help do you need?

## **A Vision Prayer for St Andrew's Oxshott**

Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for the vision  
you have given St Andrew's, your church.  
By your Holy Spirit, give us insight  
to discover its full meaning and implications,  
as well as the faith and the courage  
we need to follow your leading;  
so that your will may be done and your Kingdom come.  
We ask in Jesus' name,  
Amen.