

## Mission and Vision 2011: Looking Forward

Our Mission Statement gives us some idea of where we are going:  
Together, Committed to Growth, Rooted in Jesus and Fruitful in Mission and Service

We have set aside three opportunities each year to consider our mission:

- April: APCM to outline priorities for the coming year
- June: Vision Sunday at Pentecost to preach into these priorities and to set out some targets for Commitment Sunday
- November: Commitment Sunday on Advent Sunday to receive, welcome and celebrate the response of the Church Family towards the ongoing mission of St Philip's Dorridge Together with St James' Bentley Heath

Our vision is to double the number of people who regularly worship with us at St Philip's and St James over five years through "Each one Reach one"

To this end 2010 was a year to Draw near to God, to listen to God, to Pray - an expression of our being Rooted in Jesus. For me personally it was a time to pray for the Spiritual Renewal in the Church and Spiritual Revival in the World

*John 11:25-26: 'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives by believing in me, will never die.'*

To be truly alive is to live in relationship with God; apart from God we are dead, but with God we are most truly and fully alive. This year we do not move on from here: if we are to see our church grow then we have to be passionate about our relationship with God and time and again return to our heavenly Father as the disciples turned to Jesus and say "Lord, teach us to pray..."

Added to this priority we have two new opportunities facing us as a Parish at the start of 2011:

- The appointment of a "Vicar" with responsibility for St James' Bentley Heath to serve as a colleague alongside me, Ben and the Parish Ministry Teams, and to lead the Mission and Vision at St James' in Partnership with St Philip's Church, Dorridge and Bentley Heath School
- The St Philip's redevelopment and Building Project, including the formation of a working Group to lead the project through its next stages, the appointment of an appropriate contractor working towards an agreed plan and planning permission

Working towards our Vision in 2011:

- Welcome: A full review of the Welcome we offer in all aspect of church life, into Church on a Sunday, into the life, ministry, and mission of the church midweek, building bridges between the two, to encourage and enable people to feel that they can belong with us
- Children's Ministry: Developing our children's work in both Churches on a Sunday Morning, the Holiday Hub, work with local primary Schools, and potentially the development of a midweek activity for Primary School aged children (Rock Solid for primary School Children) and continuing to work towards funding a Children's and Families' Minister
- Teaching: A sermon and teaching series through the Autumn and New Year to encourage and equip us to become more confident in sharing our faith with others, becoming an "inviting" community seeking to capitalise on the goodwill we already have, through celebrating Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas, and using Back to Church Sunday principles and practice – working towards an Alpha Course in January 2012

*Acts 4:32&33 "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all..."*