



LINDISFARNE
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Our Vision

2017 - 2020



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

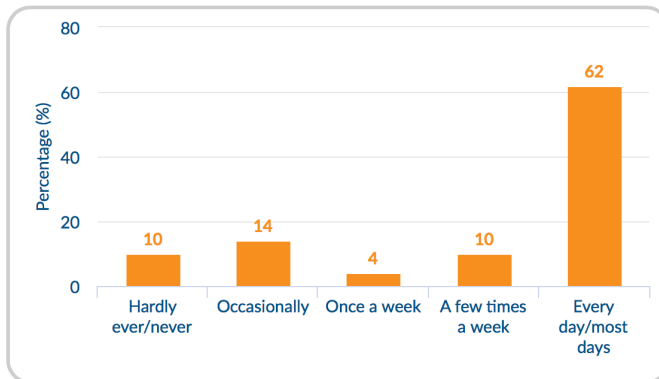
Eph 3:20-21



OUR REALITY

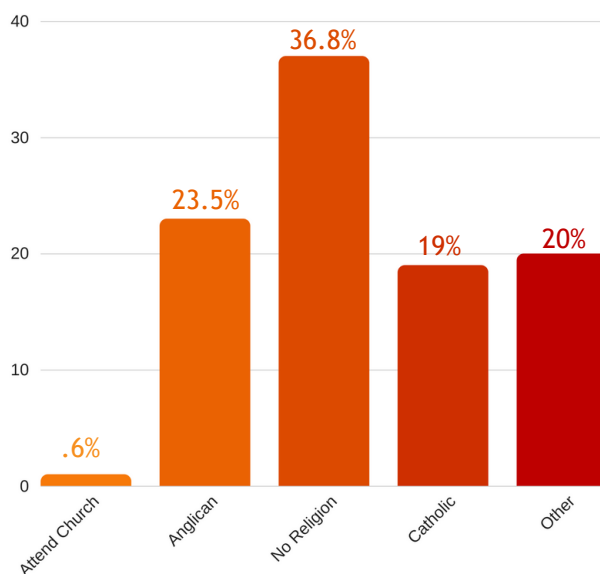
Spiritual Vitality in Our Church

62% spend time in PRAYER, BIBLE READING, MEDITATION everyday or most days



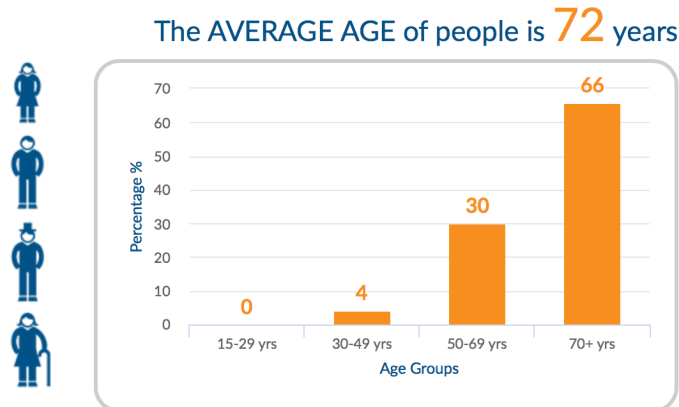
- We love each other and have a strong sense of community and belonging.
- We are people of committed spirituality expressed through regular prayer and bible reading.

Religion in our Neighbourhood



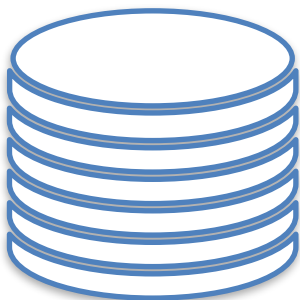
- Less than 1% of the 10,332 people living in our parish attend our church.
- 23.5% of the people in our parish identify as Anglican.
- 36.8% have no religion.
- Thousands of people need Jesus!

The Congregation in Context



- The average age of our church is **72**.
- The average age in the community is **47**.
- There are **1,068** coupled families with children and another 413 single parent families in our area. The average family with children has 1.8 children. We have **1** family with children and they are paid to be here.
- There is a huge untapped mission field of families in our neighbourhood.

Money Matters



In the general community the average weekly personal income is \$710.

As we seek to engage with a wider demographic of working families we have the potential to unlock the wealth of our neighbourhood for the Kingdom of God.

CONVICTIONS

The figures are stark. But we are not without hope because we believe and trust Jesus when he said in Matthew 16:18, "...I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it." And so we hold firmly to our theological convictions to sustain us in a difficult and challenging time to be ministers of the gospel.

Jesus Christ is head of the Church...

We are confident because we know that God is working out his sovereign purposes, and that his church will prevail because Jesus is its Lord and Head. We respond in humble service to his Lordship in the power of his Spirit.

And he has sent us to make Disciples...

Propelled by God's love, the purpose of the Church is to go into all the world and to make disciples of Jesus, baptising and teaching them to obey everything that Jesus commanded. There are many good things we could do, but this is our primary task and the centre of all our activity.

By Word, Prayer and Service...

God builds his church by preaching the Word, and through the prayers of his people, supported by their loving service of the world. Anglican spirituality is based on the biblical gospel, and is expressed in our ministry of Word, sacraments and prayer, and through acts of service.

Supported by fruitful godly leaders...

God uses faithful people who have a mission heart to lead his church into growth. Therefore, we need gifted people (both clergy and laity) to serve our church

God being our provider, and us stewards of his gifts.

God owns all the resources for ministry in our parish and is able to bless and resource the ministry to which we are called. We need to be good stewards of these resources, unlocking and deploying them for His service not for our comfort.

OUR VISION

A church for Lindisfarne, making disciples of Jesus.

A church for Lindisfarne...

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable William Temple who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944 once said, 'The church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members'. God has placed us here in Lindisfarne for the good of those 10,000 people who live in our suburbs but don't yet know the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to be advocates for our community, champions of this place, and ministers who bring the grace and blessing of God to bear on our community as we seek to be a people of blessing.

... making disciples of Jesus.

Of course there is no point simply being great citizens for we know that our community not only has physical needs, but spiritual ones too. And we know that the only way to find true peace and joy is by being reunited to our Creator. To be born again into right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. So we need to be strategic in making sure we're constantly providing opportunities for people to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, and grow in their new found faith.

Matthew 28:18-20

Finally we know that ultimately this is what we're called to because it's what Jesus told us to do. His final words to the disciples were that they, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' As we seek to fulfil our Jesus given vision, we do it trusting his final words, 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' He is with us, empowering us for this task!

OUR MISSION

To be a people who are known in our community for:

1. Our love of people,
2. Our love of Jesus Christ,
3. Making disciples of all ages.

Known

With around 10,000 people living in our parish and some 2300 who identify as Anglican yet only around 60-80 people in our services on Sunday we need to work hard at making ourselves known in our community. People need to know who we are, what we're on about, and of our love for each other and for Jesus Christ.

Love of people

We really love each other. This is what most of us value so much about our church. This is a great fruit of the gospel and our greatest attraction to those outside the church. If you join us, you will be loved.

Love of Jesus Christ

We love the Lord because he loved us and gave himself for us. Knowing and loving Jesus has transformed our lives and impacts us in different ways each day. We should be known for our devotion and love of the Lord Jesus.

Making disciples of all ages

Finally, the church exists to make disciples. To help people move from knowing little of Jesus, to being disciples of Jesus who help others become disciples. We must be known for helping people from all ages and stages grow as disciples.

TIMELINE

SEP 2017

*Prayer Triplets
Prayer Night
Playgroup team recruitment
Playgroup promotion*

OCT - DEC 2017

*Playgroup launch
Church services review
World Mission Focus*

JAN - JUN 2018

*Church Service Teams launch
Playgroup review
Alpha/Christianity Explored
Small Groups Ministry review
Mission partners review*

JULY - DEC 2018

*New church signs
Marriage/Parenting Course
Christian growth resources*

2019

*Ministry Gifts Discovery course
Bishops Certificate
Second Playgroup*

2020

New staff member

OUR PRAYER

Glorious Father, God of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Give to us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation,

so that we may know you better.

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts,

that we may know the hope to which you have called us,

the riches of Christ's glorious inheritance in your holy people,

and your incomparably great power for us who believe.

Please make us to be a church for Lindisfarne

to be known in our community for our love,

that Christ may be known and glorified through us.

Please help us to make disciples of Jesus in all that we do

through making us a loving, welcoming, community

with ministry to all ages and strategic gospel partnerships.

Father, You are able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine,

So we commit this vision and plan to you

for the Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray.

AMEN

APPENDIX 1: OUR STRATEGY

Pathways

We have begun and will continue the process of organising our church ministries and activities in strategic pathways.

Clarifying Our Mission Focus

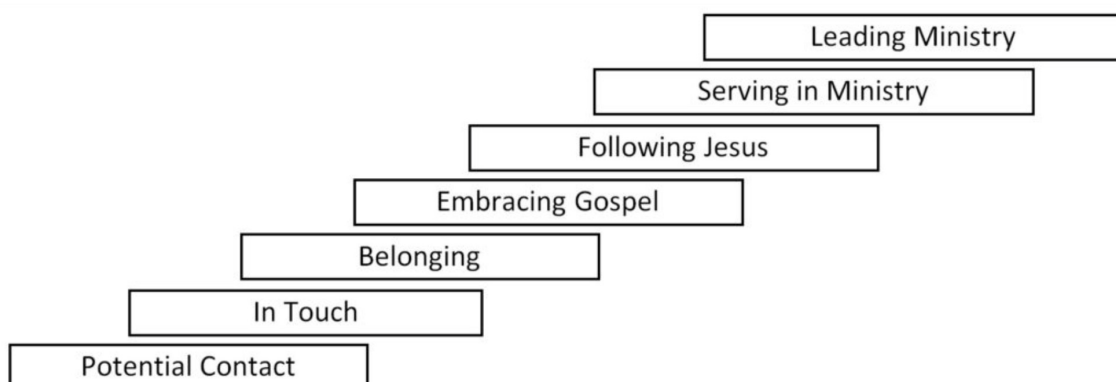
“Churches that effectively introduce people to faith tend to reach a small number of fairly narrowly defined people groups... Conversely, research... indicates that churches trying to reach everybody all at once often struggle to reach anyone at all... A small church... would do well to begin with a single mission focus group.”

- Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p245

We have a natural focus on seniors and the elderly by nature of our church make up. We already naturally offer services and ministry for this age group and by nature of who we are this will continue. However for the sake of the ongoing life of our gospel shaped community, that is our church, we need to engage with a younger generation.

Our Mission Focus Group (MFG) will be families with children under 5.

Figure 1: Pathways Mission Strategy



Prayer

“Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change—the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life.” - Tim Keller *Prayer*, p18.

We must saturate ourselves, our church and it’s mission in prayer. To do that we will:

- Set up prayer triplets who meet regularly to pray and support one another and pray for God to provide all we need to realise our vision.
- Gather as a church 4 times a year for prayer nights.
- Publicise and promote our prayer chain more widely.

Potential Contact

“This is the stage in your pathway where you seek to engage your Mission Focus Group (MFG) presuming they are total strangers to you... this step is about engaging the people you are called to reach but don’t know by name, and for whom you don’t have contact details.” - Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p51.

Website and Social Media

We will advertise our new playgroup online with targeted Facebook adverts.

Little Shop

We will place flyers and posters in the little shop and seek to hand them to young families who shop in our store and personally invite them along.

Community Expo

We will have a table at the Community Expo in the Lindisfarne Activities Centre on Sept 9 to meet local community members.

Maternal Child Health Nurse

We have spoken with the local community maternal child health nurse and she is excited to promote our playgroup to new mothers/fathers in our local area.

Physical Signage

We will place a temporary sign outside St Aidans with details of the playgroup that can be easily seen from the road.

In Touch

“In touch activities are intentional effort to foster relationships, helping acquaintances get to know you a little better, and you them. A person needs only know one person from a church to be in touch... It might be as simple as answering their phone call, inviting them to a program... and introducing them to a few of the other participants.” - Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p59.

Baptism Families

We will make contact with all our baptism families in the last 2 years and let them know about our new playgroup and invite them to attend.

Local Contacts

We will think about the young families we know who live locally and seek to be strategic in how we get to know them. Ellisa has arranged regular walks with one local mum. Is there a young family you see regularly in your street? Could you offer to bake/cook some delicious home cooked meals for them to get to know them? Do you see the same mum with a pram on your morning walk? Could you stop and say hello and begin to build a relationship with her? Do you have children or grandchildren who fit the MFG who you could invite?

Belonging

“Belonging activities are those where unchurched people can begin to feel like they belong among the Christians.” - Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p67.

Playgroup

This will be a space where parents of young children can begin to feel that they belong in our church space and get to know more church people.

We will begin a playgroup in Term 4 of 2017. Term 4 begins Monday 16th October.

Step 1 (July/August): Recruit a team of church going volunteers who are passionate about reaching our MFG and are willing and available to help with this playgroup ministry. We will need people who are willing to do the ‘backstage’ work of setting up, preparing food and cleaning up, as well as the ‘front of house’ team who intentionally build relationships with those who attend.

Step 2 (August/Sept): Clear out the hall and do work required to make it a child friendly and welcoming space. Purchase toys for playgroup. Get new heating for the hall.

Step 3 (Sept/Oct): Begin to advertise the playgroup in our community as per ‘Potential Contact’ stage.

Step 4 (Oct/Nov/Dec): Launch and run playgroup.

Step 5 (Dec): Invite playgroup parents to special kid focussed Christmas service.

Step 6 (Jan): Review Term 4 playgroup, tweak and adjust ready for 2018.

We will continue to review, test and adjust as this ministry, under God, flourishes and consider a second playgroup in 2019.

Parenting and Marriage Courses

In term 4 2018 we will run either a parenting or marriage course aimed at our mission focus group that provides tips and advice from a Christian perspective but that is not overtly Christian. This will be advertised through the playgroup and our wider circles.

Embracing the Gospel

“Now that our friends are interested, they’re ready to take the next step. They’re only an invitation away from ‘embracing the gospel... To become a disciple of Jesus... it’s important to undergo a conversion experience. Being a disciple of Jesus means following Jesus as a way of life... to consciously renounce all other ways of life and to make a primary commitment to follow Jesus.” - Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p77-78.

As we connect with our MFG, we will need to provide specific opportunities for them to learn more about who Jesus is and encourage them to decide if they want to give their lives to following Him.

In 2018 around Easter we will run an Alpha/Christianity Explored type course targeted at our MFG. We will need to train a team to help in the delivery of this course in the early part of 2018.

Following Jesus

“Following Jesus is the discipleship stage where the new believer (or the person beginning to believe...) begins shaping their life - their beliefs, values, thinking and behaviour - to the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth” - Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p95.

Small groups/Prayer triplets

In mid 2018 we will examine our current small group strategy and think through how we can best create space for life on life learning and discipleship.

Church Services

Our public worship will be transformative, helping people to grow as disciples. Beginning in September 2017 Parish Council will review our services and come up with a plan to offer a wider variety of worship styles in the parish to cater to our MFG.

Christian Growth curriculum

In late 2018 we will come up with a series of Christian books, videos and podcasts that we will encourage people to read to enable them to grow in their faith.

Baptism/Confirmations

We will mark the new found faith of people in our church community with regular baptisms and/or confirmations.

Serving in Ministry

“Serving in ministry is both a way of lovingly responding to God and a way of embracing the good and abundant life God has prepared for us.” - Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p121.

Team based ministry

Following the completion of our service review (Oct 2017) we will recruit and train a collection of teams to serve and lead our services as they seek to help people grow as disciples. These teams will have responsibility for the pastoral care of members, welcoming newcomers, and thinking creatively about how to ensure our services are dynamic disciple making events.

Gift assessment and discovery

In 2019 we will run a course (eg. SHAPE or Network) to help people think about how God has gifted them and wired them and how they can best serve our church.

Leading Ministry

This final step in the pathways process describes, “the deployment, development and multiplication of leaders.” - Ken Morgan *Pathways*, p145. We don't want to simply reach out to one MFG. Beyond 2020 we want to be able to grow our focus to families with older children (primary and high school), we want to continue to invest heavily in our aged care facilities, to empty nesters, to singles and more. To do this we need to deploy, develop and multiply Godly, biblically orthodox, fruitful Christian leaders both lay and ordained.

Chris will continue to spend time growing as a leader, humbly submitting himself to a coach and mentor to speak into his life, developing his leadership and pastoral skills, and taking time to attend professional development courses and seminars.

2017 - Investigate available grants from Diocese, Clarendon, GFS etc. to fund a potential part-time staff member to help focus our efforts on young families.

2018 - Parish Council to operate as a leadership team. Working with Chris, the Parish Council will seek to implement this vision, lead and guide the ministry of the church and pray for its expansion. The budget will need to be tailored to this vision so that we're deploying our resources strategically for growth.

2018 - New service leadership teams are recruited, trained and deployed.

2019 - Run the Bishop's certificate (Ridley) to train leaders in the basics of the Christian faith and ministry.

2020 - Consider the appointment of a second stipendiary minister (part or full time) to enable strategic growth of one or two more MFGs.

Other things

Seniors and Aged-care ministry

The average age of our church is 72 and we have a strong presence in two of the local nursing homes (Queen Victoria and Freemasons). Amongst our current congregation there is a great deal of friendship, love and support for one another. We must continue to build on this and help each other grow as Christians and support each other through the good times and bad. Likewise a lot of our natural community connections will be with folks from these older generations. We must continue to live as salt and light amongst our networks and neighbourhoods, witness to them about our faith, and invite them to consider following Jesus.

As we focus on new ministry we will need to reduce paid staff time in the nursing homes in order to ensure an ongoing presence longer term in these places.

Financial Goals

Beginning new ministry will require financial investment. Whilst many parishioners are on small fixed incomes, there may be some who have capacity to go above and beyond their regular giving to invest in this new ministry opportunity. We will invite people to give to this vision in 2017.

World mission

Our brothers and sisters overseas bring greater perspective to our lives as Christians in the west and challenge us to rely on God and trust His power. In October 2017, Abraham Hang from the Development for the People of Cambodia (DPC) will speak with us about his ministry.

In December 2017, Scott Sargent from CMS will preach and encourage us with the work of missionaries around the world who are seeking to make disciples of Jesus in their contexts just as we are here.

In early 2018 Parish Council will review all our mission partnerships and make some strategic decisions about who and what we profile as a parish.

Culture of safety

All our leaders and volunteers who have the potential to come in contact with children will be Child-Safe approved by the Diocese and hold a Working with Vulnerable People card. We will go above and beyond in this area to rebuild trust in the church as a place of safety for young people.

Local (Anglican) Partnerships

We will continue and strengthen our partnership with Anglicare (through the Salvation Army run Doorways program).

We will pray for the ministry of the chaplains in both Hutchins and Collegiate and invite them to come share with us what they are doing.

We will continue to support with personnel, prayer and finance the local state school chaplains.

One last thing...

You might be thinking it's all too much. There will be things in this plan which do not come off, and there will be things that we could've never dreamed of that God does amongst us. Through it all we will continue to be a loving community that cares for each other and impacts our community. Paul's prayer from Ephesians 3:14-21 comes to mind:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

What is God calling me to do?

These final two pages have been deliberately left mostly blank so that you can spend some time with God and think and pray about what it is God is calling you to do in response to this Parish Vision and plan. Who is God calling you to pray for? What is He calling you to give? Where is He calling you to serve? Let me encourage you to spend time in prayer and reflection and write down here the things God is calling you to below...

