

# St Andrew's Kinson

## Building community - Living for God



For centuries, St Andrew's Kinson has provided a Christian presence in the communities of Kinson, West Howe and Northbourne. As we look to the future, we remain committed to building community and living for God through our Mission and Vision of growing disciple-making disciples, serving each other and our local community and supporting local and international gospel ministry.



# THE COMMUNITY

about st andrew's

All that we have as a church community has been handed to us through the faith, obedience, hard work, dedication and foresight of previous generations.

We are first and foremost a community of people and our passion is to see this Christian community grow in maturity in Christ; bearing fruit that's enables us to reach out to the wider population with God's transforming love.

During our engagement with the Generosity Project, we have been challenged once again to remember that God's powerful generosity through the gospel not only saves us, but sets us free to live a new, big-hearted life - a life which is no longer turned inwards on ourselves, but which flows out to others with an open, generous hand.

Our commitment to loving God and building community, continues to spur us on to work for the transformation of our local community in this generation and into the future.

## Mission

We exist to worship, love and serve God; to be a generous church, sharing God's love with each other and the wider community, committed to prayer, fellowship and mission.

## Vision

We aim to be a Christ-centred, Spirit-led church, demonstrating the love of Jesus by:

- Growing and nurturing disciples.
- Serving each other and the wider community.
- Supporting mission locally and globally.



## Worship

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We value the faithful and orthodox preaching of the inerrant word of God in our gatherings together on Sunday.

We believe that our Sunday gatherings, as occasions when the whole congregation gathers, are the primary and essential times in which God's people are edified in their learning of Christ through the Word and Spirit of God.

We aim for Sunday gatherings at St Andrew's to set the tone and direction for everything we do as a church community. Sunday is our rallying point - which constitutes, defines and glues us together as a faith community.

As such, we are committed to ensuring that our Sunday gatherings embody our convictions and provides a place where transformative learning takes place: as we **engage**, **evangelise**, **establish** and **equip** church members.

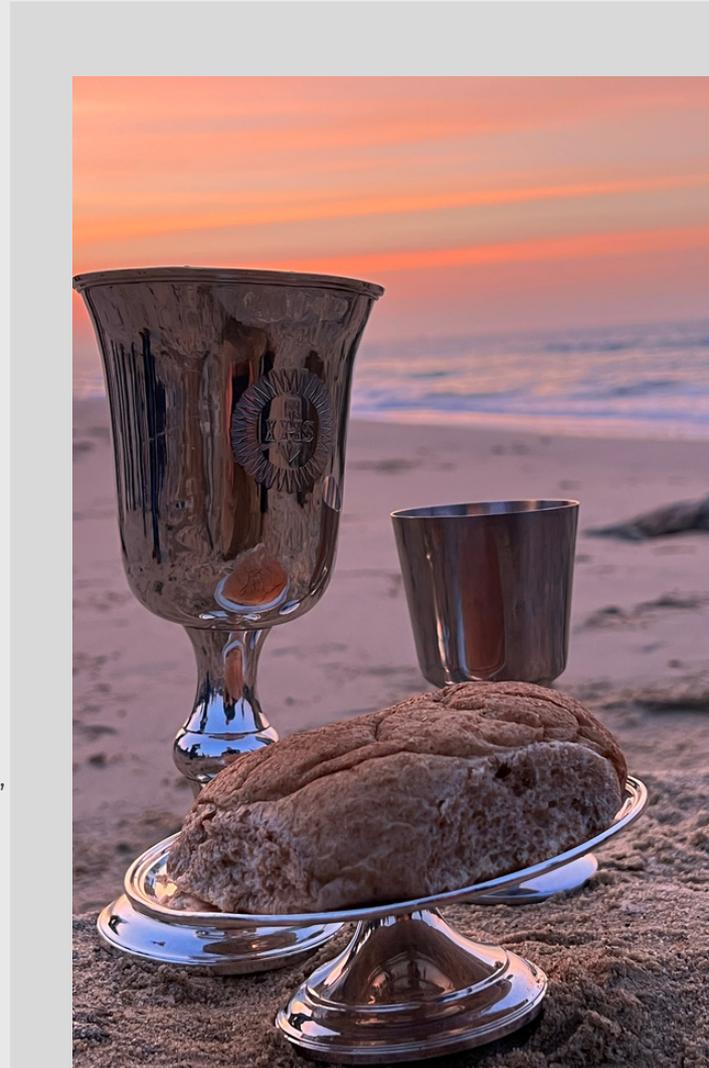
## Love and Service

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We recognise that God has already fully and completely achieved what we need to be reconciled with Him and each other. But we also acknowledge that Christian community is lived out day by day in the context of a fallen world, full of fallen people.

We are all at different stages of "putting off the old and putting on the new". We also serve those who are not yet Christians. Such a reality requires every individual at St Andrew's Kinson to welcome, love and serve others.

In love and service, we seek to help one another come closer towards Christ and to press on towards maturity in Christ in every aspect of their lives.



# Stewardship

GIVE

SERVE

ATTEND

GROW

## Generosity

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Our commitment to living radically generous lives is in response to the incredible generosity of God. At St Andrew's Kinson we seek to do this as part of a radically generous church community; through which we can encourage each other to be generous, and work together in generosity to others.

Our prayer is that as we are confronted by what God says about generosity in His word, and reflect on these truths, the result will be what God always achieves through His word: the transformation of His people to be more like His Son, the one who "though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich". (2 Cor 8:9).

Through sacrificial giving, we are committed to supporting the gospel ministry of St Andrew's Kinson; both the spiritual needs of church members, our local community and in giving 10% to national and international kingdom initiatives.

## Outreach

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We believe that God's ultimate plan for us and our world is to gather a people into His kingdom from every nation, tribe and tongue. Those He gathers are brought out of the darkness of this world and into His marvellous light, made right with God through faith in Jesus and centred around the risen Lord in worship. Transformed into His likeness, we are also commissioned to proclaim the good news so that others too might follow Him.

Therefore, whatever we do to **engage** with our local community, we are committed to providing





**pathways** for others to hear the good news of Jesus through the sharing of our faith, an **evangelism** that calls people to repentance and belief in the gospel of Jesus.

We firmly believe that it is only God the Holy Spirit that can change hearts and transform the people God calls - we are simply called to faithfully use our gifts and talents for the building of God's kingdom here in Kinson and beyond.

### Prayer, Fellowship and Mission

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Whilst God is the one who initiates the great plan of salvation in His Son Christ Jesus, He also sets it in motion, steps into creation Himself to die and rise. Pouring out His own Spirit, to empower the spread of His word - it is God who brings change and growth into the lives of His people.

But when God's Spirit is present, the words we speak (to those already in the family of God and those who are yet to become Christians), are the words of eternal life. This is why the Apostle Paul characteristically thanks God for the faith, love and hope that he sees in God's people. It is why Paul keeps praying to God for an increase in the spiritual understanding, maturity and fruitfulness of God's people so that they might be **established** in their faith.

For this reason, our biblical values begin with a commitment to prayer. As individuals and as a church community, we seek to grow in a persevering dependency in prayer; that God by His Spirit will increase our prayerfulness in every aspect of our lives, the fellowship of love we experience as believers and our mission in the local community.



# A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

## Discipleship

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Church services are a vital part of our Christian life; allowing us to worship, learn and pray as a whole community.

However, there are some things that are best done in small groups.

Therefore, developing our LIFE Groups continues to be our top priority, as we seek to grow our church family through discipleship and sharing life together. Becoming a member of a LIFE group is the most effective way of enabling any individual member of the church to grow in spiritual maturity as “disciple-making disciples”, experience community and receive pastoral care.

To further develop LIFE groups, we are committed to ensuring:

i. LIFE Groups form a central part of the DNA at St Andrew's Kinson - facilitating, encouraging and holding before members the Parish Mission and Vision.

ii. That LIFE Groups will lead on Discipleship, providing a hub from which Pastoral Care, Mission, Service, Training and Equipping can flow.

iii. That LIFE Groups will be founded upon and enable our community, to be rooted in the Parish Mission and Vision, and supportive of our 10 core biblical values.

iv. In January 2022, the St Andrew's PCC re-affirmed our commitment to the principles of **the Vine Project\*** and felt that our focus for the year ahead should be around 1. Building Christian Community, 2. The Spiritual Growth of all who attend and 3. Outreach and Evangelism; as we reach out to the wider community.

v. That the launch of our new LIFE Group model will be key in bringing iv) above into sharper focus and a reality in our midst.

We encourage all members of the St Andrew's Parish, to join a LIFE Group (as attendees or associate members).

## Community

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As a local church we are committed to serving our wider community through Pastoral services such as Baptism, Weddings and Funerals.

We also are engaged with local partners such as the BH10 & 11 Business Forum, Kinson Academy Primary School and other Christian churches.

Our Church Community Hall is well equipped and offers the opportunity to support local groups and our churchyard and other buildings are maintained to ensure they are able to support kingdom work.

Our PCC has identified three foundational areas to guide us in **Stewardship, Accessibility and Partnerships.**

## Local and International Mission

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The generosity of our community has been established over many years by reflecting on God's goodness to us. Our faithful response has enabled us to commit 10% of our income to kingdom initiatives.

We value this opportunity to partner with others and support the gospel work of those serving Christ in other areas.

The PCC review what we give and to whom on an annual basis - prioritising youth work, social justice and gospel initiatives in the UK and overseas:

**CMS** - Lex and Alan serving in South East Asia.

**CPAS** - Venture Holidays, UK.

**CRED** - Particularly the work of Good News of Peace and Development for Rwanda.

Our Foodbank also supports **The Gathering**, serving those experiencing food poverty in South Africa.

\*For more info about the Vine Project, refer to back page.

## Our Core Biblical Values:

**We are committed to Prayer:** We believe that prayer is an expression of our dependence upon, and our relationship with, God our Father. We are determined to make prayer a priority in everything – individually, in groups and as a church. We know that God works by his Holy Spirit when his people pray. (1 Timothy 2: 1-4)

**We are committed to Biblical teaching:** We believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God and is essential for knowing God and for life-changing transformation. The Bible is our standard for faith and conduct in all things and leads us to honour Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. (2 Timothy 3: 16-17)

**We are committed to being God focused:** We believe that the basis for God's relationship and covenant with His people is the biblical truth that He alone is Lord and that our faithfulness to Him involves every part of our being. We seek to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; placing God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit at the centre of all we are and all we do in His name and for His kingdom. (Matthew 22: 36-38)

**We are committed to Loving people and serving others:** We believe that the commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves should be the basis of all our relationships within the church family and our wider community. We seek to ensure that our relationships and service bring honour to God and serve as an identifying mark of our Christian faith and witness. (Matthew 22: 39-40, 1 John 4: 7, 1 Peter 4: 10,11)

**We are committed to Meeting together as members of God's family:** We seek to be a community that meets together regularly for praise and fellowship and where every member is cared for pastorally and spiritually. We want to be recognised as a community of faith where each and every member is valued, inspired and equipped to grow as a Christian and to contribute as a team member in the church's task. (Hebrews 10: 25)

**We are committed to Forgiveness:** We believe we are called to teach and reflect the forgiveness of God. We seek to live out our Christian faith by responding to the grace given freely to us by God; being gracious towards others, especially those times when people fail in areas of their life. (Ephesians 4: 32)

**We are committed to Spiritual Growth:** We believe that in following Jesus, we are called into a life-long process of spiritual growth and discipleship. We seek to create an environment whereby everyone can develop their faith and grow more like Jesus every day; through bible study, fellowship groups, corporate worship and other mid-week activities that are designed to cater for all ages and stages of life. (John: 15: 4-5, Ephesians 4: 15,16, Philippians 1: 6, Colossians 2: 6, 7)

**We are committed to Godly Servant Leadership:** Following the example of Jesus (and with training, nurture and modelling), our leaders seek to selflessly nourish and guide those in their care. (John 10: 11, 1 Corinthians 3: 5-7)

**We are committed to Stewardship:** We believe that the Bible calls us to a grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose, as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian Stewardship involves sharing with God in seeking justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in an interdependent universe. We are committed to sharing the resources we hold and giving them in service; providing for future generations; sharing generously in the life, worship, and responsible stewardship of the Church and of its mission. (2 Corinthians: 8 & 9)

**We are committed to Evangelism:** We believe that there is no salvation apart from repentance and saving faith in Jesus. We believe that the responsibility to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others is central to our calling. Whether locally or globally, by going, giving, or praying, the great commission remains the task of every believer and follower of Jesus. A call to mission will inevitably impact our daily lives as followers of Christ. (1 Peter 3: 15)



## \*\* The Vine Project

This booklet seeks to encompass the diversity and vibrancy of church life at St Andrew's Kinson.

Over the past 9 years the Parochial Church Council (PCC), in collaboration with the Clergy, has recognised that church life can be very busy. Much of this busyness is centred on doing many "good" things, but much of the activity is often spent undertaking what might traditionally be "expected" of local parish churches because 'we have always done that'. The sad reality is that some of these methods just don't seem to be connecting with people as they once did - not if by "connection" we mean a connection that could lead others to faith and belonging to the local church community.

Coupled with the equally important maintenance that must be undertaken, to support the structures and buildings that facilitate ministry (**the trellis**), you will often find in churches up and down the UK a relatively small number of people doing everything. Inevitably, this approach leaves very little time for their own spiritual nurture or the nurture of others - what we call in church speak "discipleship" (**the vine**). Ultimately, the church declines and those who remain take on more and more - perhaps even burning out or falling away from church in the process.

At St Andrew's, the PCC set about first considering what the Bible has to say about church life. Interestingly (some might say unhelpfully), Jesus and the Apostles did not leave us with a neat and tidy blueprint of what a church should look like. However, a careful reflection on the scriptures both Old and New, does seem to suggest that people are drawn into the Kingdom of God through the **Persevering, Proclamation** of the Gospel, by God's **People** who are **Prayerfully** dependent on the Holy Spirit in all things.

It also seems to be the case that more often than not (allowing for individual variations), most people journey to faith through **Engagement** with another of God's People, hearing the Good News through some form of **Evangelism**, after which they may make a decision to follow Jesus and then enter a life of being **Established** in their faith and **Equipped** to do God's will.

The Vine Project isn't something we are slaves to. That said, it has helped us as a church community to ensure we keep the main thing the main thing. We are incredibly thankful for the blessings of buildings and good structures - we are committed to ensuring we value and maintain these provisions. We are, however, really keen to make sure that whatever we do, we will always prioritise discipling God's people as "**disciple-making disciples**" as a gathered community without compromise. This seems to us the mission of Jesus and the mission to which he called those who would follow after him.

