

This new vision is obviously bigger than just our services on a Sunday. And there will be more to follow as we articulate the Vision for Mission and Evangelism as we “*move forth in mission*”. But as a Christian worshipping community we are all caught up in playing our part in the “*Revival of Holiness*” 24/7 as we seek to go deeper into love, knowledge and experience of God. One of the questions we all need to ask ourselves is: What will that look like for me?

A very important part of this new vision is the encouragement of Godly habits, Acts 2:42 outline four, as we take our discipleship seriously let us encourage one another. To this extent the importance of Life Groups and TIE Groups (Three Is Enough) still remain central to who we are as a community, as scripture says in Hebrews 10:23-25

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another.

Also many of you may have noticed that a new committee has been formed called the Social Outreach Committee or the ‘Fun’ committee. We are organising a variety of social events throughout the year, such as the recent Ceilidh, where we can invite friends to St Andrew’s with the sole purpose of having fun and building relationships with one another.

Finally can I encourage you to exercise the most important godly habit of all; prayer. Whether it is individual prayer, prayer in your Life groups or prayer at the variety of prayer meetings we host as at St Andrew’s. Let us lift this new vision before the Lord as we play our part in the ‘Revival of Holiness’. To that end can I encourage you to attend a significant prayer meeting on St Andrew’s Day, **Thurs 30 Nov at 8pm** in Church where we will lift ourselves, our community and our nation to the Lord.

Revd Tim Horlock  
Vicar of St Andrew’s Chorleywood  
October 2017

## St Andrew’s Vision 2017- Summary

Since arriving as your Vicar in November 2016 I have been praying and listening to God in order to discern the direction he would have his church of St Andrew’s move into. This paper is designed to summarise and complement the Vision Sunday sermon on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 (available on our website) to outline the new vision and the changes that it will bring.

There are two key texts that I sensed God drawing me to, which I believe are significant for St Andrew’s in this new season. I believe God is calling us to be an Acts 2:42 church and a people inspired by the dream of John Wesley. I would like to look at these two texts before asking the question HOW we can best fulfil this vision on Sundays and in our lives.

**They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.** Acts 2:42

**“I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfil God’s creational intentions.”** *John Wesley*

The four fold vision of Acts 2:42 for the early church points to the key priorities for a healthy church. The word ‘**devoted**’ is the same word in Greek which is used to describe how a lion would fix his eyes on his prey and watch it’s every move before seizing it. With that same passion and dedication the early church devoted themselves to:

**Firstly - ‘The Apostles’ Teaching’** (to Scripture, to God’s Holy Word.) It is important that everything we do is steeped in Scripture. When we preach, we preach authentically from and grounded in the Word of God. ‘We preach Christ and him crucified.’ 1 Cor 1:23. We look to feed people on the Word of God. As Jesus said to Peter ‘feed my sheep’. Part of our role is to feed people with the Word of God, the meat of scripture. The Word of God is not ‘just’ literature the Word of God is powerful. I think we should cultivate opportunities, as much as we can,

for people to be fed. So let us on Sunday mornings with both adults, children and youth keep the Word of God at the centre of all we do. When we meet together as life groups let us feed people with the Word. As D.L.Moody said **‘The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation.’**

#### **Secondly – ‘and to Fellowship’ (Koinonia)**

Christian fellowship is a key aspect of the Christian life, we are not called to do this alone. Believers in Christ are to come together in love, faith, and encouragement. That is the essence of koinonia. Koinonia is beautifully expressed in **Life Groups** where a small group of believers regularly meet to encourage one another, study God’s Word together and pray for each other. Let us not stop meeting with one another as we support these essential groups as a Church.

#### **Thirdly – ‘to the Breaking of Bread’ (Holy Communion)**

Bishop John Pritchard said, **‘At the Heart of a healthy Christian Community is a single-minded fascination with the Mystery of God.’** There is a mystery in this meal that Jesus calls us to participate in, as we remember his death and resurrection. Many Christians testify to being nourished in their relationship with God as they respond in obedience and in faith. This is a mystery beyond understanding. We try to fathom the mystery of the cross by reading books and studying God’s Word, but in Holy Communion we ‘experience’ the presence of Jesus with us and in us in a profound and awesome way. Let us as a church create opportunities for this meal.

#### **Fourthly – ‘and to Prayer’ (and Worship)**

Prayer and Worship is the engine room, it is the power and it is what we are called to do. We neglect prayer at our peril. **J. Hudson Taylor said, ‘Mankind is moved by God through prayer alone.’** If we want to see God move in our community, in our families amongst our friends and colleagues then we should be on our knees fervently praying for God to move in power. St Andrew’s is a church where prayer is central to who we are and what we do. Let us celebrate what we do and be creative with new forms of prayer as we move forward.

This Acts 2:42 Vision is tied up in John Wesley’s dream about a **‘Revival of Holiness’**. It is a reminder that we are drawn into God’s love, enticed by his grace, impassioned by the Holy Spirit which manifests in holiness both individually and corporately. We are called to play our part in this revival of holiness and be open to what God wants to do in us and through us at St Andrew’s and beyond.

Acts 2:42 together with John Wesley’s dream can be summarised in a strapline: **‘To pursue Jesus and play our part in a revival of holiness.’**

#### **The Church Consultation**

Can I begin by saying thank you for participating in our recent church consultation, in sharing your dreams for St Andrew’s and for prayerfully considering what you feel Jesus is calling us to be/do/become. I read through all of your responses and as I read I prayed and tried to discern from God how he is asking us to change. I think it is clear to say that there was a polarisation of preferences and desires. Many longing for a more contemporary expression of worship, while others are yearning for a more liturgical structure.

So how do we implement this new vision in the light of the recent church consultation? Acts 2:42 will mean different things for different people. What does this look like in terms of what we do on a Sunday and during the week and in what God is calling us into? Below is what I would like to suggest as a way forward:

**For a trial period, starting November 5<sup>th</sup> this is will be our new service structure. At Easter 2018 we will review this model.**

**1. Move 8am Holy Communion to 9am (Liturgical)** – From the Chapel into the Sanctuary. This will include all-age children’s church in the Chapel during part of the service.

**Between the services there will be a time of fellowship in the Foyer.**  
**2. Move 10.30am to 11am (Contemporary) Service.** This will include the normal structure of age related children and youth work.

**3. Make 6.30pm more of a youth and young adults focused service.** Primarily listening to the preferences of the younger voice and delivering a service to meet their needs. Everyone is welcome of all ages, but you may notice a few changes to the current model.