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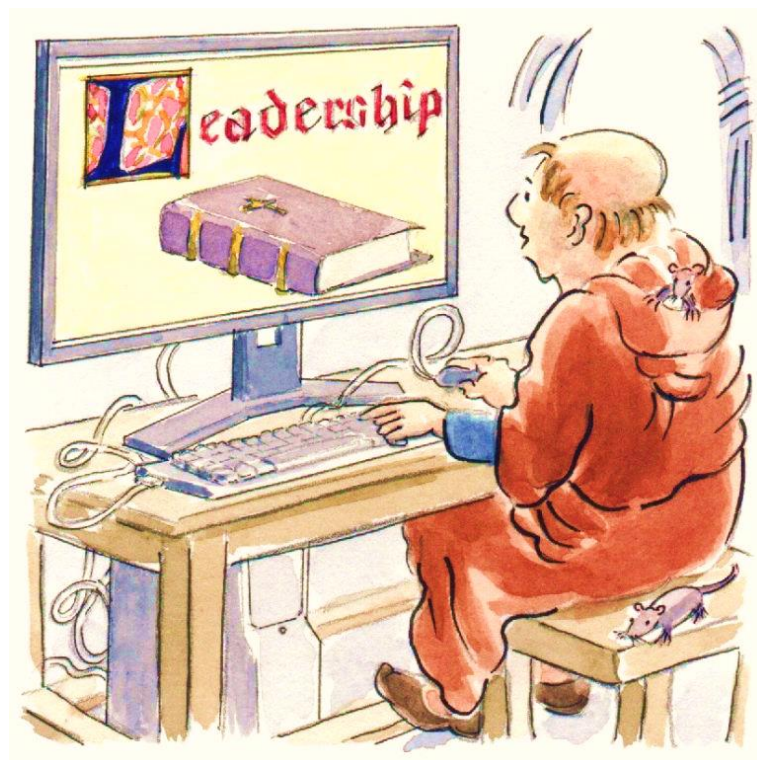
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Applying the vision

A morning to follow on from our PCC session last year



St Paul's Church, Letchworth – 10th February 2024

If you prefer these notes on screen, you may access the pdf at <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/News> and then the item for today's date

Understanding the vision

Let's consider the implications of what you have decided

You now have a clear 'purpose' and 'vision'

Last time I explained these are two different concepts. The purpose describes why you exist as a church and so should be what Scripture calls you to be and to do.

The vision describes what you are praying God will do if you fulfil your purpose. It is a faith statement about what you long to see happen. It describes a changed situation.

So you now have:

PURPOSE (your task): To show the light and love of Jesus to all.

VISION (God's work through you): Lives transformed by the light and love of Jesus.

So let's think what these, together, mean. By the way, they are GREAT!

Who in Scripture had their life transformed by the light and love of Jesus? In what way? How did it come about? Take one example.

What do these short passages tell you about the transformation you might expect in your vision? Romans 12:1,2; 1 Peter 2:9,10

You need the whole congregation to 'own' these statements. How might you enable this to come about?

How might these statements impact your PCC meetings, your church services, your groups for young people and all your other church activities? What needs to change in both activity and attitude if God is to work through you?

So the PCC now need to make a clear PLAN for the coming year which they then need to monitor month by month. This is a process that should be full of risk!

So what will this look like in a year's time?

Imagine you are at the 2025 APCM. Jeni gives a report by listing a number of stories of how the vision of transformation can already be seen in people's lives. Prepare one such story she might offer which takes no more than a minute to tell. *(for a church member / for someone new to church)*

An outline of your group's story

Are PCC members and group leaders up for the challenge of leading the church through such transformation ... and perhaps being transformed themselves?

Working out your values

What matters most to us as we fulfil our purpose and pray for our vision?

Values tell us something of who you are, what matters most to you, and how you go about things. At each consider both **IS** and **MIGHT BE**.

Non-negotiable foundations

These are your foundations on which you build and matter most to you. They may be doctrinal in some way, but without them you would not be the church you are or want to become. But what might be the non-negotiables for St Paul's?

Community principles

A list of approaches that tell you what matters most in how the church lives and works. They will come from belief and lead to behaviour. What might you need to change in these from IS to MIGHT BE? Ideas to consider include

- formal or informal: a question of style
- open or closed: your welcome to outsiders
- risk or safety: how you handle failure
- tradition or innovation: thinking outside the box
- proactive or reactive: rush ahead or wait and see

Choose five key items from the RED LIST on the handout sheet (taken from my Training Notes TN142 which I shall need to explain) which you feel fit your church as you pray for the vision you have defined and write them here.

And five relevant items in the BLUE LIST of what you need to avoid. Write them here.

What will need to change in activity or attitude to enable you to show your red list and avoid your blue list?

Question:

How should we follow up this morning with a group to work on a PLAN to enable us to work towards our vision?

Question:

How should we follow up this morning with a group to work on defining our VALUES?

Website resources to support today's theme

Go to <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk> then the Resources section, and look out for Articles (A) and Training Notes (TN) among others as follows:

- A52 How to run a church vision day

- TN25 The radical values that Jesus taught
- TN32 What do you mean by vision?
- TN48 Let's get purpose statements right
- TN74 Understanding values
- TN133 Planning the next step
- TN142 Values create a culture