



# Vision Action Plan for 2020-2022

## 'A Welcoming Church for All'



As a result of our 'Vision Day' held in July 2019, a sense of God's call has taken shape; for us to grow as 'a welcoming church for all'. This is built on strong foundations of loving God, loving each other, and loving our neighbour (*Matthew 22: 37-40*).

This vision was agreed by Elders in October 2019 and by Church Meeting in November.

As a church, we now commit to a 2-year Vision Action Plan, outlining where God is calling us to focus our energy and resources.

***A welcoming church...*** ...for young people  
...for our church family  
...for our community  
...with welcoming buildings  
...that is growing in discipleship.

The five areas of this plan will help us to move forwards together as we share these missional priorities and how we expect to achieve to them. The Elders' and Teams will be reviewing these measurable steps every 6 months and communicating clearly through the Pauline, website and Church Meeting, helping us all to focus on where the Spirit is leading us.



### ***A welcoming church...for Young People***

*"Do you hear what these (children) are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" (Matthew 21: 14-16)*

**We are a church that is purposeful in valuing children and young people, by**

- supporting our Junior Church and youth leaders, and nurture new supporters.
- committing to achieve the URC's new 'Children and Youth Friendly Church' award.
- growing our links with two local schools (Rutherford and Coombe Wood)
- forging contact with hall users who work with young people and children (names?)
- keeping contact with those who are baptised at St Paul's
- making social events more child-friendly
- developing the Youth Council and our connection with uniformed organisation
- improving the Youth Room and facilities



### ***A welcoming church...for our church family***

*'Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing' (1 Thessalonians 5: 11)*

**We are a church that is committed to growing as a church family, by**

- providing social space to share joy and to encourage and support each other
- continuing what has helped us to grow together during the pandemic lockdown
- enriching our conversation and listening in meetings
- focusing attention on 'disagreeing well' and building each other up.
- using away-days to concentration on important aspects of church life.



## **A welcoming church...for our community**

*'So, reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!'*  
(Romans 15: 7 - The Message Bible)

### **We are a church that is intent on understanding and reaching our community by**

- creating space in our activities and worship to hear speakers on issues that affect our local and global community (poverty, loneliness, racism, dementia, mental health, climate emergency, bereavement, etc)
- meaningfully engaging with those who hire our buildings
- clarifying our vision for 'The Guild'
- providing opportunities for our community to hear different views in a safe space
- conducting a local community audit which will help us to clarify areas for focused outreach
- increasing our visibility and engagement with our immediate neighbours
- growing our links with Unicorn House and local care homes (Lloyd House)
- advertising ourselves better
- renewing the church website.



## **A welcoming church...with welcoming buildings**

*'Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.'* (Deuteronomy 28: 6)

### **We are a church whose buildings will show our welcome by**

- improving internal and external signage
- upgrading our noticeboards and maintaining them with up-to-date information
- revitalising our garden areas
- replacing the degraded window protection
- installing the defibrillator.



## **A welcoming church...that is growing in discipleship**

*'It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.'*  
(Colossians 1: 28-29)

### **We are a church that places a high priority on developing discipleship by**

- fostering a safe environment where faith is talked about openly
- prioritising prayer and equipping members in their own prayer lives
- providing materials to support and encourage personal devotion and study
- underpinning our action with theological understanding
- nurturing our relationship with South Croydon United Church
- being open to worship in different ways
- continuing to offer bible and themed studies throughout the year
- equipping members as they live their faith throughout the week.