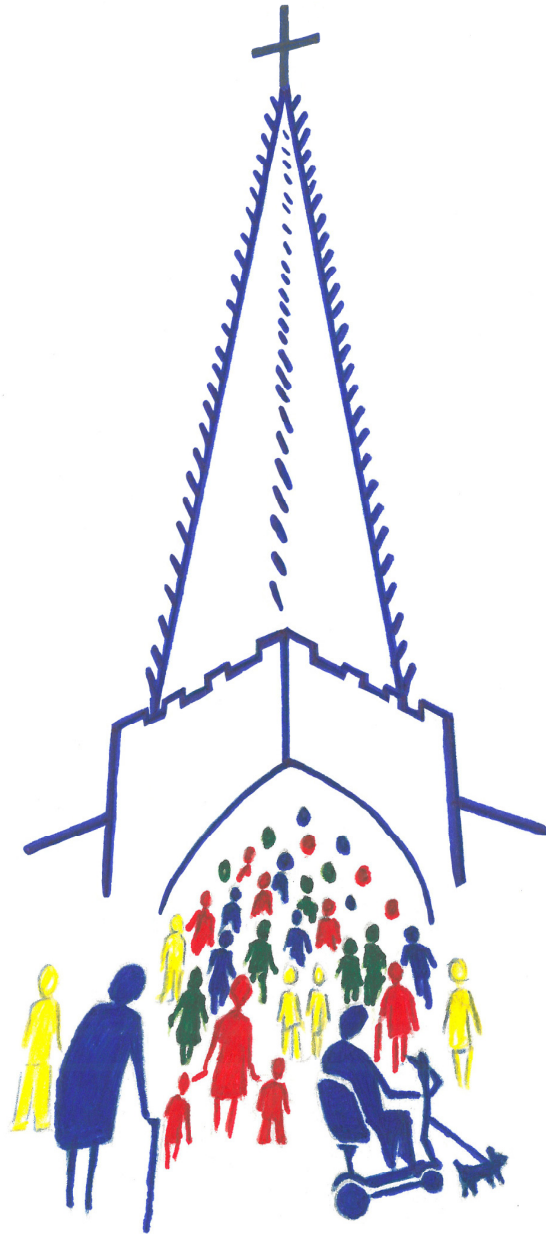


2012—2017



A VISION

for St Peter's Church, Oundle

Giving Thanks

“I always give my God thanks for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Corinthians 1:4

It is absolutely right that as we come to think about vision and where God may be leading us as a Church we take a moment to pause and to give thanks. There is a great deal to thank God for. For more than 1300 years, from at least the time of St Wilfrid, Christians have met on the very ground where our building stands to worship God. Generations of Christian disciples have sought in Oundle to be witnesses to the transforming death and resurrection of Jesus. Not least in our beautiful Church building they have given us a rich heritage. The inspired and sensitive reordering of that building under the leadership of Lloyd Caddick and Peter Coatham 20 years ago has given us great freedom and flexibility in its use – and has made it a real community resource. The development of the different Ministries under Lloyd Caddick has also meant that there is an invitation to every Church member to be fully involved in Church life.

Above all we can give thanks for each other. The variety of Church background and outlook within our Church family – combined with a strong sense of unity - gives richness to our life together. In addition to this we have very good relationships both with the other churches in Oundle as well as in the wider Deanery. Together we share the same aim of wishing to be witnesses for Jesus in our community.

The Challenges We Face

As we give thanks for all that God has given us it is also right to recognise that the 21st century presents us with new challenges.

Church Decline

Nationally the Church has seen a century of steady decline. Influential voices in our culture sometimes hold faith in contempt. Against this background it is our task to be witnesses to the good news of Jesus in the communities where we live and work and in the world beyond. We follow Jesus who said, ‘Go and make disciples of all peoples,’ – and we want to be a growing church: a church continuing to grow in numbers and a church growing in obedience to Jesus. The reason we want this is not because we want to preserve an institution and its traditions. Rather it is because we want as many people as possible in our community to encounter the God who, through Jesus, transforms lives. We want to *be* good news for Oundle and we want to *speak* good news to Oundle.

Our Community

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the Church of England often came to be seen as existing more for those who could afford the pew rents it charged than for those who couldn't. The latter often had to stand at the back. In Oundle this even led to the building of a separate church for those who didn't pay pew rents: the Jesus Church. This may seem like ancient history – yet 130 years on, it is perhaps still true that St Peter's is not always perceived as being a Church for *everyone* in Oundle. It is within the lifetime of most of us that the Jesus Church stopped being a second Anglican Church in the parish. We want St Peter's to be seen as a Church for everyone in Oundle.

Young People

We have a thriving Junior Church at St Peter's and excellent links with the Primary School, for which we give thanks. However, it is also true that we do not confidently hold on to our young people, once they become teenagers. Whilst we have some young people from Oundle School in our teenage groups, our links with Oundle and Kings Cliffe Middle School and Prince William School are not nearly so strong. In addition to this, we do not have a great many young adults in their twenties and thirties in church. We should not think of young people only as the church of the future – they are, just as much as anyone else, the church of today. It is vital that we have all ages well represented in our church family.

Older People

People live longer in our society and this gives us much to be thankful for. It also presents us with a challenge. We want to be a church that values, cares for and celebrates the wisdom and gifts of the older people who will continue to make up an increasing proportion of our community.

Our Building

The reordering of 20 years ago has given us a fantastic, flexible and beautiful space. However, as we have grown as a Church – and as we continue to grow we need to develop the building. In particular access for (for instance) wheelchair users is at present not easy. Toilet provision is inadequate. Two of our Junior Church groups have no Church room to meet in. Increasingly we are offering hospitality in Church in the form of Alpha meals, barn dances, and a Tuesday club. We want to do more of this – perhaps marriage courses, a lunch club, a café for teens - but we lack appropriate kitchen facilities.

How the Vision was Formed

All of these issues have been setting us thinking and praying. What is God wanting St Peter's to do next? Where is He leading us as a church family? Between September and November PCC discussed and prayed about it – each of the Ministries discussed and prayed about it. There was a prayer meeting for the whole Church in November at which we prayed for God's guidance as we thanked Him for our Church family and thought about the challenges ahead. Then in November a large number of us went away together to Hothorpe.

Over 2 days at Hothorpe we thought about what, in 5 years time, we'd love to be the *same* at St Peter's and what we'd love to see *changed*. As we met in small groups we also began to form specific proposals about things we could do this year. Every comment – and every suggested plan – written down in these small groups was recorded. At Hothorpe three emphases very quickly emerged across all the groups: the need for St Peter's to engage better with the whole community and offer hospitality; the need to work more effectively with young people; the need for our acts of worship to be both relevant and reverent.

Armed with a record of all that was said and proposed at Hothorpe the clergy and churchwardens spent two days, in the first week of 2012 at Launde Abbey. We spent time praying. We spent time studying *2 Corinthians* chapters 3, 4 and 5 and asking 'What is Church?' Through this we were reminded that when we become Christians God works in us so that we become more like Jesus; we begin to reflect His glory. People see Jesus in us. And He wants us as a Church family to shine that glory out all around us. We do this as we love people and serve them – as we seek to be 'good news' to our community. And God gives His Church a job – He gives us the 'ministry of reconciliation' (*2 Corinthians* 5:18). He longs for everyone in our community to be reconciled to Him – to know, through Jesus' death and resurrection, forgiveness for wrongdoing and healing for brokenness. And He calls us – if we will join with Him – to be the means by which people come to know that.

This praying and reading and listening helped us as we then looked at every single comment and idea and proposal made at Hothorpe. Over two very full days what emerged were the firm ideas and plans set out in this document: a vision for the next 5 years.

What follows therefore brings together the thoughtful work done at Hothorpe. At Hothorpe, Miles Baker encouraged us only to make a proposal if we were prepared to put our names to it. What follows is based upon what people wrote. However, the ideas will remain on the page unless we, each of us, are willing to join in with God's work as He leads. So do pray, as you read, about where God wants you to be actively involved.

Imagining St Peter's Church in 2017

So... let's imagine what it might be like to belong to St Peter's Church in 2017.

Growing in Numbers

In 2017 St Peter's Church family has grown in numbers with all 400 seats regularly filled for services. There are over seven hundred people on the electoral roll, representing ten percent of our town.

The Church family in 2017 is truly representative of the whole community of Oundle. It is made up of people from every area and part of town, of every age and from all kinds of background. Many of these come from the town's new housing estates.

Walking Together - Growing Together

St Peter's has not only grown in numbers but also in discipleship. It can be truly said in 2017 that at St Peter's, people walk the Christian life together. The vast majority of the church family are in homegroups and these are places where people share their lives together and help each other to follow Jesus. At homegroups, prayer, study of the Bible and caring for each other are all closely connected.

At the heart of life at St Peter's is discovering from the Bible what it means to be Jesus' disciple. This happens both as the Bible is clearly taught and explained in sermons and as people open it and discuss it together in their homes. Prayer is also fundamental to all that happens. The whole Church prayer meetings are regularly attended by more than 100 people; the weekly Saturday prayer meeting is thriving and people are praying together and individually in all kinds of other settings. This is because the Church family understands that if they are to be effective at all for God, then they need to see the world through His eyes and learn to be completely dependent on Him.

Making a Difference in Oundle and Beyond

This growth in discipleship has led to St Peter's making a real difference, both in Oundle and in the wider world. People from St Peter's are working closely with other Christians in the town (from, for instance, ARK, OCYA and other churches), not only to speak good news, but to *be* good news to all the people of our town. This can be seen in, amongst many other things, their care of the lonely, the bereaved, the housebound, those in residential homes and young people in need. When people in the town look up and see the Church spire they are likely to think, 'that place is good news.' Although in fact 'St Peter's' is known in the town not so much as a building – but as a community of people who are out and about really making a difference.

Because at St Peter's people truly want to follow Jesus, they also want to make a difference in the wider world beyond their town. They are fully engaged in generously supporting mission both overseas and closer to home and in longing to see God's justice more evident in the world. That's what it means to be Jesus' disciple.

Thriving Young People's Work

In 2017 St Peter's has a full-time youth worker. There is a vibrant and thriving youth group which is drawing in many from outside the immediate church family. St Peter's is a place where young people from all the schools in the town meet together, grow together and enjoy each other's company. In addition, what began as work amongst a community of young people

sitting in our West Porch, has grown into a really effective ministry amongst young people in our town. Many are coming to know that God loves them and are wanting to follow Jesus. As is the case with many of the congregation, the young people are marked by their desire to serve God in everything that they do. This is displayed by their participation in mission and outreach activities both in Britain and overseas. The Church family involves young people in decision-making and in continuing to shape the Church vision. Some have felt God's call to ordination. One thing that particularly strikes you about St Peter's church family in 2017 is the warmth of friendship between young people and older people. They value each other and the contributions all have to make.

In addition to a thriving teens group, there is also a strong group of young adults in their twenties and thirties. Some of these are single young people living and working in the town. Others are couples who came to a renewed faith through their wedding at St Peter's. Others are young families who first made contact with church through Tiny Tots, through Family Service, through the Primary School and through baptism enquiries. The PCC and Ministries reflect the range of ages of those in Church.

A Building for the Community

To support all the outreach and community activities that take place within St Peter's Church building, the work of reordering has continued. In the North Transept there is now a commercial-quality kitchen which is used throughout the week to offer hospitality to many different groups. These include Marriage Courses, Alpha, and a café for teens. What began 5 years ago as a monthly 'Tuesday Club' is now a popular weekly lunch club.

Approaching the building through the South Porch, you are able to see the activities going on inside through the new glass door. The new ramp and entrance layout make access straightforward for everyone. Also, the new fully accessible toilets mean that long queues in the interval at community events are a thing of the past. The church has a spacious and welcoming office and there is a variety of new meeting spaces for all its weekly activities.

There is efficient and well-ordered storage. The beautifully reappointed Lady Chapel provides a quiet sound-proof space for smaller services, prayer and, on a Sunday morning, one of our Junior Church groups.

Worship that Connects

In 2017 there continues to be real breadth of worship at St Peter's. Whether it is at 8am, Choral Evensong, market day communion, mid-week café-style Church, or our new simpler Sunday morning service, our desire as a church family is for worship that truly helps all of us to connect with God in real and life-changing ways. Worship at St Peter's is reverent, relevant and accessible to all. Those who first begin worshipping at Family Service find the transition to other Sunday services easy. St Peter's also works hard to connect in imaginative ways with those for whom Sunday worship is, for whatever reason, difficult to attend. At the same time, it is widely understood in St Peter's, that worship is much more than the times when we gather together as a Church family for services. Worship happens throughout the week in our homes, in our workplaces, in our homegroups, as we shop; as - in everything we do - we seek to be witnesses for Jesus.

Realising the vision – So how do we get there?

So if that's what God is calling us to be look like in 2017 – how do we go about getting there? What follows are some of the immediate steps we need to take to get there – and then an indication of what the milestones are that lie beyond those first steps. Following the lead given at Hothorpe we have divided the steps into 3 Headings: Community + Hospitality; Youth and Worship. We then also consider what changes might need to happen to our building to make the vision a reality.

Community + Hospitality: First Steps in 2012

We want to be a growing Church made up of people from every area and part of town, of every age and from all kinds of background.

The Opening of the Pocket Park – June 2012

In 2011, St Peter's fully supported the process of securing new play equipment for the Pocket Park. In 2012 (having sought the permission of the Town Council and in co-operation with them) we will:

- be involved in the opening of the new Pocket Park equipment
- We will apply to *More Than Gold** for a Christian skateboarding team to be part of those celebrations.

**More Than Gold* is a Christian organisation providing people and resources to help Churches harness the opportunity of the 2012 Olympics so that they can be good news to their community.

How can you be involved?

***Join the More Than Gold planning group
Join Outreach Ministry
And pray***

Football Skills Week – July 2012

Building on links made through the football-themed men's curry nights we will:

- work together with Oundle Town Junior Football Club to provide a Football Skills Training Week for young footballers.
- We will apply to *More Than Gold* for a visiting overseas Christian football team to make this possible.

How can you be involved?

***Join the More Than Gold planning group
Be host to a member of a visiting football team
Join Outreach Ministry
And pray***

A Sports Quiz + Other *More Than Gold* Opportunities

- Building on our links with sports clubs in the town we will host a Sports Quiz at St Peter's in June in conjunction with *Christians in Sport* and *More Than Gold*.
- We will work with *More Than Gold* to find other opportunities to build stronger links with other sports clubs in our town.

How can you be involved?

***Join the More Than Gold planning group
Help with set up and catering
Join Outreach Ministry
And pray***

Men's Events

- Following on from March's curry evening, we will develop a programme of men's events. A team will be formed to make this happen.
- The programme will be designed to connect with members of our community who are, as yet, completely unconnected with church.

How can you be involved?

*Join a planning team
Bring friends to the events
Join Outreach Ministry
And pray*

Marriage Course – March to June 2012

- We will run a Marriage Course which is open to:
 - members of our church family;
 - anyone in our wider community;
 - and those soon to get married at St Peter's.
- We will aim not only that the marriages of those attending are enriched, but also that as a Church we build relationships with people in our community.

How can you be involved?

*Sign up + encourage someone else to
Volunteer to help with, for instance, church set up
Be willing to cook a meal for those who come – or help otherwise with catering
And pray*

Alpha Course and other outreach

- We will run another Alpha course in the Autumn working hard to attract those otherwise unconnected to Church.
- We will build on links made with other initiatives – such as Men's events and sports outreach – to have a balance of men and women on the course.
- Outreach events for women – such as the breakfasts – will continue.

How can you be involved?

*Invite friends;
Join the planning and organising team;
Help with catering and set up;
Join Outreach Ministry;
And pray*

The Tuesday Club

This monthly club has met three times and has been very well attended. It is a lovely way of showing friendship to older people, both those who are already members of St Peter's but also those who have no connection with our church. In 2012 we will:

- Work hard to see this club firmly established and continue to grow in numbers.

How can you be involved?

*Join the team who make it happen
Bring a friend along
Make a cake to serve with tea
Join Pastoral Ministry
And pray*

Bereavement Ministry

As a Church we are seeking to offer continued pastoral care for those who have been bereaved – not only at the time of a funeral but in the months and years beyond. We seek to do this through the group of bereavement visitors who work with clergy at the time of the funeral and maintain contact afterwards. We seek to do this too through the special Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance in November. In 2012 we will:

- Work hard to see our approach to care for the bereaved firmly established and to continue to review our approach.

How can you be involved?

Join the bereavement team

Help with the organising of the November service – including catering

Join Pastoral Ministry

And pray

Community + Hospitality: Milestones Beyond 2012

*We want to be a growing Church made up of people from every area
and part of town, of every age and from all kinds of background.*

So what will we do after 2012 to continue to make this a reality?

And how will we know that we are making progress?

- By 2014 we aim to have a significant number of people in our Church family from each and every area on the Pastoral Ministry town map;
- By 2014 we aim to have significant numbers attending who live in the new housing developments at the top of Creed Road and by Ashton Road;
- 2013-2015 We build good relationships with the town sports' clubs and find ways of connecting with those involved in Sunday morning sport.
- 2013-2015 There is a well established programme of men's activities leading to significant numbers becoming Christians.
- By 2015 our 'Average Sunday Attendance' is the same as the 2012 Electoral Roll number. IE:
 - 2012 the electoral roll is 360 Average Sunday Attendance is 220
 - By 2015 we aim for 360 average Sunday attendance – the Electoral Roll will have grown further.
 - As a first step this means encouraging all who are connected with St Peter's to regular commitment.
- By 2015 Electoral Roll reaches 500
- 2017 450 ASA 700 Electoral Roll
- 2013-2017 We are regularly involved in other town wide celebrations and work hard to be good news in Oundle.
- 2013-2014 The Tuesday club thrives and grows – we are able to run it more often.
- 2013-2014 A significant number of people discover, after a bereavement, that St Peter's is a caring Church family to belong to.
- 2017 We are able to offer a weekly lunch club with a hot meal, friendship and games.

Youth: First Steps in 2012

We want thriving work amongst young people – including teens and over 20s.

To Invest in 6-7 Hours a month of Christian Youth Work - February 2012

- To employ a Christian Youth Worker for 2 hours each week to:
 - build relationships with our older teens;
 - make provision for those who are at the age to leave The Band;
 - help set up a 'Bible Lounge' group meeting on Sunday evenings;

How can you be involved?

Through financial giving;

By encouraging your child to belong;

By taking an interest in the Youth worker and the young people;

By joining Youth Ministry;

And pray.

To Secure a Diocesan Youth Intern - September 2012

- To employ and fully support a Christian Youth intern working on the Diocesan scheme to:
 - build on our links with Ark in Oundle and OCYA;
 - together with the hourly Youth Worker - help foster strong supportive and caring relationships amongst the St Peter's teenagers;
 - develop a group for the over 14s when they leave The Band;
 - build good relationships with teens unconnected with church;
 - co-operating with OCYA to develop a St Peter's presence in OKCMS and PWS;
 - be involved with initiatives such as a West Door youth café;
- To ensure that the intern has full support, appropriate mentoring, encouragement and line-management.

How can you be involved?

Through financial giving;

By offering accommodation;

By encouraging your child to belong;

By taking an interest in the intern and the young people;

By joining Youth Ministry;

And pray.

Involvement with Ark in Oundle's Pit-Stop Bus – February 2012

Already several members of our Church family volunteer to help with the Pit Stop Bus on Friday evenings at the Recreation Ground. This initiative seeks to build relationships with people who have very little connection with Church. In 2012 we will:

- recruit at least 3 more St Peter's volunteers for this team;
- learn from Ark in Oundle and this project, effective ways of connecting with the young people who gather there.

How can you be involved?

By volunteering on a Friday;

By joining Youth Ministry;

And pray.

West Porch Café – Summer Term 2012

- We will offer hot chocolate and refreshments twice a week to the young people who often gather in the West Porch between 4 and 6pm.
- We will approach Ark in Oundle to see if the Pit Stop Bus might be available for this.
- We will work towards the establishment of a West Porch Café for young people.

How can you be involved?

***Being there to prepare and handout refreshments;
By joining Youth Ministry;
And pray.***

Café Nooma

In 2012 we will:

- work hard to see this service firmly established...
- and attendance growing amongst those without other Church connection;
- aim to have 20 new regular attenders by the end of 2012

How can you be involved?

***Invite someone to come;
Join the planning team;
And pray.***

St Peter's Vision Review November 2012

Our young people's groups are fully involved and consulted in the process of review and developing the vision.

How can you be involved?

***If you're a young person get involved!
If you're an older person get involved!
And pray.***

Youth: Milestones Beyond 2012

We want thriving work amongst young people – including teens and over 20s.

So what will we do after 2012 to continue to make this a reality?

And how will we know that we are making progress?

- September 2013 a new Youth Intern arrives – our first intern having had a successful year;
- 2013-2014 Youth work hours steadily increased;
- 2013 Café Nooma numbers reach 30 regularly;
- 2013 West Porch café attracts 30 regularly;
- 2014 We have 20 teenagers regularly involved in The Band and TBL;
- 2014 Young people from every school in the town belong to St Peter's;
- 2015 St Peter's, fully involved in the development of OCYA, also raises funding for...
- 2015 Employment of our own full time Youth Worker to work in co-operation with OCYA and the other Churches;
- 2013-2017 Young people are fully involved in church life – including decision-making and vision forming.

Worship: First Steps in 2012

We want the breadth of worship at St Peter's to be relevant, reverent and accessible to all.

A new simpler Sunday communion service – Summer 2012

- After Easter 2012 to introduce some change to Sunday morning communion:
 - to make the liturgy less cluttered;
 - to make more space for reflection; for preaching and testimony and for different styles of worship;
 - to continue to sing the best traditional hymns accompanied by the organ;
 - to sing the best new worship songs;
 - to establish an acoustic music group in conjunction with Jenny Firth to lead us appropriately in the singing of newer worship songs.

How can you be involved?

Thank God that He made us all different;

Thank God for every member of your Church family;

Thank God that we can all come together to worship Him ;

Thank God for the willingness of this family to make allowances for each other;

Remember that the service isn't for us – but for God. We are the choir – He is the audience;

Remember that God calls us to reach out to those who are yet to belong;

And pray – and be ready to encounter Him.

Oh... and offer your gifts (musical or otherwise) to be used in worship.

A new quarterly evening Sung Eucharist – Summer 2012

- At appropriate times in the church year to have a full communion service with sung settings.
- This will replace Choral Evensong on those Sundays when it occurs.

How can you be involved?

Come along. If you're used to something different then try it out;

Offer your gifts (musical or otherwise) to be used in worship.

And pray... and be ready to encounter Him.

A Celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer

- To have a special service to celebrate this anniversary;
- This to be either a 1662 Choral Evensong;
- or a special BCP evening Sung Eucharist.

How can you be involved?

Come along. If you're used to something different then try it out;

Offer your gifts (musical or otherwise) to be used in worship.

And pray... and be ready to encounter Him.

A Teaching Programme

- For clergy to plan a teaching programme for Sunday preaching for the year;
- to begin to do the same for 2013;
- to include in this:
 - teaching about what it means to be Church;
 - a series on the biblical approach to issues of injustice in our world;
 - a balance of types of biblical literature.
- To identify and train others with a gift for preaching;

How can you be involved?

Are there aspects of being a follower of Jesus that we should be learning more about?

Have you got suggestions for sermon series or questions you'd like explored?

Then make suggestions to the clergy;

And pray... and be ready to hear God speak to you and challenge you when the Bible is read, preached and discussed.

Home Group Review – February – September 2012

- To ask Nurture Ministry to review the way Homegroups operate.
 - Looking at:
 - the balance of prayer, Bible study and care for one another;
 - what makes groups work well and less well;
 - whether they help us 'walk the Christian life together';
 - the development of more Homegroup leaders;
 - encouraging even more people to join a group.
- To act where necessary in response to this review

How can you be involved?

Join a Homegroup if you haven't already;

Invite someone else to join your Homegroup;

Encourage someone who you believe has gifts for Homegroup leading to consider it;

Join Nurture Ministry;

And pray... that we would walk together as a Christian family and grow together;

Prayer Meetings

- To see the quarterly whole Church prayer meetings firmly established;
- To see 60 people regularly attending this;
- To see the weekly Church Prayer meeting (Saturdays 9am) grow in numbers;
- To see 20 people regularly attend this;
- To aim for further growth beyond this as we listen to God and pray about every aspect of where He is leading us.

How can you be involved?

Come to the next Whole Church prayer meeting – and the one after that... and the next...;

Invite someone else to come who hasn't been before;

Come to the Saturday 9am Prayer Meeting – and invite a friend too;

And pray... even when it's not a Prayer Meeting.

Sound Team – by December 2012

- To introduce a system for the digital recording of services;
- To further train the sound team so that we get the very best out of our system ;

How can you be involved?

Thank the person who does the sound on Sunday;

Have a little technical knowledge? Volunteer to help on the sound team;

And pray... thanking God for all who do this important work.

Worship: Milestones Beyond 2012

We want the breadth of worship at St Peter's to be relevant, reverent and accessible to all.

- 2012-2013 There is a greater overlap in the congregations who attend Family Services and those who attend other Sunday morning services. Those who used only to attend Family Service feel comfortable at other morning services. Those who are regular on other Sundays make it a priority to be at Family Service to welcome newcomers.
- 2012-2013 Numbers at all kinds of service, morning and evening, grow.
- 2012-2013 Digital recordings of services are available in a variety of formats – including CDs and via the website.
- 2012- 2013 We explore providing other additional opportunities for worship outside Sunday mornings .
- 2012-2013 Attendance at prayer meetings continues to increase; we are a praying Church

Our Building: First Steps in 2012

*We want our building to have the facilities and meeting spaces
to support all its activities and outreach.*

New Boiler – Spring 2012

- We will ensure that a new boiler is installed by late Spring 2012

Establish Building Project Group – Spring 2012

- We will establish a team to oversee the continued re-ordering of the Church in line with this vision.
- They will work alongside Buildings Ministry; Buildings Ministry having responsibility for continued maintenance of St Peter's – the Building Project Group having responsibility for future changes.
- The Project Group will in 2012
 - Write a project brief;
 - Appoint an architect
 - Develop a fully-costed plan;
 - Determine a timetable for the building work;
 - Plan fundraising;
 - for a building project that will in 5 years provide us with entrance accessible to all, new toilets, a new kitchen, a re-ordered Lady Chapel, renewed office space, and more meeting rooms.
 - Investigate whether, where and how St Peter's might have a more effective system for routine use of projectors and screens.

How can you be involved?

***With readiness to give financial support if possible;
With readiness to join the team if those are your gifts;
And pray.***

Our Building: Milestones Beyond 2012

*We want our building to have the facilities and meeting spaces
to support all its activities and outreach.*

- Spring 2013 A plan in place ready for implementation.
- 2013 A re-ordered Lady Chapel
- 2013-2014 DAC approval sought for other changes
- 2014-2016 New South Porch entrance
New kitchen
Fully accessible toilets
New office
New meeting spaces

The Vision and The Work of The Ministries

The Ministries have a vital rôle in realising the Vision. For many of the Ministries the connection with their work and this Vision is clear:

Youth Ministry

Will continue to have responsibility for our work with young people. It will need to make the primary focus of its meetings the intentions and activities described on pages 10-12 of this document. This will naturally connect with continuing to ensure that all the Junior Church groups are thriving.

Outreach Ministry

Will continue to have responsibility for seeing that new people become Jesus' disciples. It will need to make its primary focus the intentions and activities described on pages 7-9.

Nurture Ministry

Will continue to have responsibility for how we grow in faith and discipleship. It will need to make its primary focus helping St Peter's to be a place where people 'walk together and grow together' as disciples of Jesus. An initial focus will be to think through how homegroups currently function (p14).

Pastoral Ministry

Will continue to have responsibility for how we care for one another inside and outside the Church family. It will oversee the development of the Tuesday club and continue to ensure that we are indeed a community where the lonely, the bereaved, the housebound, those in residential homes and all in need are cared for.

Buildings Ministry

Will continue to have responsibility for ensuring that our beautiful building is properly maintained and cared for. In addition and in co-operation with Buildings Ministry the new Building Project Group will oversee the process of continuing the re-ordering of St Peter's.

Hospitality Ministry

will seek to make sure that it supports with catering the work of the other ministries.

Mission Ministry

Will continue to have responsibility for ensuring that St Peter's generously supports mission here and overseas.

Finance Ministry

Will have responsibility for seeing that the Vision can be financed.

Administration Ministry

Will continue to have responsibility for overseeing Church administration and supporting the work of the administrator.

Many Ministries are going through a time of change. Now is the time to join! Which areas of the Vision excite you most? What ideas did you propose as we thought about Vision? Get involved.

Sometimes Church life can seem meeting-heavy. There is a worry in volunteering to help that you might quickly become overloaded. If you're on PCC and a couple of Ministries that can mean a lot of meetings. So we propose in 2012 a new structure for PCC meetings and Ministry meetings as follows:

Vision Enaction Meetings

Frequency: 6 times per year (on different weekday evenings)
Present: all members of PCC, and all members of a Ministry
Replacing: most current PCC meetings and Ministry Meetings

Format:

7:15 Coffee

7:30 Bible/Teaching/Big Picture/Vision Update/Prayer

7:45 Meeting in Ministries around the building
 The primary focus of each Ministry:
 Where are we with our part of the Vision?

8:45 Plenary/co-ordination

9:00 Oundle PCC if PCC-specific discussions and decisions required.

9:30 Latest finish time.

Some Ministries may from time to time require additional meetings in between. However, it is hoped that for many Ministries this will not be necessary. Belonging to two Ministries at once will be problematic. Therefore we will encourage those not yet part of a Ministry to join one and to be active in making the Vision happen. We will consult with Glapthorn and Benefield PCCs to see if they too want to be present – meeting together in the 7:45-8:45 slot.

Keeping the Vision on Track

We have looked forward to 2017. We have imagined - after praying, studying, discussing and thinking - what St Peter's might be like if we are in 2017 the Church God wants us to be. We have made some detailed plans as to how we might take first steps in that direction in 2012. We have thought in broad terms what steps might lie beyond 2012. We now need to make sure that for the next 5 years we keep working towards this vision. We need to keep on track in 2013 and afterwards. To this end we will have a process of review and planning as follow:

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| November 2012 | Miles Baker invited back to help us review whether in 2012 we managed to do what we said we'd do. He also helps us to begin to look forward to 2013. |
| January 2013 | Clergy, Wardens and Ministry Chairs spend a day planning what the next steps in 2013 and 2014 will be. |
| November 2013 | We review whether in 2013 we managed to do what we said we'd do. |
| January 2014 | Clergy, Wardens and Ministry Chairs spend a day planning what the next steps in 2014 and 2015 will be. |
| November 2014 | Miles Baker (or other suitable person) invited back for an extended time to lead us in thinking and praying about our Vision. A 3 year Review: are we on track? Do we need to alter course at all? He also helps us to look forward to 2017 and to begin thinking about what lies beyond. This could be an opportunity for another Church weekend. (Which need not be in November) |
| January 2015 | Clergy, Wardens and Ministry Chairs spend a day planning what the next steps in 2015 and 2016 will be. |
| November 2015 | We review whether in 2015 we managed to do what we said we'd do. |
| January 2016 | Clergy, Wardens and Ministry Chairs spend a day planning what the next steps in 2016 and 2017 will be. |
| November 2016 | A Church weekend to pray about vision? 2017-2023? |