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# VISION 2030

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**Building a vibrant and lasting  
Christian presence in the heart of Ramsgate**  
*by sharing one church building  
and growing the number of worshipping communities*

# | Parish and | Church Building

The church is the people of God, not an institution or a building. Our mission is not to maintain either institutions or buildings, but to make disciples of Jesus, who care for one another in communities of faith and share the love of God and the good news of Jesus with the world beyond the church.

We have inherited buildings and institutions set up in the nineteenth century. In our twenty-first century context, their maintenance hinders rather than enhances our mission.



Our plan is to create one parish from the parishes of St. Luke's and St. George's and to develop St. George's church building, to be a suitable shared venue for both worshipping communities.

Creating one parish will enable the streamlining of financial and building management and overall policy setting, planning and decision making. A new Parochial Church Council (PCC) will become the responsible body working with the vicar, replacing the two present PCCs of St. Luke's and St. George's.

St. George's is chosen as the church building to keep, because it will be central to a combined parish. It is also the civic church, can hold the most people and would not be possible to sell.



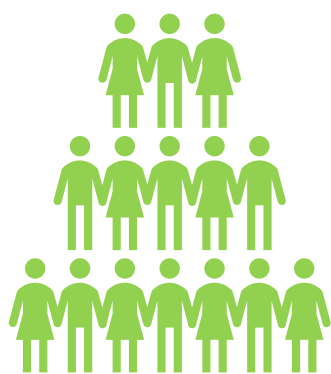
The first phase of development will need to happen before the sale of St. Luke's and would need to ensure that all the activities taking place at St. Luke's could happen at St. George's with more welcoming and up to date facilities. The aim is to create a shared space for a variety of worshipping communities and the people of Ramsgate, whilst maintaining and enhancing the church building as a sacred space that brings glory to the God we worship.

## at least 2 New Worshipping Communities

The church is the people of God. The church grows when more people become disciples of Jesus and play their part in his family. Our plan is not to merge the two distinct worshipping communities of St. Luke's and St. George's, but to seek to help both grow and add at least two new worshipping communities to the mix as well.

This is how the Church of England describes a new worshipping community:

- Has as its purpose the worship of Jesus Christ and helping people grow in their faith. Its practices will include two or more of: prayer, scripture, praise, sacrament, and acts of service.
- Aims to reach people who were not previously attending church regularly and to make new Christian disciples.
- Meets at least once a month on any day of the week, in your church building or elsewhere (such as in a home, café, in a school, or online). It is connected with the wider Church through the parish church, deanery, or diocese.



Multiplying the number of worshipping communities, rather than just seeking to create a larger gathering on a Sunday offers a greater variety of ways for people to encounter Jesus. Worshipping communities that are not too big help everyone to know everyone else and to build deeper relationships which enable more effective welcome, care and growth in discipleship.

This model will be one of diversity in unity. The unity will be expressed through courses, programmes and ministries for people across the different worshipping communities, as well as providing central support and oversight.

### 3 Continuing Commitments



#### Prayer

We can do nothing without God's help (Ps. 127:1). Prayer acknowledges our helplessness and looks to God in faith that he will help us to bring about His vision (1 Pet. 5:6-7). For with God nothing is impossible (Lk. 1:37) and he gives his Spirit to equip us for his work (1 Cor. 12:7).



#### Care

We are called not to be individual Christians, but to live in supportive and loving Christian communities (Jn. 13:34). These proposals require some challenging changes, which will be difficult for some. At their heart they also involve the development of new Christian communities. All of this requires that we learn to love one another more and more (1 Thes. 4:10).



#### Share

The Christian mission is to witness to the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection (Acts 1:8) and to make and grow disciples of Jesus (Mt. 28:19-20). We do this by living as good disciples (1 Pet. 2:11-2), sharing the hope we have with the wider world (1 Pet. 3:15) and teaching one another the whole will of God (Acts 20:27), so that the word of Christ may dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16).

**“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8)**

## 4 Things for All to Share

A key part of our vision for 2030 is the need to develop our church's culture. These areas, arising from our discernment process are as important and necessary as the more obvious structural changes. So, lets **Dare to Share...**

our **G**ifts, *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)

We need to help everyone develop, gain confidence in and use their gifts. This will involve discernment, encouragement, training and appointing new volunteers. Only by doing this will we build a team for growth (cf. Acts 6:1-7).

➤ **What God-given gifts can you develop and share?**

our **R**esources, *so that we serve people not buildings and regulations* (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:4-12)

The strategic vision involves the different churches sharing their resources in terms of buildings and administrative structures. The aim is to reduce the ongoing financial costs and volunteer time involved in maintaining more buildings than we need, so more time and money can be invested in people. At the same time, we need the ongoing generosity and support from people's financial contribution to keep the church running.

➤ **Will you share your time and finances to support the church?**

**O**urselves, *so that we form real communities that pray, care and share* (Jn. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-12)

Thriving worshipping communities need people willing to join in and support one another in their journey of faith.

➤ **Will you share your life with others?**

the **W**ord of God, *so that others may become and grow as disciples of Christ* (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47)

The church grows as the Word is sown and bears fruit (cf. Mk. 4:1-20). We need to increase opportunities for people to hear God's word.

➤ **Will you help us share the Word of God?**

## 5 Daring Work Streams

This is a daring vision, and it will require a breadth of leadership to succeed. We need people with the skills, time and energy to help us effectively consult on, work out the details of and drive forward the necessary changes. **Have you the necessary gifts to help with one of these five work streams?**

- 1. Administration.** *Bringing St. Luke's and St. George's together as a unified parish.* Two PCCs require duplication of work and make joint decisions challenging. We will set up an efficient administration and decision-making system to be representative of all worshipping communities.
- 2. Buildings.** *Developing St. George's as a shared and sacred space for use by both congregations and the wider community.* This requires the development of St. George's building to become more attractive, accessible and welcoming. We will work with architects and builders on design and planning and source funding through the sale of buildings, grants and fundraising.
- 3. Communication and Celebration.** *Making the most of St. Luke's 150<sup>th</sup> and St. George's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and communicating the plan effectively as it develops.* We will mark these two occasions in ways that will help celebrate God's good news and draw people to the church.
- 4. Worshipping Communities.** *Setting up at least two new worshipping communities by 2030.* This is the best way to reach new people with the gospel is to set up new worshipping communities. These may be at alternative times in the church building or at different venues around the town.
- 5. Youth and Children.** *Recruiting and supporting a Youth and Children's pastor to grow disciples among the younger generation.* With the help of a grant from Canterbury Diocese. We need to work to recruit the right person and support them effectively when they start.

**5 years (2025-2029)**

**Share**



**2 PCCS**



**Create 1 PCC**



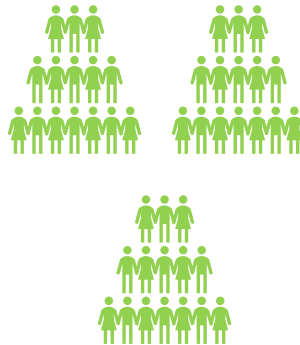
Develop St. George's as a shared space for  
St. Luke's, St. George's and the wider community



**Grow**



Add a new  
worshipping  
community



Add at least one new  
worshipping  
community

