

# Vision 2030: Dare to Share, Dare to Grow – Version 11/11/24

<p><b>Story / rationale behind the vision</b></p>	<p>The pressure of running two parish church buildings is damaging our mission in a challenging context. We need to dare to share resources, so that we have the time to dare to share our lives in community and our faith with those outside.</p> <p>The aim of this vision is to bring together and share the physical and administrative aspects of being church, to free up time and energy to grow the communal, spiritual and evangelistic aspects, so that we might grow.</p> <p>The <b>key values</b> behind the plan can be summed up by:  <b>Dare to share...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>our <b>Gifts</b>, so that we might build up the church (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)</li> <li>our <b>Resources</b>, so that we serve people not buildings and regulations (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:4-12)</li> <li><b>Ourselves</b>, so that we form real communities that pray, care and share (Jn. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-12)</li> <li>the <b>Word</b> of God, so that others may become and grow as disciples of Christ (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47)</li> </ul> <p><b>Structurally</b>, this means changes over a five-year period. <b>Sharing</b> will involve a transition firstly to one PCC instead of two, then the development of St. George's building so that it is a better venue than St. Luke's is presently.</p> <p><b>Growing</b> will involve increasing the number of worshipping communities or congregations, with some meeting at the St. George's site and others in community buildings across the parish (potentially, Christ Church school, Sailors' Church, Newlands school).</p>
<p>In what distinctive ways are our different Christian communities called to <b>serve</b> the needs of <b>the local area</b>?</p>	<p>We already run a number of initiatives: Play and Praise, Youth Hangout, Cafe4All, Community Meal, Community Soup and work in partnership to host others to serve the local community: Gather (YWAM), Community Pastors, Community Shop (SEK). These will either need to be hosted at the St. George's hub or some of the St. Luke's site retained to do so. St. Luke's hall is also hired out for slimming groups, parties and various groups and the church for orchestra rehearsals. Again, any developments will need to ensure that these can be hosted at the new hub or some of St. Luke's area retained. There also needs to be space to expand these operations.</p>
<p>What values and strategies do we need to adopt to <b>reach</b> the young, old, rich and poor <b>with the gospel</b> of your salvation?</p>	<p>We need to dare to share our faith by proclaiming the good news about Jesus in fresh, creative and imaginative ways.</p> <p>The development of new worshipping communities in particular will focus on connecting with and sharing the gospel with more groups in a context of prayer and caring community life, that will help to demonstrate the gospel in action.</p>
<p>What values and strategies do we need to adopt to become a truer expression of <b>Christian community</b>?</p>	<p>We need to dare to share our lives with one another, creating real supportive and caring communities of faith.</p> <p>By reducing and focussing the administrative workload, we can have a renewed focus on being the true community of faith. The creation of new worshipping communities will also enable community sizes that people can really connect with and soon feel that they belong.</p>

How can we develop our Sunday services and other meetings in ways that <b>promote discipleship</b> in the whole of our lives, whilst retaining a distinctive style for each worshipping community?	<p>God dared to share his Son with us, by sending him as a light into a world of darkness. We need to be increasingly inspired to follow the God who shares.</p> <p>Keeping a focus on the word in the context of community, people can be supported in their journey to come to and grow in faith.</p>
What do we need to let go of or what values and strategies do we need to adopt to free up, improve and <b>increase our resources</b> of people, buildings and finance for God's work in Ramsgate?	<p>We need to dare to let go of some of our buildings and structures in order to pool our resources for mission to God's world.</p> <p>Having one PCC, will mean one set of accounts, one set of officers, one set of governance meetings, instead of two. Reducing buildings will also free up time and resources to focus on people, community and God's word.</p> <p>At the same time, we need to encourage people to dare to invest time, talents and money into the growth of the church.</p>
Should we be developing new <b>worshipping communities</b> to connect with new people, and if so what kind?	<p>Yes, to find new ways to share the good news with different groups in our town. Less buildings and governance, more worshipping communities or congregations.</p> <p>It may also be worth focussing on forming communities of 25 to 60 in size rather than trying to grow bigger congregations. This encourages a greater sense of belonging. St. Luke's congregation has always been above 60, but rarely grows above 100. Is that a natural ceiling that is preventing growth?</p> <p>At the same we will want to find ways to hold all the worshipping communities together as one and express our unity.</p>
How can we ensure that the <b>workload</b> on volunteers and leaders who serve the church is manageable?	<p>By sharing resources and moving to one building the pressure should be reduced on management, so we can focus on people and mission.</p> <p>The main need for leadership, will then become pastoral, evangelistic and teaching focussed (cf. Eph. 4:11-16).</p>
How should we restore and develop our <b>buildings</b> to be more welcoming and usable by the community?	<p>Sell off St. Luke's site and raise additional grants to fully develop St. George's site as a state-of-the-art centre to meet the needs of the very deprived local community and growing church communities.</p> <p>Historically, three large church buildings have operated across the parishes of Christ Church, St. George's and St. Luke's, which along with Holy Trinity form the central part of Ramsgate. It now seems impossible to keep Christ Church as a building. Why also keep St. Luke's? Doesn't coming together and sharing the geographically central and most prominent building make most sense? All of St. Luke's and Christ Church parishes are within a mile of St. George's, Ramsgate.</p> <p>The St. George's site will need development to fulfil the new role and accommodate all the different present activities. Funding for this is being explored although, both the vicar and St. Luke's PCC have been clear on this not being Lottery Funding. We will also want to encourage individuals to be generous and possibly make use of legacies. Further, the sale of St. Luke's and Christ Church sites may help to ensure that the appropriate development at St. George's is possible.</p>

	<p>What is needed at St. George's? Initially, it should be developed to be '<b>better than St. Luke's</b>'. The main building should have at least three internal rooms available to be able to host a normal Sunday's children's work of St. Luke's. There will also need to be toilets, a kitchen, accessible access, a modern green heating system and a fully functional audio-visual system with livestreaming capabilities. A more flexible space to cater for a variety of different worshipping communities will also necessitate the removal of pews to create a more flexible space. This would be Phase 1 of any development and would have to be achieved before selling or moving to closure of St. Luke's.</p> <p>The hall also needs development, with a main aim of enabling a growth in community service and creating income streams from hire. It may also be possible for the church building to create significant income streams, although this is challenging.</p> <p>It may be sensible to keep St. Luke's Hall as a base in that part of the parish, especially if it can continue to pay for itself.</p> <p>Any transition to St. George's as a single hub and the closure of St. Luke's will need careful planning and would happen over a number of years. See the five-year plan.</p> <p>A further phase 2 development of the St. George's site could include: extra rooms on the balcony or a development of the crypt, or a full development of the Church Hall.</p>
Should we employ a <b>youth worker</b> to encourage more teenagers to come to and grow in faith?	<p>St. Luke's PCC made the daring decision to seek to appoint a youth worker, with funding from a tapered grant, where we would only pay for 13% of the cost in the first year, but would be expected to pay 87% of the cost by the fifth year. This would be a daring move as it will need to happen quickly and it is not obvious how, even with the tapered grant we would be able to fund it. This signals a desire to grow with a focus on people, even as we plan to lose buildings. The PCC were also clear that we would only progress with this if we could appoint a good youth worker, which are not readily available across the country.</p>
What should be the long-term relationship between <b>St. Luke's and St. George's</b> ?	<p>This plan dares to fundamentally merge the two parishes.</p> <p>However, it is likely that the present 9:30am congregation at St. George's and 11am congregation at St. Luke's will continue to meet at the same times, with their own styles of worship, but in one building rather than two.</p> <p>We will also need to explore the relationship with other Ramsgate church of England parishes: Holy Trinity Ramsgate and St. Laurence, Ramsgate. There is a meeting to begin this process with the Archdeacon on 21<sup>st</sup> November.</p>

## Five Year Plan:

The timings in this plan will be complex and crucial. It raises challenging questions: where do the churches meet if you have sold off St. Luke's site, but are still to develop the St. George's site?

Year	Anniversaries	Worshipping Communities, Mission & Leadership	PCCs, admin	Buildings	Other
2025	St up 'Little Luke's'. A handful of people trained to interview church members and collect stories of how God has worked in their lives.	Recruit a Youth Worker  Explore people's giftings and develop potential leaders for future Worshipping Communities.	Discuss with Archdeacon and other Ramsgate parishes with a view to forming one parish from St. George's, Christ Church and St. Luke's.	Fix St. George's Vestry Roof.  Aim to reach RIBA Stage 1 on plans to fully develop St. George's. Phases 1 and 2.	Launch regular prayer meetings for the progress of the Vision.
2026	<b>St. Luke's 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration</b> St. Luke's Day, Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> October  Publish all the stories collected by the 'Little Luke's' as par	Plan to launch first new worshipping community based at a non-church venue.	Transition into one parish with one PCC.	Aim to reach RIBA stage 4 on phase 1 of developing St. George's so that it is 'at least as good as St. Luke's' (See buildings above)  Apply for relevant funding.	
2027	<b>St. George's 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration</b>			Building works for phase 1 to be carried out.	
2028		Plan to launch a second worshipping community either in a local venue or at a different time slot at St. George's.		Close St. Luke's for services and sell all or some of the site.  Aim to reach RIBA stage 4 for phase 2 and look to raise additional grant funding in addition to the money from the sale of St. Luke's.	
2029				Building works for phase 2 on St. George's to be carried out.	