

Setting the course for the future

Alice in “Alice in Wonderland” had a problem knowing where she wanted to go: “‘Would you tell me please, which way I ought to walk from here?’ asked Alice. ‘That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,’ Said the cat. ‘I don’t much care where.’ Said Alice. ‘Then it doesn’t matter which way you walk.’ Said the cat. ‘So long as I get somewhere.’ Alice added as an explanation. ‘Oh you’re sure to do that,’ said the cat. ‘If only you walk long enough.’”

It is the same with a church.

Do we know where and which way we want to walk with the Lord?

Do we know what the Lord is calling us to do? And if we do know this, do we know how to get there?

Unless we know where we want to go, we will not know how to get there and when we are there.

Vestry has formed a sub-committee to help with discovering our present identity and to explore future directions. This committee is to enable this process to happen over the next few months.

Vestry will also be looking at some visioning work at the Vestry Retreat in June.

The sub-committee will be considering five aspects, building on last year’s parish meetings:

- i **Analysis the Ministry** – *What kind of church are we?*
This is being in touch with reality. It can help spot flaws and weak points and highlight strengths that can be built on.
- ii **Discovery Core Values** – *Why do we do what we do?*
Core values are what drives the church and dictates decisions and ministry priorities.
- iii **Developing our Mission** - *What are we supposed to be doing?*
Is about what is the reason church’s mission in existing? Christ has already pre-determined the Church’s mission – the Great commission Matthew 28:19-20.
- iv **Knowing our culture** - *What is going on out there?*
Changes in society do affect the church, so we need to know what is happening and how that will impact the church in its mission.
- v **Developing a vision** – *What kind of church would we like to be?*
The vision focuses on what we could be, and ‘paints’ a picture of what this would look like.

Please pray for the sub-committee team as they work out how to guide the parish on this journey including future parish meetings.