

5 Priorities by 2030

Discipleship

What would success look like in the next 3 years:

- Both congregations deeply rooted in faith
- Individuals feeling confident to know and share the Bible
- New leaders being raised up
- Home Groups thriving
- Baptisms and confirmations increasing

How will we measure this:

- To refresh our home groups & grow participation by 30% by the end of 2027
- To have a regular pattern of midweek courses scheduled for the year in St Peter's from November 2026 (Advent)
- To establish 'Big Bible Mornings' as a follow on from the success of the Bible Course
- Launch 2-3 new home groups, including for working aged folk
- Establish a regular baptism and confirmation preparation pathway & follow up

What we need:

Improve advertising of home groups, leaders to be involved with teaching on courses, new home group leaders to be identified and trained.

Growing Younger

What would success look like in the next 3 years:

- To see up to 20 children attending on Sunday's at St Andrew's by 2028
- To have 10+ aged 18-40 year olds actively engaged across the benefice
- Intergenerational worship taking place

- Community connections with schools, nurseries and families growing

How will we measure this:

- Have a core team of volunteers to help with children on Sunday mornings at St Andrew's by September 2026
- Launch a monthly intergenerational service at St Andrew's from autumn 2026
- Growth in numbers of 18-40's engaging midweek and on Sundays
- Draw in working aged individuals to the life of St Peter's
- Launch a monthly mid-week after school session at St Andrew's from January 2027
- Build a clear pathway for discipleship from toddlers right up through the ages
- Long term: Recruit a Children's & Families Worker

What we need:

Committed team members, volunteers willing to engage with training, people to engage with the parents and adults as well as children.

Benefice Unity

What would success look like in the next 3 years:

- Both congregations experiencing themselves as one family
- Annual Benefice Away Day
- Shared discipleship, fellowship & study open to both churches
- Joint mission events twice a year - one in each church, to reach out to our community

How will we measure this:

- Maintain 5th Sunday joint services and review annually
- Open all Home Groups and Bible Courses to members of both churches
- Plan and deliver first joint benefice away day for in 2027

- Run two joint missional events per year from 2027
- Regular sharing of stories and answered prayer across both churches

What we need:

Continued commitment from all in the benefice, openness of existing home groups to welcome new people, practical support and prayer to deliver missional events.

Missional Outreach

What would success look like in the next 3 years:

- Have planned patterns of outreach throughout the year from 2027
- Run the 321 Course, or equivalent, again
- Two outreach events per year, run by all in the benefice
- Engagement in CTiC outreach events

How will we measure this:

- Schedule a full year of outreach events
- Develop St Peter's Market Sunday input into a consistent welcoming offering
- Develop a plan for a community cafe in St Andrew's Centre to engage with passers by on Poet's Walk and the Pier to Pier Way
- Run enquirers' courses once or twice a year
- Plan an annual outreach weekend with CTiC partners
- Deepen Town Chaplaincy involvement and school relationships

What we need:

To develop an outreach team, explore other successful models of engaging with markets and community cafes, volunteers to run enquirers courses, new volunteers for the Town Chaplaincy.

Strengthening Resources

What would success look like in the next 3 years:

- To maintain our Benefice Share contributions to the diocese at 100%
- To have funds and resources in place for building projects across the benefice
- For volunteers to feel well supported and growing, rather than stretched and stagnant
- For general funds to increase in both churches

How will we measure this:

- All building plans for the benefice will be well communicated
- Run a successful series in September 2026 on Stewardship & Generosity
- Hold Gift Days in September 2026
- Complete a volunteer audit by 2027 and have new people engaging
- Develop the Glebe and Garden at St Andrew's - seeing them as valuable community and missional assets
- Grant applications and faculty processes would be well supported

What we need:

Strengthen our committees and PCCs, clear and honest communication, a spirit of generosity, fresh hands and eyes to step up, volunteers for the Glebe and Garden.

Discussion Questions

1. Which priority feels most exciting to you?
2. Which priority feels most challenging to you?
3. How could you help to steer these priorities?