

wherever we are on our journey of faith, this process always involves growth and change, right till the day we die and 'see face to face' what we now only glimpse occasionally, the glory of the love of God. We all know that change can sometimes be difficult, sometimes painful, and consequently we sometimes fear it and often try to avoid it; but the truth is that we can't live without it!

And all this is so that we can better:

Welcome and Serve All

When we say 'All' we mean all, and as we know most people in our local area do not come to our church, and most are not in touch with any church, or any form of faith.

This Welcome and Service is going to involve looking outwards and reaching outwards.

Lord, you bring us into being
and let our lives touch your heart:
may the fragrance of our worship
draw us closer to your open heart
and free us from our clinging
to the things we can control;
through Jesus Christ,
the passion of God.
Amen.

Collect for Monday in Holy Week. Stephen Shakespeare: 'Prayers for an Inclusive Church'. Copyright © Steven Shakespeare 2008

Lord of the church,
you call a broken people
around your table:
in times of disagreement
teach us to listen,
loose us from prejudice
and bind us to your way
of forgiving grace;
through Jesus Christ, who stands
at the heart of our gathering.
Amen.

Year A Sunday After Trinity 4-10 September Stephen Shakespeare: 'Prayers for an Inclusive Church'. Copyright © Steven Shakespeare 2008

Blazing holy fire,
whom nothing can contain,
whom none can rob of life
or bring to silent death:
may this place be a sign,
a community of peace,
a home for children's wonder,
where wounded lives are accepted
and love cannot be bought;
through Jesus Christ,
the holy of holies.
Amen.

Collect for a Dedication Festival year A. Stephen Shakespeare: 'Prayers for an Inclusive Church'. Copyright © Steven Shakespeare 2008



A new Vision Statement for Christ Church

The PCC recently approved a new Vision Statement



Inspired and strengthened

* by **Worship** and **Prayer** in the **Presence of God**.

We work together to :

- * **Reverberate** with the love at the heart of God who is Three and yet One;
- * **Reflect** the love and values seen in Jesus Christ;
- * **Rejuvenate** our life, in order to

Welcome and Serve All



Read more inside

This vision statement sets out in very simple terms a summary of what we hope to become more fully in the next few years. It does not set out how we aim to do this, that will be described in a revised Mission Action Plan the PCC will develop.

It builds on our previous vision with its emphasis on becoming a truly Inclusive and open church community.

Inspired and Strengthened by Worship and Prayer in the Presence of God.

Everything that we do at Christ Church will only be effective when we share in the work of God, the mission of God. This is not about being busy for God, but rather involves discerning where God is at work in our lives, in our church, in our local communities and getting onboard and co-operating with what God is doing. How do we get in tune with God so that this is possible? By opening ourselves up to God in Worship and Prayer—this is the key.

Worship and Prayer both begin with a desire to be still and receptive and responsive to the presence of God amongst us. This will include responding to God's gifts to us in Scripture (the Bible) and the Sacraments (particularly Baptism and the Holy Communion, both of which echo, reflect and enable the key Christian principles of letting go, forgiveness, service and growth



Inspired and strengthened

* by **Worship and Prayer** in the **Presence of God**.

We work together to :

- * **Reverberate** with the love at the heart of God who is Three and yet One;
- * **Reflect** the love and values seen in Jesus Christ;
- * **Rejuvenate** our life, in order to

Welcome and Serve All



into wholeness). As we open ourselves to God in this way both our emotions and intellect respond to the presence of God. We can become increasing 'real' in our worship—taking off the masks that we often wear—to be honest with God about how we really feel; and this includes anger, frustration and sadness, as well as happiness and contentment. Similarly, we can express what we really think; voicing our questions as well as our affirmations of faith. Such worship is joy releasing, peace providing and indeed life enhancing and transforming. As we develop and deepen our worship and prayer we will increase our ability to :

work together to :
Reverberate, Reflect and Rejuvenate .

The key to this is the reverberation!
The God whose face we see in Jesus Christ is Trinity. Three person and yet one God. The glue which holds this divine community together is 'love' (love which is echoed in all the different forms and expressions of human love, but perhaps most clearly seen in the care and concern for others which involves cost and sacrifice to the giver), This is

what it means for the New Testament to say 'God is love'. At the heart of God is a dance in which no one leads and no one follows, music in which the three voices blend in a perfect balance.

Learning to be in tune with God goes hand in hand with growing to be more like Jesus, more 'Christlike' . How ever old we are,

