

2025

St Augustine's Church, Grove Park

Mission Action Plan 2025 - 2029



Rooted in Christ's love, our vision is to be a beacon of hope, welcoming everyone from all ages and backgrounds into a caring community, honouring our worship traditions and nurturing our spiritual life.

Mission Action Plan Summary

Our vision:



“Rooted in Christ’s love, our vision is to be a beacon of hope, welcoming everyone from all ages and backgrounds into a caring community, honouring our worship traditions and nurturing our spiritual life.”



Positive words people use to describe St. Augustine's

Mission Priorities

To make our vision a reality, we have set out three mission priorities for the next 5 years:

1. Reaching Out and Caring for each other

We reach beyond our walls to serve, listen, and work with each other, our community and the environment, ensuring that people of every age and background experience Christ's love in tangible, caring ways. (Marks of Mission: Tell, Tend, Treasure)



We still have a tendency to be middle-class and middle-aged and not fully integrated as we could be.

2. Growing Together Across All Generations

We nurture meaningful relationships across all ages, offering teaching and activities that invite everyone—children, young people, and adults—to grow in faith, belonging, and service together. (Mark of Mission: Teach)

3. Deepening Our Faith While Honouring Traditions

We honour our worship heritage while encouraging personal and communal spiritual growth, creating space for diverse expressions of faith to flourish in our united community. (Mark of Mission: Tend)



How is someone who isn't already part of the faith going to start conversations with the church?

St Augustine's is a welcoming church community. We are keen to grow together in our faith, serve each other and nurture a growing congregation. A vicar who will help us lead our worship, strengthen our engagement with our parish community and bring people together to fulfil our priorities will be a wonderful addition to our church family.



Saint Augustine's church feels like home to me. I look forward to worshipping there every week. The friends I have made have become my family. A listening ear, or a shoulder to cry on, a warm hug after a difficult week. And always delicious biscuits! From the bottom of my heart,
THANK YOU!

MAP - Full

Our vision:

'Rooted in Christ's love, our vision is to be a beacon of hope, welcoming everyone from all ages and backgrounds into a caring community, honouring our worship traditions and nurturing our spiritual life.'

Introduction

Welcome to St. Augustine's first Mission Action Plan. We have sought to involve the whole congregation in the planning process in a variety of ways. Through it we have tried to discern together where God is calling us in the next five years, following the retirement of our previous very long-serving and much-loved vicar.

The Mission Action Planning process has so far comprised the following:

- Prayer: as a congregation, we have regularly sought, and continue to seek, God's guidance throughout the process, both in corporate worship and private prayer.
- Consultation: we asked the

congregation for their views, through a questionnaire and bring and share lunch, both of which had high levels of participation, and through informal conversations. We also captured our children's perspectives at Christmas and Easter workshops. In parallel, we consulted the wider Grove Park community through in-depth interviews with key community leaders.

- Audit: at our 'Where are we now?' discernment day, we reviewed the consultation responses alongside demographic data for the parish and congregation. We then carried out two SWOT analyses, one at the discernment day and one with the wider congregation. As well as identifying various Weaknesses and Threats, these highlighted many current Strengths of St. Augustine's and Opportunities on which we can build.

- Vision and mission priorities: having reflected on the audit, our second, 'Where are we going?', discernment day focussed on setting our vision and strategic priorities for the next 5 years.

- SMART goals: the PCC then established five short-term SMART

goals, which we will focus on delivering during the vacancy. We will then set further goals with our new vicar.

Developing our vision

Our vision is set out at the top of this document. In developing it, we imagined what a thriving St. Augustine's would look like, five years from now:

- We hope for an engaged and active congregation of all ages, whose gifts and talents are involved in all aspects of the church's life.
- We want to ensure our buildings are welcoming and comfortable.
- We envisage a church which is seen as a stable point within our local community, connecting with local organisations and reaching out to combat loneliness and low self-esteem with a message of hope.
- To achieve this, we would like to expand the activities the church offers, including activities for all age groups, especially children and young people and their families, and social events for the whole community.

Mission Priorities

To make our vision a reality, we have set out three mission priorities for the next 5 years:

- Reaching Out and Caring for each other

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- Growing Together Across All Generations

We nurture meaningful relationships across all ages, offering teaching and activities that invite everyone—children, young people, and adults—to grow in faith, belonging, and service together. (Mark of Mission: Teach)

- Deepening Our Faith While Honouring Traditions

We honour our worship heritage while encouraging personal and communal spiritual growth, creating space for diverse expressions of faith to flourish in our united community. (Mark of Mission: Tend)

SMART goals

These are the short-term actions towards the delivery of our priorities which we plan to take during the vacancy. We have identified a lead person for each goal, and will ensure any financial implications are reflected in our budget.

1. Carry out a skills audit to identify which skills and talents exist within the congregation to help deliver the church's Mission Action Plan, during the vacancy and in the future.

- o Specific: This is a clearly defined task
- o Measurable: We will produce a document summarising the results of the audit once it has been completed
- o Achievable: We have the expertise within the congregation to carry out the task
- o Relevant: This supports all three of our mission priorities
- o Time bound: Will be completed in July 2025

2. Continue to encourage the congregation to collect items needed by the Nottingham Foodbank and transport donations to the food bank each week, to

ensure we are serving some of the most disadvantaged people in our local community, and sharing Christ's love with them in a tangible way.

- o Specific: This is a clearly defined task
- o Measurable: The quantity of items donated each week can be easily verified
- o Achievable: The system is already in place for the congregation to donate, and to take the donations to the food bank
- o Relevant: This supports our first mission priority: Reaching Out and Caring for each other
- o Time bound: this happens every week for as long as there is a need.

3. Hold three bring-and-share lunches in 2025, to increase a sense of belonging and unity within the congregation, and help members of all ages feel connected and cared for.

- o Specific: This is a clearly defined task
- o Measurable: We will know if we have managed to organise all three lunches, and if the feedback from the congregation is positive
- o Achievable: We have already organised one very successful bring-and-share lunch

- o Relevant: This supports our first mission priority: Reaching Out and Caring for each other
- o Time bound: Will be completed by December 2025

4. Prioritise the continuation of services and activities, such as egg-rolling and parade services, which are specifically designed to engage our children and young people.

- o Specific: This is a clearly defined task, as there has been a regular pattern of children's activities throughout the church year for some years
- o Measurable: We will know if we have managed to organise these activities at each point in the church year
- o Achievable: We have already organised a parade service for Mothering Sunday, and egg rolling on Holy Saturday
- o Relevant : This supports our second mission priority: Growing Together Across All Generations
- o Time bound: Will run until our new vicar is in post

5. Continue to organise services beyond the Sunday Eucharist at significant points during the church's year, such as during Lent and Holy Week, and at least

monthly outside these periods. This honours our worship heritage and supports personal and communal spiritual growth.

- o Specific: this is a clearly defined task

- o Measurable: We will know if we have managed to organise these activities

§ in Lent and Advent, as there has been a regular pattern of such services for some years

§ each month outside these periods.

- o Achievable: Since the vacancy began, we have already organised all the usual Lenten and Easter services, as well as a midweek Eucharist, and Taize-style prayer at two away days

- o Relevant: This supports our third mission priority: Deepening our faith while honouring traditions

- o Time bound: Will run until our new vicar is in post

Delivering this Plan

Achieving our priorities will only be possible through the prayerful action of the St Augustine's family. We recognise there are threats to us making progress on our priorities.

To manage these risks, we need to commit as individuals and as a church congregation to the priorities, not expecting someone else to take responsibility for us. We'll need to check our progress regularly, and keep everyone energised and engaged. We will therefore:

- Share this document widely with everyone who will help deliver it
- Put the MAP on each PCC agenda to track progress, and report back regularly to the wider congregation.

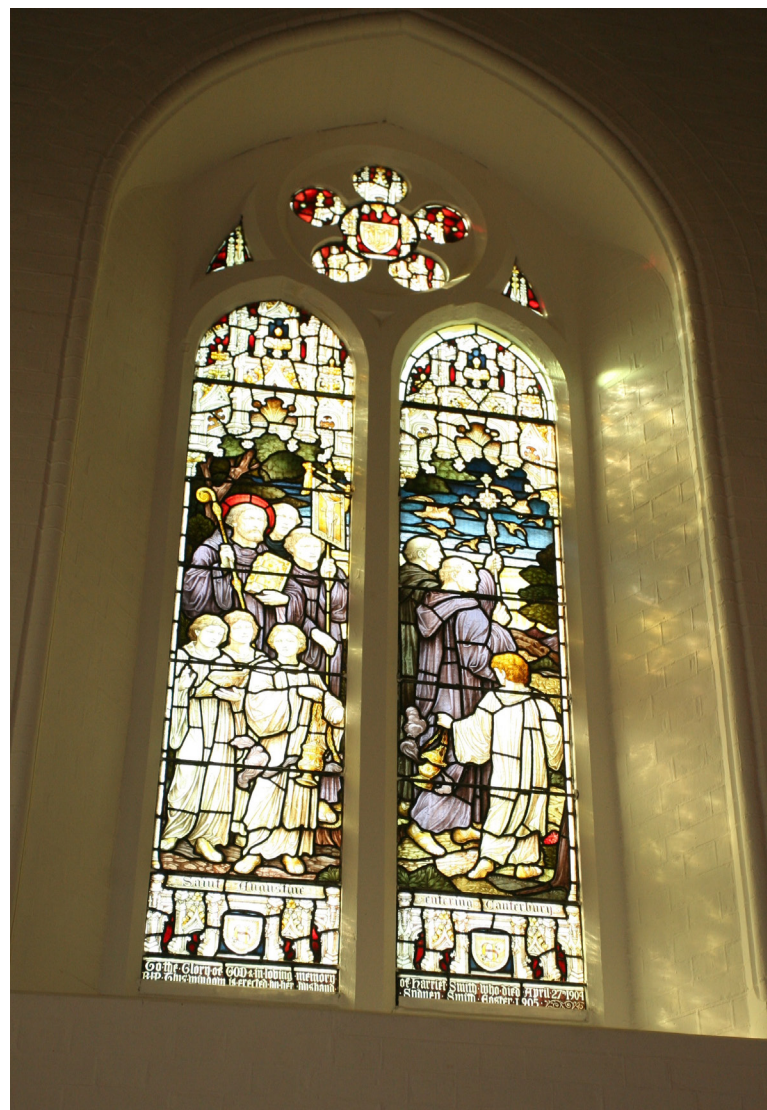
There is a concern our congregation might reduce in number, leaving a smaller core of human and other resources. We therefore want to prevent people disengaging from our church life and encourage more people to contribute their time and talents to help us meet our goals.

- Our skills audit will help with this, as will the regular bring-and-share lunches.

Although we have been learning more about developing lay leadership during the vacancy, we recognise the importance of appointing and welcoming a new

vicar who can work with us to meet our priorities and deepen our spiritual growth.

- We will review the whole plan thoroughly with our new vicar once they are in post, and set new SMART goals together, going forward.



The St. Augustine windows in church

