



Fulfilling: the great Commission

By discipling & resourcing
followers of Jesus to love and
serve wherever he calls

2021 UPDATE

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GOD'S THUMBPRINT

*Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."
(Matthew 22:37-39)*

*Jesus said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
(Matthew 28:18-20)*

-  The thumbprint speaks of our uniqueness and special place in God's plan of salvation.
-  The colour green depicts the growth and expansion of God's kingdom.
-  The ridges signify God's desire to send us out in ever expanding circles, to proclaim and demonstrate his love to the world.

KINGDOM GROWTH: 2017 EXPERIENCE



WHAT HAVE WE HEARD OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

- We have heard people give their lives to Jesus.
- We have heard stories of those returning from India who have been profoundly encouraged and changed.
- We have heard God's word read and preached and we've been challenged to live as fully committed disciples of Jesus.
- We have heard such encouraging stories from participants in the Marriage course and the Alpha course.



WHAT HAVE WE FELT OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

- We have felt the joy of living in community where there is a marked absence of bitterness and tension.
- We have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and been in awe of the power and love of God in our worship services.
- We have felt moved on testimonial days as we have heard how God is working in the lives of those in our church family.
- We have felt the relief and joy of finding a youth and young adults pastor (after such a long search) that is a perfect fit for our church.
- We have felt deep joy as we have seen young people affirm their faith through baptism.
- We have felt burdens lifted as we have sought the Lord through a multitude of prayer groups including Connect Groups, Daybreak prayer, Adoration House of Prayer, Saturday prayer, Healing prayer, Parish Council, Intercessions during church and after church prayer ministry.



WHAT HAVE WE EXPERIENCED OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

- We have experienced a new enthusiasm and confidence in the Anglican church across the state in the appointment of our new Bishop.
- We have experienced the service of so many people working behind the scenes who make our church run so smoothly, such as the Office team and the Toolbox maintenance team.
- We have experienced the joy of having many new people join our family – new people who each bring unique gifts for building up the body of Christ.
- We have experienced incredible pastoral care through geographically wider outreach visits and phone contact through our pastoral care team.
- We have experienced the tolerance and patience of our people and leaders, as they deal with the implications that growth brings.
- We have experienced the thrill of sending \$15,000 to La Mai projects in Thailand through the coffee ministry.



WHAT HAVE WE SEEN OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

- We have seen the two early morning congregations come together to form the 8am chapel congregation, with such generosity of spirit and kindness shown to one another.
- We have seen new ministries with exciting potential start such as “Men’s Maintenance Ministry”, “1830’s” and “Breakfast with us”.
- We have seen more established ministries such as “mainly music” flourish, and been forced to think about ‘what next?’
- We have seen the completion of major building works and renovations.
- We have seen God’s faithfulness in meeting our yearly budget.
- We have seen incredible interest in the Chapel re-development from the Kingborough Community.
- We have seen the establishment of a media team which will aid communications such as FaceBook, a new website, graphic design, photography and film.
- We have seen the excitement of people hearing wonderful first hand stories from Jossy Chacko about God’s hand of blessing in India.

KINGDOM GROWTH: ST CLEMENTS 2027

Imagine ten years from now, a reporter from the Mercury spends some time at St Clements, observing every aspect of our church life and then writes a series of articles, describing what she experiences. What sorts of headlines might we hope to see?

IT'S A MIRACLE!

STRANGE COINCIDENCES

OR

ANSWERED PRAYERS?



*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Church leaders report that they have witnessed a strong correlation between constant prayer and strange coincidences. 'When we cry out to God, amazing things happen!' said one of the 5am prayer group regulars. 'Prayer makes me so happy' said one of the participants of the group.

RADICALLY TRANSFORMED LIVES: HUGE LIFE SHIFTS

Interviews with church leaders reveal that former alcoholics are now serving communion, former tax evaders are now counting the church offertory, notorious ex- criminals are now part of the food distribution ministry and people set to retire have been given new work to do...

*"They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven."
(1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10a)*

CHURCH LEADERS CALL FOR GENEROSITY: BUT FOR THE POOR NOT THEIR OWN POCKETS

A leaked annual financial report reveals an exorbitant percentage of all giving is going towards reaching the poor, uneducated and needy people around the world including Northern India.

"You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness." (1 Thessalonians 2:5)



HUMBLE HARD WORKERS:

WHAT LOCAL EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR

A Kingborough business has recently explained his hiring strategy: 'I need workers who are willing to get their hands dirty and who are not afraid of hard work. I need people I can trust with my good name and I've found that the people whose resume includes mention of their church involvement make a huge difference...'

"You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." (1 Thessalonians 4:11b-12)

CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIANITY: THE STORIES KEEP GETTING TOLD

Interviews with Kingborough residents reveal that stories of spiritual transformation keep emerging from friends and neighbours attached to the church. Whether these stories are true, no-one can say for sure, but as one resident aptly expressed: 'something is happening there for sure!'

"The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia - your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we don't need to say anything about it." (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

BIBLE BELIEVERS: CHURCH PROMOTES ARCHAIC WRITINGS



A visitor to a St Clements Sunday service reports that church attenders actually believes the ancient writings contained in the Bible are still relevant for life today. In fact, one church leader explained that all activities are governed and shaped by the Bible and that daily Bible reading was a normal part of church life for most church members...

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Last week a team of 12 more people were sent on a short term trip to India – and that’s the fifth team that has been sent out this year to various places from Moonah to Mumbai. One church leader said, ‘we believe in sending: Jesus did and so do we. Something very special happens when we make the effort to go and

and bless and serve and partner with others where they are.

All our teams are different – but all of them have the same purpose: encourage, strengthen and serve.’

“We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God’s service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith.”

(1 Thessalonians 3:2)

SENT TO HELP

FIRM UNDER PRESSURE



After the latest defeat for the church in the High Court this week, the people at St Clements seemed quite unperturbed. One woman said, ‘this ruling makes us even more determined to care for the vulnerable and to reach out to them with the love of Jesus.’ One man said, ‘We can’t let this ruling discourage us – Jesus is real and we will follow him as best we can no matter what.’

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.”

(1 Thessalonians 3:7-8)

SPONTANEOUS ACTS OF LOVE: WITH STRANGE REGULARITY

If the stories are correct, then spontaneous acts of generosity and hospitality have been occurring with surprising regularity at St Clements. It is reported that meals suddenly appear on the doorsteps of families at the end of their tether, visitors appear in hospitals and nursing homes to hold the hand and pray for the sick and the lonely and encouragement cards keep turning up in the mail. And it all happens quite indiscriminately...



“Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.” (1 Thessalonians 4:9)

KINGDOM GROWTH: NEW CHALLENGES

Our current experience of God's hand of blessing and growth leads us to both praise God and also to ask "what next?" One answer is to simply do what we have always sought to do: continue to seek to please God.

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

However we then need to ask the question: "how do we please God?"

Having prayerfully considered the key challenges that we are facing at present as a church, we have settled on ten guiding questions for our vision that we believe will help us to please God. None of the questions focus on particular ministry areas such as music ministry or children's ministry as we want to remain flexible and able to move as God's wills in each ministry area. The questions that we want to consider undergird our church culture as a whole and all our activities.

We want to consider **discipleship** questions:

- "How can we keep discipleship central in our church community?"
- "How can we enable ministry groups to develop in flexible and dynamic ways?"
- "How do we help every believer grow to maturity in Christ?"
- "How can we train and support future leaders in ministry?"

We want to consider **missional** questions:

- "How can we best serve God's Kingdom in our own back yard?"
- "How do we equip God's people to live in a post-Christian world?"
- "How do we partner with other churches in Tasmania in making disciples?"

We want to consider **practical** questions:

- "How do we help new people to belong in a large and growing congregation?"
- "How can we improve our systems of communication?"
- "How do we best use our buildings and land for God's kingdom?"

KINGDOM GROWTH: KEY STRATEGIES

We now pause to consider our 10 guiding vision questions, and give what we believe to be God's guidance on the "next steps" in each area.

The strategies are not exhaustive by any means – much more could be said about each of them. All we aim to do for each area is to give our prayerfully considered "next step." More will be added in months and years to come.



DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS:

1. *“How do we keep discipleship central in our church community?”*

“Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

Being disciples of Jesus means following Jesus’ teaching. Discipleship involves embracing Jesus’ vision for our lives and results in true freedom. As we take hold of Jesus’ words and follow him more closely, we will experience a renewed joy and purpose.

Discipleship is a journey we cannot walk alone. In order to grow as disciples we need to be involved in one another’s lives. Jesus called his disciples together to form a community that worked together to teach, strengthen, grow, love and encourage one another.

At present, our church has a genuine heart for discipleship, but limited practical avenues to grow new disciples, to provide Christian teaching for those ready to go deeper, and to resource families as they seek to keep Christ central in their homes.

We would like to employ a Discipleship Pastor who will provide focussed support, encouragement and teaching to individuals, families and ministry groups, and who will in turn help keep discipleship central in all that we do.



*Our 2017 answer:
PRAYERFULLY SEEK
AND EMPLOY A
DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR*

100%

Since the release of the ten year vision document, we have employed Nick Overton as a Discipleship Pastor and are already seeing the benefits of this strong discipleship focus.

2. "How do we enable ministry groups to develop in flexible and dynamic ways?"

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:2)

The Apostle Paul tells his "son" in the faith, to train reliable people who can teach others. This example of passing on the baton is not some isolated incident. Right throughout his epistles, we have examples of the Apostle Paul raising up leaders who act as encouragers, mentors and team leaders for various ministries that emerge as the Gospel takes root.



At present, we have many ministries with great potential that could benefit through focussed support and guidance from experienced people outside their ministry areas.

Under the direction of the Discipleship Pastor, we would like to appoint and train ministry coaches to provide support and offer help to team leaders of ministry groups. By providing ministry coaches, we will benefit from intergenerational modelling. The focus of ministry coaches is not to give operational oversight to these ministry groups, but to encourage further growth and development through prayer, listening and input.

Our 2017 answer:
**PRAYERFULLY APPOINT,
TRAIN & RELEASE
MINISTRY COACHES**



Since the release of the ten year vision document, as Discipleship Pastor, Nick Overton has undertaken a coaching course. He is available to coach ministry leaders and is planning to train others to coach for different ministry areas. We believe that coaching will help enable ministry groups to develop in flexible and dynamic ways, and are looking to appoint coaches in the short to medium term.

3. "How do we help every believer grow to maturity in Christ?"

"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." (Colossians 1:28)

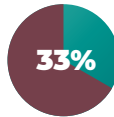
The Apostle Paul was passionate about helping all believers to reach maturity in Christ. He was zealous for converts – yes. But more than that, he wanted fully committed and mature disciples who become disciple-makers.

At present, we have many opportunities for people to grow and be involved in ministry but no easy way to help guide people to "what next?" in serving Jesus in the church and the wider world.

Under the leadership of the Discipleship Pastor, we would like to make it easier for people to discover and use their gifts, find a place within the church to serve, and seek God's call upon their life in the workplace and beyond. We do not want to simply fill rosters - as important as that is. Rather, we want to help every believer grow to maturity in Christ by finding their own discipleship pathway.

Our 2017 answer:

HELP EVERY
INDIVIDUAL FIND THEIR
DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



Since the release of the ten year vision document, we have added more discipleship pathways, such as a daily Bible reading program and podcast, Growth Groups (accountability groups), Grace Groups (mental health groups) and are looking to offer parenting and marriage courses on a regular basis. Since 2017, the 1830's group has really increased in size and maturity and is providing a place for young adults to grow in their faith. We are working to make the process of finding appropriate discipleship courses and resources simple and straight-forward.

Being a Christian is a lifetime journey. Our desire is to create a pathway of personal growth that takes us towards Christlikeness. We want to offer pathways like 'Alpha' for those exploring Christianity and pathways like Connect Groups, Women's Groups and Men's Groups for those growing in their faith. In addition, we want to offer pathways to those serving and leading in ministry, following Jesus in all of life, and winning people to him.

4. "How do we train and support future leaders in ministry?"

"But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:11-12)

The Apostle Paul recruited many young leaders to serve alongside him as apprentices in ministry. These leaders were taught and shown what it meant to be a slave of Christ and to serve God's people.

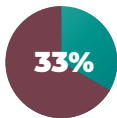
At present, we have many gifted young people serving faithfully in our church, but we have no apprenticeship program for those wishing to explore faith and ministry more deeply.

We would like to start a transformation centre for young people keen to grow in their Christian character, leadership skills and spiritual gifts. We have seen the incredible impact of such centres in India through EMPART and want to use this as a model for us here in Australia.

This one year program would be dedicated to transforming the lives of young men and women to be servants of God, equipped for whatever God has in store for them.

Our 2017 answer:

CREATE A
TRANSFORMATION
CENTRE FOR
YOUNG LEADERS



Since the release of the ten year vision document, we have seen some progress of this aspect of our vision as we now have specialised training for our youth and children's leaders at the start of each term. In fact, this training has also been made available to youth leaders in other churches.

Moreover, many youth and youth leaders are now being mentored by older Christians. We have also given many young leaders opportunities to grow through serving in our Friday and Sunday regular programs and our KAOS holiday program.

In addition, after employing one youth intern in 2018/2019 and another youth intern in 2020/2021, we are looking to employ two youth interns for 2022/2023. We are now in a position to start seriously exploring how such a youth transformation centre could be established.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS:

5. "How can we best serve God's Kingdom in our own back yard?"

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."
(Jeremiah 29:7)

The Lord calls us to serve and bless our local community. According to the 2016 Census figures, the population of Kingborough is approximately 36,000 and 42% of them said they have "no religion."

At present, whilst many of our congregation live as people of blessing in their neighbourhoods and seek to live for Christ and share Christ as they have opportunity, as a church we are barely visible and lack relevance.

We would like to commission a "Love Kingborough" team that helps us spread the love of Christ in Kingborough. This team would encourage and equip us to **pray** for our neighbours who do not know Christ, to **listen** to God, to **eat** and share hospitality, to **bless** the Kingborough community and to **share** the good news as the Lord opens doors.

In addition, the "Love Kingborough" team would seek the Lord's direction for some specific projects we can adopt (along side other local churches as appropriate) to bless and serve our local community.

Our 2021 answer:

**BLESS KINGBOROUGH
THROUGH ACTION AND PRAYER**

Since the release of the ten year vision document, we have supported some individuals in their local endeavours and have done some activities to raise the profile of blessing our neighbours in our local community. We have some wonderful ministries such as Breakfast with Us, Brunch with Us, Coffee Craft and Chat, mainly music and Lunch Friends, that meet on church property. But in addition to these initiatives, we would like to be more visible out there in the community, rubbing shoulders with our neighbours. In order to move forward, we are in need of an injection of new ideas and leadership.



6. *“How do we equip God’s people to live in a post-Christian world?”*

“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-20, 22-23)

Jesus crossed all boundaries in order to bring the good news of the Kingdom of God. Likewise the Apostle Paul became “all things to all people” in order to save them. Interacting well in our post-Christian society is not straightforward. It requires careful thought, prayer and preparation to cross racial, social, economic and religious divides in order to reach people with the Gospel.

At present, many of us have limited experience and are ill-equipped in crossing cultural and social boundaries. Our partnerships with EMPART and CMS have demonstrated how to cross cultures in sensitive and effective ways but we are yet to capture this learning and apply it to life in Tasmania.

We would like to establish a cultural engagement ministry using resources and insights from our partnerships, to help increase our awareness of cross-cultural issues and to equip us to engage constructively with those from different backgrounds.

In addition, we would like to enable people to have meaningful interactions about current social and ethical issues with family members, neighbours, fellow students and work colleagues.

Our 2017 answer:

ESTABLISH A
MINISTRY TO HELP
US CROSS CULTURES
EFFECTIVELY



25%

Since the release of the ten year vision document, God has brought to our church a number of people from different cultures for which we greatly thank him. In addition, the teaching program including Sunday preaching and midweek articles is now more consciously focused on providing motivation and skills for believers to live in a Post-Christian world. It is unclear at the present time how this focus could become more formalised or useful to a wider audience.

7. "How do we partner with other churches in Tasmania in making disciples?"

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:4-5)

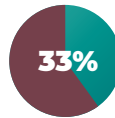
The early church, in its various locations around the Mediterranean, was led by local elders and deacons. However, the churches did not work completely independently of each other. Through the Apostles, partnerships were forged between churches so that resources (people, prayer and finances) were shared and difficulties were addressed.

At present, there are many struggling and under-resourced churches in Tasmania who would be open to forming gospel partnerships.

Inter-church partnerships would require a commitment from each partner to sow into the other and may include prayer, sending teams (e.g. musicians), supporting leaders, running workshops, financing special projects, and much more. As we join together in obedience to the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom of God advances.

Our 2017 answer:

**ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH
OTHER TASMANIAN CHURCHES**



Since the release of the ten year vision document, we have seen some progress in this aspect of our vision. Youth leaders from other churches have joined in our youth and children's training nights each term and we have a youth team go to encourage another Tasmanian church each January on the annual prayer road trip. We also have some coaching relationships with ministry staff in other churches.

However, we now believe that this question was too small. We would like to expand the question to read "how do we partner with others around the world in making disciples?"

During the lockdown of 2020, we produced pre-recorded services for our own people, and to our surprise, we attracted a significant number of viewers from around Tasmania, and around the world. Since the end of lockdown, we have been live-streaming our weekly 4:30pm service. In the light of these experiences, three members of our team have joined an Australia-wide Digital Training Cohort to explore how St Clements might be a bless to the wider church through Biblical and apologetic resources and weekly online groups.



*Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."
(Matthew 22:37-39)*

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:

8. *How do we help new people to belong in a large and growing congregation?"*

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Meeting together for teaching and encouragement has always been a key priority of the church. We need to fellowship together so that we don't become discouraged or lose direction.

We currently run two worship services each Sunday: an 8am classic Anglican service (which has brought together the two congregations of St Peters and 7:45am) and the 9.30am contemporary service.

At present, the 9:30am service, which brings together people from all ages, has reached a size that makes numerical growth more difficult. Not every seat is taken each week, but at 80% full there is a clear limitation upon growth, let alone parking constraints.

We would like to explore starting a new weekly service in order to create space for growth at 9:30am as well as help with parking issues. We would need to seriously address issues of intergenerational interaction and children's ministry. We would also like to explore developing our current building to maintain the strength of our intergenerational worship.

Our 2017 answer:

**PRAYERFULLY REVIEW
& RECONFIGURE OUR
WORSHIP SERVICES**



Since the release of the ten year vision document, we have added a third Sunday service at 4:30pm. This congregation's motto is "A place to connect, explore and grow" and has been effective in creating a warm space for people to explore faith in a non-confrontational way and is a place where children can also receive teaching and ministry.

This new service has also allowed for more space and room to grow at our 9:30am service. Consequently the 9:30am service has needed to re-examine its priorities and focus. A 9:30am service team has been formed and is now working to grow congregation and seek to foster a congregation of people from across the age spectrum.



9. "How can we improve our systems of communication?"

*"Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?"
(1 Corinthians 14:8)*

Effective communication is essential for any community. If we do not communicate clearly then people will miss out on opportunities to serve and be blessed.

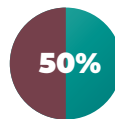
At present, we are struggling to inform every member of our Church community about the myriad of activities promoted by the different ministry groups, let alone communicating these effectively to the wider Kingborough community.

A number of key questions need to be asked: How can we form a dynamic and relevant online presence? How can we best use the Weekly Newsletter, Church Office and Welcome Desk? How can we make the best use of databases in our communications?

We would like to set up a team to review and oversee our communication strategies and processes so that everyone is informed and has an opportunity to engage in what God is doing in our church.

Our 2017 answer:

**REVIEW OUR COMMUNICATION
STRATEGIES & PROCESSES**



Since the release of the ten year vision document, we have dramatically increased our communication within our church community. During the lockdown in 2020, we sensed the importance of regular communications with our congregations, and that desire and practice remains unchanged since the return to in-person services. We now use a database for all our signing in to programs, signing up for events and for rostering, and have integrated our website to be a communications hub. The next major area that needs attention is our social media strategy and execution.

10. "How do we best use our buildings and land for God's kingdom?"

"By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire." (Nehemiah 2:13)

When Nehemiah heard about the broken down walls of Jerusalem and the shame it brought upon God and his people, he prayed to the Lord for an opportunity to bring restoration. In response to his prayer, the Lord enabled Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem and to examine the site before he embarked on any work.

At present, we have a prominent site in the heart of Kingston with good facilities, but we do not have any clear plans about how we might further develop it for sake of the Kingdom. We would like to appoint a person who will gather a team to create a site master plan for presentation to Parish Council. We may need to hire or acquire adjoining properties or reconfigure our existing buildings to make them more adaptable for a multiplicity of purposes.

The Lord has provided all our resources in the past and we trust that he will do so in the future. We need to continue to seek the Lord about how he would like us to use and develop our physical resources and to be bold in walking through the doors that he opens for us. We firmly believe that buildings and property are tools that must reflect and support our vision.



Our 2017 answer:

CREATE A SITE MASTER-PLAN

Since the release of the ten year vision document, we appointed Peter Sypkes to gather a team to create a site plan, and out of this process a number of possible ways of developing the site became evident. Through a process of prayer and consultation, the committee brought forward some initial redevelopment concept plans to Parish Council and then to the Congregation as a whole. After prayer, feedback and reflection, a revised concept plan was developed and again brought to Parish Council and the wider congregation.

Having received a very positive response from the congregation, we now have financial pledges and funds aside that cover over ⅔ the total costs. We are now revising the concept plans one last time before approaching the Kingborough council to see if they anticipate any issues, before we proceed to full architectural plans and a final decision as to whether we proceed with the redevelopment.

THE PATH AHEAD

Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time." (Ecclesiastes 1:10)

There really is "nothing new under the sun!" There is much in this vision document that contains echoes of the past, models from Scripture and wisdom from other Christian leaders and ministries. And for that, we praise God!

We remain trusting in our Saviour Jesus, and confident in God for all that lies ahead. Our vision document is highly flexible and fluid, yet it contains markers in the ground to facilitate the growth that we desire to see under God.

May the Lord who is able to give us more than we could ask or imagine, be given through this season all the glory *"in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."* (Ephesians 3:21)

