

# A VISION FOR WIGAN

Through Jesus  
transformed people, transformed places

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## THE LAND WILL BLOOM

**'The parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and  
blossom.'** Isaiah 35.1

Two and half thousand years ago God promised to make a dry land burst into life and colour as his people returned from exile, back to the blessing he intended for them.

We believe God is promising such a time of recovery for Wigan as well. We believe our communities will bloom spiritually and culturally as the Church renews its rich heritage of sharing God's love.



## WELLS AND WATER

We believe God has spoken directly to us about 'wells', places where thirsty souls and communities can be refreshed and transformed by the life-giving water of the Holy Spirit.

Led by the Spirit we are to unstop old 'wells' that have become dry and uncover many new ones. As we do so the Holy Spirit will flow like water to bring blessing to the people and places of Wigan. And so the land will bloom.

**'Through Jesus: transformed people  
and transformed places.'**

# Unpacking the vision 1

'Come on - let's do it'



## WE VALUE EVERYONE

'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.'

Everyone is important, everyone has a place, and everyone has a role. That is Jesus' design for his church. We can't fulfil his mission unless every person and worshipping community exercises its unique spiritual gift and calling.

**What is Jesus calling you and your worshipping community to do?**



Read Psalm 126

## WE SEEK HEAVEN ON EARTH

'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.'

Jesus is the touch point between heaven and earth, transforming thirsty people and places with the life-giving water of his Spirit.

There is water to be found! Our calling is to join in Jesus' work of transformation, helping people find the refreshment he offers by digging many 'wells' of Christ-centred community.

**Where can water be found in your community?**



## WE CHOOSE TO MULTIPLY

We see Church Wigan made up of the established church communities that have long served our neighbourhoods as well as many 'fresh expressions' reaching out to new groups of people. It's what we call respectively 'refresh' and 'fresh'.

These may well look different to traditional church but will help people grow as followers of Jesus and meet important social needs:

'More people knowing Jesus, more justice in the world.'



# WE AFFIRM OUR HISTORY AND IDENTITY

We celebrate the rich legacy of faith and mission of the Church in Wigan. Our vision is not to erase our historic identity but rather to revive it and find ways to walk in the footsteps of those who went before us in proclaiming the gospel in Wigan.

We recognise that we are in a time of recovery from a once-in-a-generation global health crisis, so will proceed step by step at a sustainable pace.

**What do you cherish most about the historic ministry of the Church here?**



# WE WILL SHOW LOVE & CARE

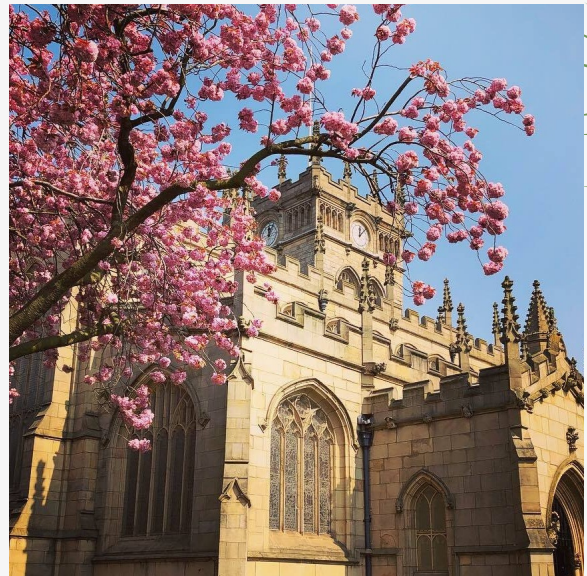
**'By this everyone will know you are my disciples if you love one another.'**

Providing good pastoral care to our existing members, especially the elderly and isolated, is vital. So is showing love to those currently beyond the church. Together we must find ways to balance both using the resources we have.

New ministries such as ordained community deacons will help us show more love and care.

## Unpacking the vision 2

'Steady on - let's think about it'



# WE DO DIVERSITY IN UNITY

From the mystery of the Trinity to the abundance of creation, the true mark of the life of God has always been great diversity held in unity.

We want Church Wigan to reflect this diversity in tradition, expression and mission, not be a uniform clone of one particular style.

Local distinctiveness enabled by local leadership teams will be key.

**What makes your worshipping community distinctive?**

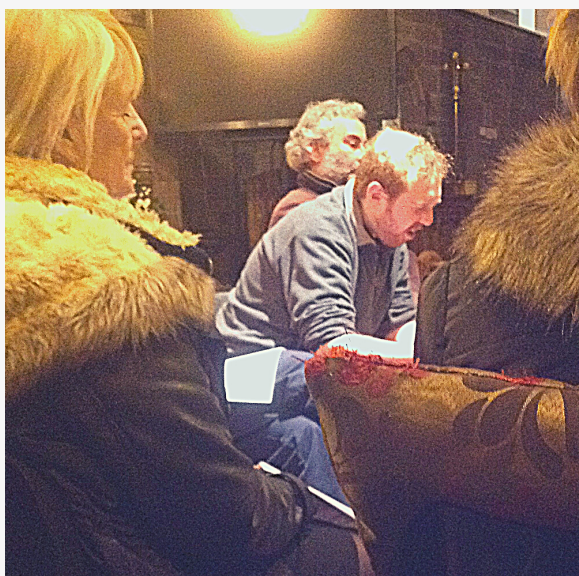


Read Hebrews 12.1-3



## Unpacking the vision 3

'Go on - let's see how this works'



### WE ACT LOCALLY, SUPPORT CENTRALLY

The public face of Church Wigan will be its many local worshipping communities and ministries.

However being part of Church Wigan will aid local mission. For example 'learning communities' will share experience and expertise, and Core Services will enable organisational efficiencies and cost savings through eg. collective buying.

**What central support does my worshipping community need?**



Read Acts 15. 1-35

## WE PRAY TOGETHER

We will fulfil the vision God is giving us only if we renew our commitment to seek him in prayer.

We will continue to pray morning and night on Church Wigan Live, and daily offer House of Prayer emails.

Every parish will offer two days of prayer as part of this vision month to discern which 'wells' to dig.



## WE WILL TALK TO EACH OTHER

Good communication is always a challenge because it relies on good relationships.

Let's commit to listening to each other more so that our decision making is more inclusive and better.

We will tackle the tough questions facing us - growth, buildings, finances, governance - through a series of Big Conversations hosted by PCCs and open to all.

Deanery Synod will work with the Area Dean to ensure effective dialogue is taking place within Church Wigan.

**What Big Conversations must we be having in Church Wigan?**