

Values

In everything we do we will seek to be:

❖ **God-seeking**

striving to seek God's will and Kingdom first, through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, expressed in prayer and worship and informed by the Scriptures.

❖ **disciple-making**

inspired by Jesus' Great Commission to go into the world and make new disciples, seeking to live and share the Good News in everything we do and say.

❖ **sacrificially generous**

in our service of one another and others, giving sacrificially of our time, talents and resources to reflect the immense generosity of God. We serve in response to our relationship with God and not out of duty.

❖ **community-building**

inviting others to become part of the community of St Mary's. Everyone will be encouraged to serve and grow in faith in Jesus, continually seeking to draw one another into Christ-centred community.



In the coming year 2018

Our priorities as St Mary's church are to challenge one another to:

- ❖ make 2 hours per month to be a part of a group that helps the growth of our discipleship.
- ❖ give 1 hour per month to serving Jesus in Stoke Bishop or the Mission Area to provide opportunities for growth.
- ❖ invite 1 person to a Christian event, festival or worship service.

In order to facilitate this the PCC, Leadership and Staff team will seek to:

- equip small group leaders to better encourage others to grow in faith in Jesus through spiritual disciplines that include prayer, Bible study, reflection and loving accountability;
- provide clear opportunities for the church community to invite others to worship, festivals and other events;
- provide engaging and life giving Spirit-filled worship and biblical teaching that can be applied in daily life;
- highlight opportunities for service and witness in Stoke Bishop and the Mission Area;
- identify, encourage and equip others for servant leadership in the workplace, in communities and in church leadership.

For more information see the Website, Notice Boards, Welcome Pack, contact the office or member of the staff team or PCC.

St Mary's Stoke Bishop

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ST MARY MAGDALENE STOKE BISHOP VALUES, VISION & STRATEGY



**Following Jesus
and making Him
known**



Strategy

‘planting and watering’

Our strategy to achieve our vision has at its core **making disciples who make disciples**.

“God gives the growth”; so, as a church, we are called to ‘plant’ and ‘water’, encouraging and enabling people to live increasingly as disciples of Jesus (see 1 Cor 3:5-9).

We will seek to do this by providing opportunities to encourage, challenge and enable one another to follow Jesus and make him known, regardless of age, gender or background:

- through nourishing worship and practical biblical teaching;
- by enabling the development of prayer and other spiritual disciplines;
- by encouraging and challenging one another to live invitational lives;
- by active witness and service in the world;
- by reflecting in small groups on our lives in Christ.

Through our obedience to God’s Word, we pray the Lord will add to our number those whom He is calling (see John 14:15-27; Acts 2:47).



Vision

We seek to be a growing Christian, all age community of committed, prayerful and joyful disciples of Jesus, living our whole lives in the power of the Holy Spirit and inviting others into a transforming relationship with the living God.

Gathering

- to **worship** in spirit and truth so that everyone can be transformed by meeting the living God.
- in **small groups** where mutual learning, support and accountability strengthens each member to live 24/7 as disciples of Jesus Christ.



Witnessing

- to the story of faith with **children and young people** so they can discover, explore and live out their own Christian faith.
- to Jesus through love and service, inviting others into **relationship with Him** through our corporate and individual life.



Participating

- together with our partner churches in the **Avonside Mission Area** to bring about the social, cultural and spiritual transformation of all our communities in partnership with Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- by sacrificially expressing the love of God in and through our life together, our **care** of one another and our service in the world.
- by growing **servant-hearted Christian leaders** to serve in the work-place, our communities, the church and the world.
- by supporting our **mission partners** around the world through prayer and regular generous financial commitment.

