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## ***Five Year Growth Action Plan***

***2018 - 2022***

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# Where Are We Now?

## Looking Back over 2017

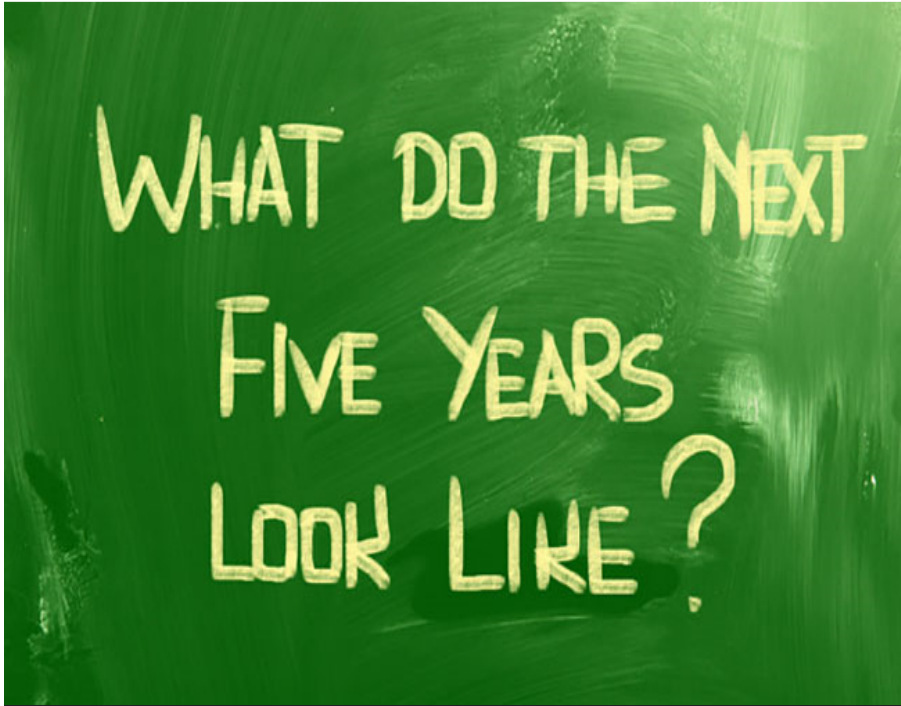
Since my appointment as Rector back in the summer of 2016, it is clear that there is much to give thanks for. Upon my arrival I found two committed congregations, faithfully meeting week by week at our two buildings – All Saints and St Andrews. The church had rich musical heritage, expressed in an adult choir, a junior choir and a weekly choral tradition at the 10.30 service at St Andrews. There was also a whole range of fringe activities taking place on a regular basis – including a weekly coffee morning, a monthly 'scones of praise' service, a fortnightly women's bible study and a monthly messy church style service. Alongside this there was substantial involvement in St Andrew's CEVA School – with the church running weekly assemblies, a monthly after school club and also appointing a number of foundation governors from within the congregation.

In my first year I have sought to consolidate many of these activities. Whilst we have developed a few new ministry areas, such as starting a new Junior Church, a Home Group and a termly Christianity Explored course, no real substantial changes have been made. Scripture clearly teaches us, however, that to survive as a church we must be forward looking and visionary. With this in mind, on 14 October 2017 we held a Church Vision day – out of which this vision document was born.

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*Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29v18*

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## Our Five Year Goals

### Growing Upwards And Outwards

Scripture teaches us that a healthy church needs to be a growing church, and this growth happens in two directions. We grow vertically as the individuals of a church family grow in their relationship with God. And we grow horizontally as we increase in size and number as more people join the church.

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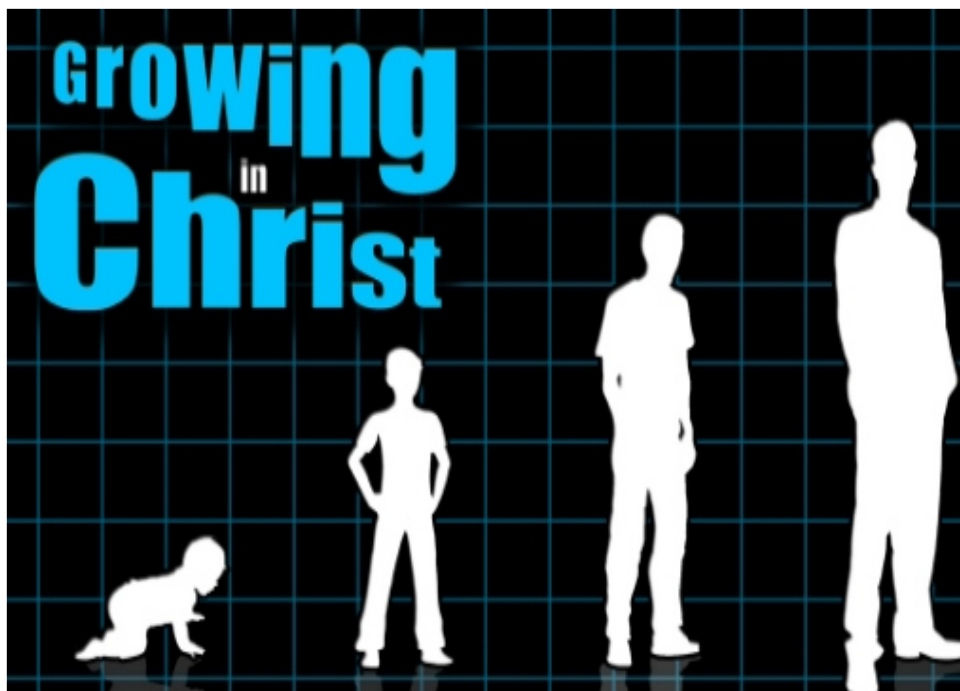
*And the Lord added to their number, daily, those who were being saved. Acts 2v47*

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With this in mind, our five year goals are for us as a church family;

- To be growing as Christians
- To be growing as a Church
- To be growing in the Community





## Goal 1: Growing As Christians

In Colossians 1 verse 28 the apostle Paul, writing of his own ministry, says this. “[*Jesus*] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.” The principle here is that where gospel ministry is taking place, there should be visible evidence of Christians growing in their maturity in Christ.

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***Five Year Target: To have half of our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) attending a regular small group bible study and monthly prayer and praise meeting***

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Action points;

- Develop and promote the monthly prayer meetings / revive the monthly prayer diary (yr 1)
- Start one new home group each year (yr1 →)
- Start a teenagers bible study (yr 2)
- Develop men’s and women’s breakfasts (yr 2/3)
- Start men’s and women’s weekends away (yr 2/3)
- Promote one to one bible studies, prayer triplets, etc. (yr 3 →)





## Goal 2: Growing As A Church

In 1 Corinthians 9 verse 22, after explaining how he tailors his ministry to reach different people groups, the apostle Paul, writes. ***"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."*** The principle here is that we must be flexible with regard to how we do church in order to reach as many people as possible with the good news of Jesus. This especially needs to be the case given that we are now seeking to reach people who have very little prior knowledge of Christianity, or experience of church.

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***Five Year Target: To have an Average Sunday Attendance of 100 adults and 25 children.***

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Action points;

- Develop a frequent, modern 10.30 service of the Lord's Supper (yr 1)
- Refresh the liturgy / service books in both services (yr1 →)
- To encourage a 10% increase, year on year, in individuals involved in the planned giving scheme (yr 1 →)
- Explore and decide upon the best option for a Junior Church building project at St Andrews (yr 1 →)
- **Set up an Audiovisual system in St Andrews (yr 2)**
- **Establish joint services every quarter (yr 2)**
- **Develop a training scheme for leaders / welcome team (yr2 →)**
- **Start a regular third service in the afternoon / evening (yr 2/3)**
- **Hold regular evangelistic services / events (yr 2/3)**

## Goal 3: Growing In The Community



At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5:16, Jesus says to his follower **"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."** It is not enough for us to just do good church services, in the hope that people will come. We must also raise our profile in the community in order to draw new people to us.

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***Five Year Target: To have six well known, well-attended community events per year, where over a quarter of attendees are not regular church goers.***

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Action points;

- Establish an evangelism and outreach team (yr1)
- Establish regular shared lunches (to go alongside existing fundraising lunches) (yr 1)
- Hold a bright-lights party (as an alternative to Halloween) (yr 1)
- Run a 4 day Easter Holiday club (yr 2)
- Investigate demographic-specific events (e.g. mums and toddlers group, senior's lunches, etc.) (yr 2)

*As well as seeking to develop community events, we also want to make church more accessible for the community – so as to draw more people to us. Therefore we also include the following action points.*

- Develop a communication strategy (to develop publicity / posters / Christmas flyers / etc.) (1)
- Appoint a school's liaison officer / Establish a weekly bible study in St Andrew's School (yr 1 →)
- Make church more welcoming to newcomers (e.g. develop photo-boards of key people / a hospitality team to intentionally befriend newcomers) (2)



# A Vision For The Future

We have tried to summarize the different strands of this document in the following vision statement.

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***'Billing Parish Church: loving Jesus, loving each other, loving the parish'***

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Whilst there is obviously a significant amount of overlap, the logic is that we love Jesus as we grow as individual Christians, we love each other as we seek to grow together as a church family, and we love the parish as we seek to reach out with the good news of Jesus to those around us. Our hope is that in time this statement will start to become part of the DNA of the church – so that all of those who currently attend will understand the direction that we are going in, and so that all who join us in the coming years be able to know, very easily, who we are and what we are seeking to do.



# Conclusion

## Going Forward Together

Lots of new ideas have come out of our church vision day, and we feel very much that the Lord is leading us into an exciting new season of growth. As we move forward our first prayer is that we do so together – expressing the unity that we already have in the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though there may be individual elements of the vision that we disagree with, we hope for the sake of Jesus and his church we can all still get behind the plan as a whole. Our second prayer is that we do so prayerfully. For unless the Lord builds his church, all of our labours, however sincere and well-meaning they might be, will ultimately be in vain.

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*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4v3*

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*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Psalm 127v1*

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