

Discipleship:

Along with the provision of courses, training and teaching, discipleship is central to the life of the Church. As we grow in our understanding of what it means to be obedient to Jesus' Great Commission to his Church - to 'Go and make disciples of all nations', we also believe we are here to help people to discover their God-given gifts and faithfully use them for God's Kingdom work. We are a "Can Do" Church! We believe in the importance of enabling everyone to intentionally grow in their faith, and our Life Groups are a key place in which this happens.

Fabric & Finance:

We seek to be good and wise stewards, maximising the resources God has given us, especially our Church members, our Church building, Church Hall & Chapter House, that they may be used in support of the missional work we are called to fulfil. We seek to be a Church that is open for all both midweek and on Sundays. Following Jesus' example, one of the hallmarks of St Mary's is Generosity. As this is what God is like, we are called to represent him to the world and believe it is important to be both generous and compassionate.

Communications:

We believe the gospel is Good News for all and we make use of all appropriate forms of communications both for within the Church community and outwardly to the wider community, to clearly present and share the love of Christ with all. We believe in sharing our Good News stories to support and encourage others. In communicating the Good News we also seek to work in partnership with local government and charitable agencies working to transform our community.



2020 VISION

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
PRINCES RISBOROUGH**

Context:

As a local Anglican Church within the Diocese of Oxford, we share the Common Vision of the Diocese—to be a Christ-like Church, bearing and putting into practice the marks of a Christ-like Church:

- ◆ Contemplative (prayer is key, central to all we do)
- ◆ Compassionate (reaching out to those in need)
- ◆ Courageous (standing firm in faith)



‘Sharing the Love of Christ with All’

Mission and Vision for St Mary’s Church at the heart of Princes Risborough

Building on the work of those who have faithfully served and worshipped God in this place in past generations, our Vision is to be ‘Rooted and Fruitful’.

Based on the picture of the fruitful tree planted by streams of water as given in Psalm 1, we are called to be more ‘rooted’ in God. Each member of the Church will be encouraged to ‘go deeper’ in their relationship with God - through prayer, reading the Bible, and in Life Groups. Arising out of this, we pray that confidence will grow and each person in our Church family will feel more empowered and equipped through the Holy Spirit to be and make disciples. Alongside this, comes the call to be ‘fruitful’; that through individuals and the various ministries flowing out from St Mary’s, we will be a bridge that reconnects the people around us with God.

What does this mean for our Church, and what will it look like?

We are excited about living in the presence of God, and witnessing the outworking of his love within our Church and local community. Life at St Mary’s can be divided into 5 aspects: Prayer & Worship, Discipleship, Ministry, Fabric & Finance, and Communications. Under these headings, we see the following:

Prayer & Worship:

We believe in the power of prayer and worship, both individually and corporately, and seek to be rooted in God in all that we do. As a ‘resource’ Church for the area, we will continue to develop the rich variety of services and prayer ministry that we offer at St Mary’s for all ages, and continue to work closely with, and be a blessing to, other churches in the area.

Ministry:

We are committed to developing our Children’s and Youth ministry. We envision St Mary’s with a resurgence of children’s provisions, stronger youth groups, enhanced links with our local schools, and a new generation of families and young adults who have found a nurturing spiritual home here.

This will be a church that provides inspiration and growth for Christians of all ages, including a loving and supportive environment for the elderly. We also see our church playing a role at the heart of town life, sharing Kingdom values through service and fellowship. We welcome the challenge to do this, whilst taking risks and being courageous, especially as we reach out to those moving into the new housing within our growing town. We also believe that as we are blessed by God, we may in turn be a blessing to others, both locally and globally through the charities we support.