

## Clarifying Vision and Values

By this stage you will have a well-developed picture of your church and local community. You may also have done some work on understanding the purpose of the church and what might help it to be healthy and growing. It is now time to create a vision of what you want your church to do and to be. This will include a distinct vision statement.

Some examples from churches in our Diocese are:

*Being released for the mission of Jesus Christ. We seek to be a local community church with a diverse worship life, seeking committed discipleship so that we might act in loving service.*

**The Parish of Chelmer-Graceville**

*To be a vibrant centre of Christian Spirituality in the heart of the city, and to empower our community to become disciples of Christ by growing deeper into their relationship with God, through prayer, learning about the scriptures and practising his word.*

**The Parish of Ipswich**

*We participate in god's mission of transforming individuals and communities offering meaning, purpose and hope through Jesus Christ.*

**The Parish of New Farm**

*To be an inclusive, welcoming Christian community: nurturing people, building disciples and knowing Jesus more deeply.*

**The Parish of Springfield**

*We exist to glorify God by making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ.*

**The Parish of St Bart's Toowoomba**

Your church's vision may include a more expansive document that describes where the church wants to go and how it might get there. Your church's vision should be inspiring but also achievable. A description of the values that are important to your church may also be included.

Consider the vision documents of the following churches:

- The Parish of Chelmer-Graceville  
[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/587db7\\_f95a4eb193a241e484b1abc59a3d07c4.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/587db7_f95a4eb193a241e484b1abc59a3d07c4.pdf)
- The Parish of Noosa  
<http://anglicanchurchnoosa.org/vision2020/>
- The Parish of Waterloo Bay  
<http://www.apwb.net/future/>

The ideas that follow may be useful in helping your church to dream about the future and shape a statement of vision and values. The ideas could be used as part of a church visioning day, or through other approaches such as surveys or small group discussion.

While you want as much input as possible and may hold a church visioning day, ultimately you will need to draw a small group together to do the work of writing and refining the vision.

### Supplementary Resources

*Mission Planning: A guide for local churches*

## Clarifying Vision and Values *(continued)*

As you write your vision, consider:

- What God calling your church to be and to do.
- What your church would ideally like to achieve.
- What issues your church and community feel are of key importance.
- What important aspects of Christian faith and mission are currently underdeveloped or missing from your church.<sup>4</sup>

You may like to explore vision statements from other churches to give you some inspiration for what your church's vision might be like.

### Tell the story

Encourage church members to tell stories by reflecting on the following questions and sharing them in small groups. Make sure you have way of capturing and sharing with the whole group some of the key information.

- **Individual stories** – how did God bring you here?
- **The church's story** – how has God been at work through this church?
- **Dreams** – what do you hope for in the future of the church (dream big without any constraints of resources)?
- **Key issues** – what do you believe are the key issues in the church's life locally, and which are most important?

### In five years' time...

Ask church members in small groups to answer the following question:

- How would you like this church to be in five years' time? (this might include 'things we ought to be doing' or 'what it feels to be part of it').
- How would Jesus like this church to be in five years' time?<sup>5</sup>

### Values prioritisation

Take the list of values at the end of this section and write them on separate pieces of paper to stick up around the room. Add any other values you think are important. Give everyone five sticky dots and invite them to place their dots on the values they think are most important. Find out which are most popular. Do people agree that these are the most important?

<sup>4</sup>The Diocese of Exeter. *Short Guide to Creating a Mission Action Plan*.

<sup>5</sup>The Diocese of Exeter. *Short Guide to Creating a Mission Action Plan*.

## Clarifying Vision and Values *(continued)*

### Values discussion

Gather members of the church together in groups and have them discuss the following questions:

- What makes this church unique?
- What are people enthusiastic about in this church?
- What decisions has the church made that were particularly good decisions?
- What hopes for the future are expressed repeatedly around the church?
- What stories from our church have become legendary and are often retold?
- What qualities of this church draw new people to it?
- What do the answers tell you about the core values of your church?

### Values list

A place of safety	Family	Prayerful
Artistic	Formality	Radical
Biblical Excellence	Generous	Relational
Biblical preaching	Good music	Service to others
Child-orientated	Holy	Spirituality
Christ-likeness	Hospitable	Spontaneity
Community	Humour	Sustainable
Concerned for Justice	Inclusive	Traditional
Concerned for Truth	Innovative	Trinitarian
Contemplative	Loving	Vibrant worship
Contemporary	Mission-focused	Welcoming the outsider
Discussion	Offering Healing	Order and Reverence
Diversity	Open to the Spirit Creativity	Where Jesus is Lord
Equipping	Openness	
Experimentation	Orthodox	