

LIGHTING THE WAY



The Lantern Church

2022-2032



An Anglican/Methodist partnership



Join the adventure!



“Without Vision the people perish.” (Proverbs 29.18). In the context of Proverbs it means that where the Lord hasn’t shown the way to go, his people wander around getting into trouble! We don’t want to do that. Thankfully we believe that through prayer, listening to him, common sense and talking with each other God has given us a Vision for The Lantern over the next 10 years. Our hope is that it inspires us all to

- **Believe** the Lord has big things in store for The Lantern!
- **Get involved.** We hope that there is something or things in these next few pages that grabs you by the heart to get involved with what the Lord is up to. What are you good at? What are you passionate about? Where do these things come together?
- **Be led by his Spirit.** If in reading these next few pages you believe the Lord is leading you to something else at The Lantern please do come and speak to us. This isn’t a complete picture, there are more brush strokes to be added.
- **Commit** your time, talents and treasure to this vision. So many of you already are, THANK YOU. Please can we continue to review our commitment year by year as the Lord leads us forward?

Please get in touch if you would like to talk to us further about what you read here.

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We seek to be, over the period 2022-2032.....



Fertile Ground - Mark 4:26-29

The seed grows all by itself.....

We seek to be fertile ground, ground that produces growth. Growth in the number of people who come to church. Growth in the variety of ages and backgrounds of people that come, reflecting our community. Growth in the depth of faith of those who are part of the church and involved with the church. Depth of faith seen in walking with Jesus, character change, and good deeds. These kinds of growth lead to growth in generosity. Growth in the fitness and use of our buildings. All of this comes from fertile ground.

We will continue

- *Our value of “Generosity” shining through in all the Church does.*
- *Seeing new people of all ages and stages coming to church*
- *Investing in leadership development by having a New Wine intern*
- *Offering small groups and community groups such as Lantern Youth, Babies and Toddlers, Knit and natter*
- *Giving away a percentage of Church income to Christian Mission organisations.*

We will

- *Employ a part time children’s and families’ worker to grow our children’s work in church and in the community*
- *Multiply community groups e.g. Art Group, Walking Group, plant a 2nd Babies and Toddlers*
- *Become financially self-sufficient, by 2032*
- *Increase the income we give away to Christian Mission organisations to 10%*
- *Renew our building/s so they are fit for our vision purpose.*



A Healthy Body - 1 Cor 12.12-13.13

Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it...

We seek to be a healthy body, well nourished through worship, Bible teaching and prayer. Strengthened by Sunday services and nurtured through small group relationships. Exercised by putting our faith into practice in outreach, identifying and using our gifts in risk-taking situations, stretching our spiritual muscles and also resting well. We seek to be a healthy body where each person plays their part and where all support and encourage one another. Under Christ, the head of the body, we welcome and include all new comers, of every age, ability and background.

We will continue

- *Our values of "Bible" & "Encounter," shine through in all we do.*
- *Running Small Groups, prayer meetings and Sunday services in which Church members can grow in their faith*
- *Ensuring our Services include quiet, space for reflection, focus on the "heart & head", vibrant worship and prayer in many forms.*
- *Caring for each other through structured and informal relationships*
- *Identifying and encouraging people's gifts*

We will

- *Challenge and encourage each person to commit to their next step: greater Sunday attendance, join a small group, praying with others*
- *Help people identify their gifts for serving in the church & outside.*
- *Equip people to be disciples in their schools & workplaces.*
- *Involve a wider range of people in planning and leading our Sunday services, developing their gifts and working together*
- *Grow a band for our services that leads worship as well as sings songs*
- *Expect God to speak to us – especially through the Bible but also in other ways outlined in the Bible.*



A Bright Light - Matt 5.14-16

Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven

We seek to be a bright light in our local community of Marlow Bottom and in the communities of which we are a part: at school, in paid work, with neighbours, family, friends or in sports and social clubs. The light shines through “good deeds” and changed lives. We communicate well what is going on at the Church and we invite, welcome and encourage community involvement. Our buildings will be available to the community. We will be a bright light to draw people to God.

To continue

- *Our value of “Welcome” shines through in all the Church does.*
- *Service Sundays*
- *Developing links with community groups – e.g. Baden Powell Grps*
- *Strengthening links with Burford School and Patches Field*
- *Occasional community gatherings to explore a topic of national or local relevance e.g. Our response to Covid,*
- *Developing our Digital presence*
- *Serving the poor – One Can Trust & Wycombe Homeless Connection*

We will

- *Make Service Sundays more accessible to the local community*
- *Explore the idea of running a Coffee Shop or similar.*
- *Play an active role in environmental concerns.*
- *Identify and provide for the community the right pastoral groups e.g. Bereavement, Parenting, Mental Health, Body, Mind & Spirit*
- *Deepen our commitment to the poor by church members coming alongside the charities we support.*
- *Extend our mission and charity focus further afield*

Giving to the Vision

We use the idea of Time, Talents and Treasure when we talk about giving.



- We give our **time** by turning up on a Sunday, in the week and in our own private times to help fulfil the Vision of the Church.
- We give our **talents**, the God given skills we have, to serve God, each other and those we reach out to help fulfil our vision.
- We give our **treasure**, to help fulfil the Vision of the Church. What does the Bible say this means? Foundationally, everything we have is from God and belongs to him. Practically, what does the Bible say about how we live that out? Incredibly briefly – we give at least 10% of our income to the Church each month and we give regularly to the poor on top of that. Alongside that we save wisely, spend ethically and take care of our ‘family’. It’s all in the Bible, sorry I haven’t got space to unpack every chapter and verse here. However, one final, important, directive the Bible gives is that if your spouse does not share your faith then giving what you are able to in agreement with your spouse is the way forward.

Here at The Lantern it is so helpful for us that almost everyone who gives to the church gives on a monthly basis by Direct Debit or Standing order. It means we can look ahead and be aware of our income and plan accordingly. In light of our vision for the next ten years at The Lantern please would you consider....

- Increasing your giving by
 - Simply contacting your bank and increasing your Standing Order.
 - Contact the Parish Giving Scheme and increase your Direct Debit. Do this online or call them on 0333 002 1271
- Starting to give by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme here:
www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/setting-up-your-gift/
Our PGS Parish Code is: 270627814 and we are in the Diocese of Oxford.

If this doesn’t work for you and you would like to give in a different way that is absolutely fine, and a number of people already do. Do speak to any of the clergy for more info.