



Preston St Stephen's Mission Action Plan 2022 – 2025

We are part of the Diocese of Blackburn and exist to be a **'healthy church, transforming our community.'**

Our purpose: ***'Learning to love as Jesus does'***

Our vision: ***'To be a Spirit-filled community of disciples, confidently sharing the good news about Jesus to people of all faiths and none through word and action in the community and beyond.'***

We will do this together by *'every person of every age, every day and everywhere'* sharing in the following:

Make and nurture disciples who help each other follow Jesus.

Identify, equip, and sustain a new generation of leaders.

Be effective witnesses by confidently sharing the good news about Jesus, meeting human need, and caring for God's creation.

Ask our children and young people what matters to them and ensure that their ideas are reflected in our plans and church life.

See a new congregation grow in our parish.

Making disciples

'Make and nurture disciples who help each other follow Jesus.'

We will run a 'discipleship matters' programme over the next three years on Sundays and during the week which will focus on:

Knowing the big story of the Bible – 'Read it thru in '22'.

Digging deeper into worship.

Discovering new depths of prayer.

Giving generously of our time, talents, and money.

Growing leaders

'Identify, equip, and sustain a new generation of leaders.'

We want to develop opportunities for new leaders to use the gifts that God has given them, and we will do this by:

Partnering with two other parishes to run a 'Growing Leaders Course' and see 10 participants from our church family complete the course.

Encourage people to pursue other routes of training including ALM (Authorised Lay Ministers), MPower and Roots of Faith.

Undertake an audit to identify where we need new leaders and provide the opportunities to lead.

Being Witnesses

'Wherever we work, rest or play we will be witnesses for Jesus.'

We believe that we are all called to be witnesses in everyday places and we will equip people to do this by:

Running a 'Friendship First Course' (cross cultural witness).

Continue the Holy Book Club for women and find regular ways to meet with men from other faiths.

Sharing our stories from our 'front lines' in services.

Establish a working group to look at our church's response towards climate change and caring for God's creation both collectively and individually.

Nurturing confident disciples to live out their faith seven days a week through supportive Growth Groups.

Inspiring and actively engaging children and young people

‘Ask our children and young people what matters to them and ensure that their ideas are reflected in our plans and church life.’

We want to give a ‘voice’ to our young people and respond positively to what they are telling us and we will do this by:

Creating a Young People’s Council and ensure that their ideas and perspectives are listened to and where appropriate acted on.

Involving young people in leading services.

Develop further our relationship with St Stephen’s School and link children in Year 6 with our Youth Work.

Joining in God’s mission

‘See a new congregation grow in our parish’

We want to see a worshipping/witnessing presence in the Hartington Road/Christ Church Street area, and we will do this by:

Post Alpha Group will meet in a home in this area of the parish.

Request that the County Council give us access to the Chapel on a weekly basis.

Commence an accessible and informal service in the chapel.

Employ a Community Worker who will:

- Develop a football group in Hartington Road Area in partnership with Ambassadors in Sport and look for opportunities to invite families to new service.

- Develop relationships with people living in this area and seek to introduce them to Jesus.

- Work with the school to develop more contact with families in our parish.

- Be part of the team responsible for the service in the chapel.