

A Map to 2018

giving us a greater sense of shared purpose

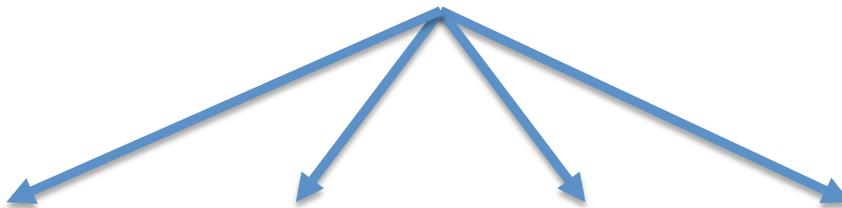
Portishead Church of England is seeking to be a growing, Christ-shaped, pilgrim community, inclusive of all with a bias to the vulnerable...

encouraging



a whole life discipleship

expressed by being



A ministering congregation

Rooted in the local community

Agents of health and wholeness

Engaged with global issues

and all for the greater glory of God

A disciple, knowing themselves loved by God and created in God's image, is in a lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus Christ, moulded by and responsive to grace, living and working with God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, in re-fashioning the world until it resembles the shape of God's Kingdom.

Map2018; developing the vision

A whole life discipleship

Aim: To help everyone to have a deeper understanding and experience of their apprenticeship to Jesus Christ and its consequences for their whole life.

How: Over the five year term to create spaces in which through preaching, teaching, discussion and reflection we can develop our understanding of and our experience of being a disciple alongside being more confident in “doing theology in the everyday”.

E.g.

- Short courses
- ethics forums
- discipleship courses
- Home Groups
- Mentoring & Soul Friends,
- developing a Rule of Life
- Retreats & Quiet Days
- Sharing in regional & national events.

This renewed confidence in our discipleship will, through time, enable us to continue shaping our Church Community to be

A ministering congregation

Aim: To develop a greater sense of shared ownership for the life of the Church Community, fostering lay leadership and encouraging individual ministries.

How: To together discern, encourage, resource and enable the talents within congregations, building up the Body of Christ and enabling lay people to take their place alongside clergy in exercising varied ministries in the service of the Kingdom.

E.g.

- Valuing & developing everyone’s prayer life,
- Affirming and celebrating existing gifts, roles and ministries,

- Getting to know each other better and caring for all in our midst
- Improving our ministry of welcome
- Having fun and fellowship together
- Becoming a team of teams (Pastoral Assistants, Pilgrim Partners, Worship Leaders, Administrators, Children and Young People Workers, Readers, NSMs ...)

Rooted in the community

Aim: For the Church Community to be an incarnational presence at the heart of the local community, integral to its well being, acting as both salt and light.

How: To continue to discern partners and projects that the Church Community can engage with to make a difference in our town. And to enable those already involved in the community to feel more supported by their church and be more confident about representing God to the community and the community to the Church.

E.g.

- Sharing our stories with one another
- Mapping and celebrating the different ways people are involved in the community
- Offering support and encouragement to those involved in the community and asking what specific help they need from their church family.
- Discovering where we can better work together with other churches and organisations.
- Identifying areas of unmet need

Agents of health and wholeness

Aim: For the Church Community to be an oasis people look to for being healthy and whole in mind, body and spirit, and a beacon that guides people to live life well in this complex world.

How: To grow our understanding of Christian Healing Ministry and to offer regular opportunities to share in healing ministry, providing spaces where those in particular need

can find support and resources for their journey, and to build partnerships with other health practitioners and therapists.

E.g.

- Running listening courses
- Regular prayer Ministry at main services
- Growing our understanding of what it means to be whole
- Discern ways we unconsciously exclude/discriminate
- Creating spaces to just be.
- Creating spaces to be available to others
- Creating spaces where it is safe to own our own fragility
- Audit church activities to assess their mind, body and spirit impacts
- Opportunities for fun and fellowship, to relax together.

Engaged with global issues

Aim: For the Church Community to have a passionate desire for peace and justice, engage in informed, wise and transformative action, and enable the Christian voice to be heard in the public sphere.

How: To build on existing links and interests within the Church Community, engaging with both the expressed need and the underlying issues and more fully integrating these into the life and worship of the Church.

E.g.

- Review & renew our partnership links
- Raise awareness of and promote engagement with key campaigns
- Bring in speakers and experts
- Join in regional and national calls for action
- Enable our worship to have a greater focus on issues beyond the parish

The seven marks of a healthy church are:

- ✦ Energised by faith
- ✦ Outward-looking focus
- ✦ Seeks to find out what God wants
- ✦ Faces the cost of change and growth
- ✦ Operates as a community
- ✦ Makes room for all
- ✦ Does a few things well.

The Five Marks of Mission

- ✠ To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ✠ To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- ✠ To respond to human need by loving service
- ✠ To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- ✠ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth