

Vision without action is merely a dream, action without vision just passes the time, vision with action can change the world.

**Joel Barker**

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

**Proverbs 29.18**

### **A Vision for Christ Church**

Since my December letter, I have met with the Diocesan Surveyor and the planning officer. This was an initial meeting to enable the writing of a report concerning any likely planning issues in a building scheme at Christ Church. We hope to have this report by September of this year. In the mean time we are invited, as a parish, to draw up a shared vision of what we want here. We are not yet at the stage of deciding the details of any buildings. We are still a long way off even having to decide if this is something we want to go ahead with. It is all very much preliminary and preparatory thinking at this stage.

Nevertheless, having been invited to consider our vision for Christ Church in terms of our 'plant', I am happy as your vicar, to take the lead and offer to you my vision for what I think Christ Church might/ought to be offering the parish. Below, expressed very briefly, is my vision.

I think we need to be an energetic outward looking church with good facilities that we are keen to use to serve the community. We need a good quality hall with similar dimensions to our current hall's main space, with kitchen, toilets, storage and parish office rooms.

It should be attached to the church building to enable an easy transition to socializing after worship and to establish a direct link between hall and church for 'outside' users to be reminded how the church is serving the community.

It would be good to have a landscaped garden which would include a patio area for outdoor functions with a wild garden section with facility for quiet reflection.

We need a new vicarage that would be an attractive prospect to future incumbents.

With new and connected kitchen facilities in the hall, we should re-open the north porch as the church front door, with two sets of glass doors to improve communication with the community by inviting people to look in.

You are invited in the space below to comment, amend, add, and offer alternatives to this vision. Please continue over the page or on a separate piece of paper if you wish.

Once we have gathered these 'vision statements' in, the development planning group (Colin Holloway, John Davey, Sharon Mawhinney and I) will consider them and pull together any common threads. We will present our findings to the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup> when there will be an opportunity to discuss our vision for the parish further. I must emphasise again that we are not yet at the stage of offering input into style or design but are being asked to say what facilities we think we need and want at Christ Church.