

Mission Statement (v1) DRAFT

Connecting People, Building Community, Sharing Faith and Growing in Prayer

Our mission is to build a caring, welcoming and prayerful community where people feel valued, supported and connected, both within the church and in the wider community.

Through friendship, befriending and meaningful social connections, we seek to create opportunities for people to experience God's love, explore the Christian faith and become more involved in the life of the church.

We are committed to making prayer central to our relationships and ministry, offering comfort, encouragement and spiritual support, particularly during times of crisis, trauma, loss and ill-health. We aim to nurture personal prayer, maintain caring contact with others and pray for those whose connection with the church may be primarily social.

We also seek to encourage a culture of sharing faith, where people feel comfortable speaking about how God's grace has touched their lives, both during Sunday worship and through informal conversations and fellowship.

Putting Our Mission into Practice

- **Building connections:** Strengthening friendships and providing befriending opportunities within the church and wider community.
- **Encouraging faith:** Creating natural opportunities for people to explore Christianity and participate more fully in church life.
- **Supporting through prayer:** Developing Wednesday Prayer Time and offering prayer during difficult life circumstances.
- **Nurturing personal prayer:** Encouraging individuals to pray regularly for others, including those who have only social contact with the church.
- **Keeping in touch:** Maintaining supportive relationships through phone calls, conversations and prayer where appropriate.
- **Sharing faith stories:** Encouraging people to reflect on the question, "*Has God's grace touched your life in the last week or month?*" and share their experiences during Sunday worship and over tea and coffee.
- **Making prayer accessible:** Providing space on the Sunday song sheet for individuals to submit prayer requests to the minister.

Our Vision

To be a church community where friendship opens doors, prayer offers strength, faith in Christ Jesus is shared naturally, and everyone can experience God's love and grace.