

Mission Action Plan : 2023 Update

The Vision of Bath Abbey (adopted by PCC October 2019)

“Living and Telling the Good News of Jesus with the City of Bath and its visitors”

The Purpose of Bath Abbey (adopted by PCC October 2019)

To pursue our Vision through

THANKSGIVING : Worshipping and praying

TELLING : Proclaiming the Gospel

TEACHING : Growing as followers of Jesus

TENDING : Caring as a church family

TRANSFORMING : Pursuing justice & peace in society

TREASURING : Sustaining and renewing creation

The Values of Bath Abbey (adopted by PCC March 2023)

WELCOMING

“What you do for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do for me” (Matthew 25v 40)

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3 v28)

SHARING

“There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people ... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12 v6, 27)

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves” (Philippians 2 v3)

CHERISHING

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3 v18)

“Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5 v11)

FLOURISHING

“Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4 v15)

“I have come that you may have life, life in all its fullness” (John 10 v10)

DRAFT Bath Abbey Headline Goals for 2023

Focus on TELLING : Proclaiming the Gospel

Called to be "An Attraction helping visitors and locals encounter God's presence and truth; through people, words, music, arts, building and bible" (Mission Action Plan : 2020 Vision)

Already introduced in 2023 : new Discovery Centre; new interpretation signage; new free evangelistic booklet & prayer cards; new Audio tours; new hourly guided tours; new Abbey Church info for visitors on TV screens

- **Host Keynote lectures & seminars on hot topics**
 - Eg Climate Change focus (with Gaia exhibition in 2023)
 - explore making this an annual lecture topic, in addition to others
 - Eg Modern Slavery focus
 - Big name guest speakers, booked well in advance for 2024, 25, 26 ...
 - Partner with Universities, other Bath churches, etc etc
- **Provide a prayer & simple explanation, to go with our candle stands**
 - Also a specific written prayer for visitor use, updated according to world needs (in Alphege Chapel); and to accompany exhibitions (eg alongside Diptychs, Gaia, etc)
- **Provide a photo display about the Abbey Church family**
 - With a stand of printed congregational info to take away : Welcome cards; ER & stewardship forms; Details of groups to join; provision for children/young people; etc
 - Include snapshot personal stories of changed lives (local congregation alongside famous Christians)
- **Think of something to give every visitor**
 - Cf taking away a pebble from the beach, to remember your visit
 - Either to accompany an event/exhibition, or as a permanent feature

DRAFT Bath Abbey Headline Goals for 2024

Focus on TENDING : Caring as a church family

Called to be "An Oasis refreshing lives with hospitality & fun, healing & peace; through welcoming, including and nurturing all who come" (Mission Action Plan : 2020 Vision)

Already planned for 2023/4

With Congregation :

1. *Resourcing specific pastoral areas eg Hospital visiting; Home Communion; Anna Chaplaincy (care for older members); Welcome with new members; Support for carers; Bereavement visiting; family support.*
2. *Strengthening Contact Groups*
3. *Exploring the training & commissioning of Lay Pastoral Assistants*

With City :

1. *Offer Grief & Loss Bereavement Course*
2. *Develop links/support with Schools & University students*

With Congregation

- **Focus on care & support for young people**, for whom it can be tough being known as a chorister, or as Christian
 - Pro-actively build relationships with choir families, inc Melody Maker families
 - Eg host social events for them that our clergy & PCC also attend
 - Support struggling parents
 - Build an increasingly inter-generational church family
 - Support & partner with school chaplains, etc
- **Treasure, diversify & enrich our team of volunteers**
 - Aiming to be more multi-generational, more racially diverse, etc
- **Hospitality team**
 - Follow through on PCC plan to recruit a volunteer team, to plan & staff social events

With City

- **Give active prayer support for every group/agency that provides pastoral care across the city**
 - Include all those who are actively "tending" with others (of all faiths and none)
 - Include a Bath group/agency every week in Sunday morning weekly intercessions
 - Contact them for prayer requests (& welcome displays/info, in church and/or on our website)
 - Monitor how those contacts develop, possibly welcoming them for a service, growing active partnerships, etc