



## **Being Good News**

**We are called to be good news in Newbury.**

Just as our historic church building lies right at the heart of the town, so we want to be a church that is actively involved and engaged at the centre of life in Newbury – meeting needs, making a difference and, above all else, demonstrating God’s love in everything we do. We long to be good news in our town.

## **Bringing Good News**

**We are called to bring good news to Newbury.**

It is the good news about the God who made us, who loves us and who sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to restore our relationship with him. Through Jesus, we have a message of love and life; of security and hope; of joy and peace; of forgiveness and reconciliation. We long to bring this good news to our town.

**As we seek to fulfil this vision, we are called to look UP, IN and OUT – in worship, fellowship and mission.**

**The following pages express our vision for each of these areas of church life and how we want to grow in them.**



**Growing our relationship with God, both individually and corporately.**

*Our vision is of a church where:*

- God is known as our loving heavenly Father
- Jesus Christ is exalted as our only Lord and Saviour
- the Holy Spirit is at work, bringing rebirth and renewal
- the Bible is central to what we believe about God and how we live for God
- prayer is essential for everything we do
- everyone is growing towards maturity in faith
- we are committed to following Jesus, however he calls us and whatever the cost
- we gather in expectation that God will speak and act, whenever we meet
- our corporate worship enables us to encounter God and connect with one another
- our worship continues throughout the week, in words and actions for the glory of God

*Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart,  
all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.*

*Mark 12:30*



**Nurturing the Christian life we share and celebrate together at St Nic's.**

*Our vision is of a church where:*

- we are the body of Christ, growing and building itself up in love
- we are all different, yet united in Christ
- everyone is equally valued at every age and stage of life
- everyone can play their part – we are an orchestra not an audience
- newcomers are warmly welcomed and quickly enabled to feel part of our family
- we offer particular support, prayer and encouragement to one another during life's difficult times
- we invest in our children and young people as the church of today and the leaders of tomorrow
- our life together is strengthened through a variety of mid-week groups and meetings
- we value our relationships with churches across Newbury and especially our sister church, St Mary's Speen

*Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.*

*Hebrews 10:24*



## Expressing our desire to work for God's kingdom in the world.

*Our vision is of a church where:*

- we are Christ's witnesses in the world, filled with his Spirit and sent by him to make disciples
- we have confidence in the power of the gospel to change lives
- we offer regular opportunities to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ
- we are equipped and encouraged to share our faith with others
- we demonstrate Christ's compassion through offering practical help and hope, addressing real local needs
- our central location, historic building and beautiful garden are used as tools to further God's kingdom
- our church school, St Nicolas, is championed as a key part of our mission in Newbury
- we join in with God's work beyond our parish and around the world, especially through our mission partners
- we seek to be good stewards of God's creation in all the decisions we make

*You are the salt of the earth.  
You are the light of the world.*

*Matthew 5:13-14*

# OUR GOALS

We are determined to be ambitious for God and his kingdom so that we can truly be good news in Newbury and bring good news to Newbury.

As we seek to fulfil this vision, and to grow in our worship, fellowship and mission, we have identified seven specific goals to be achieved over the next two years:

1. Encourage and enable everyone in the church family to connect with our corporate prayer life, at different times and in different ways.
2. Encourage and enable everyone in the church family to commit to a mid-week small group, as part of their growth as a disciple of Christ (e.g. home group; prayer triplet; 'DNA' group; seasonal course).
3. Develop a new welcome and integration process, with a clear 'pathway' for newcomers, to enable them quickly to become part of our church family and able to serve as soon as they feel ready.
4. Conduct a worship review, focusing on our Sunday services, to clarify direction and identify current and future needs (resources, leadership, staffing) so that we better enable corporate worship where we encounter God and connect with one another.
5. Agree and adopt a development plan for our church building to better serve the current and future ministry of our church and the wider Newbury community, and to create a more welcoming, worshipful environment for all visitors, seven days a week.
6. Ensure the successful establishment and full integration of three new outreach ministries within the life of our church, embracing the accompanying challenges and changes they will bring: Newbury CAP Debt Centre; Meet Monday (for adults with learning disabilities); Hidden Treasures (for parents and toddlers).
7. Work with St Mary's Speen, aiming to plant a new congregation in the Benefice, with a focus on the Brummell Grove estate in Speen, for example a regular afternoon 'Messy Church'.

# OUR CHALLENGE

This vision for St Nicolas Church is not just for a few people but for everyone. We are one church, made up of different people with diverse gifts. We believe God calls every member of the congregation to play their part in fulfilling this vision. For some, this will mean continuing in an existing ministry. For others, this will mean taking on new challenges in response to God's call. For all of us, we pray that it would increase our unity, and renew our sense of purpose as we serve him together.

Please join us as we seek to be good news in Newbury and to bring good news to Newbury.

*Jesus went into Galilee,  
proclaiming the good news of God*

*Mark 1:14*