

Our “intentions”- these are some things we are committed to, as we live out our Christian calling, vision and values in Alnwick:

- to provide forms of worship, thanksgiving and prayer that glorify God, and meet the needs of the local community and visitors.
- to support members of the church in their spiritual lives and in the community
- to strengthen our investment in children and young people, local schools and especially our link with St Michael's school
- to be more active alongside our partners in Christians Together in Alnwick and other organisations in the development of the local community
- to help people living in, and visiting Alnwick to experience the love and forgiveness of God and the friendship of people involved with the church.
- to communicate effectively with the members, parish, local communities and wider society.
- to ensure that our church buildings meet the needs of today's congregation and future generations, with special sensitivity to our unique heritage.

Realising these intentions will involve us in taking action in many ways, including the careful management of our buildings, finances and human resources. There is more detail in the full 'working' version of our plan.

We are already supporting youth **in the longer term** we intend worship services, offering a building links with youth projects ministry of healing, encouraging in the area, working with all the home groups, training people to schools in Alnwick, responding to work with children, encouraging St needs in the community, with Michael's school to play an other Christian partners offering increasingly active part of church worship and prayer in other places life, increasing awareness of the around the town , and improving heritage and resource St Michael's accessibility, comfort and enabling represents in the town, and more flexible use of worship space developing activities that help in the church. people find their spiritual journey.

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St Michael's Church Alnwick

Parish Development Plan for 2010–2014

What exactly is the Parish Development Plan?

During the last two years the church (by which we mean all of us in the extended family who are part of the life of St Michael's) have been looking at our Vision and our Mission - who we are, what we believe, why we are here, and what we should be doing. These might seem like obvious questions, but has been good to go back to them as a church family, so that we can have a common purpose and focus our limited resources where they can be best used.

This has all been brought together by the Church Council in a document called the Parish Development Plan. This leaflet provides a handy summary of the main points. More details are available in church or on our website: alnwickanglican.com.

As we look to the next four years we are committed to working in partnership and would value your thoughts, comments or ideas as we continue to refine our Parish Development Plan.

The Church of England Parish of St. Michael and St Paul, Alnwick

An open and inclusive church sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and serving the local community.

What is St Michael's Church?



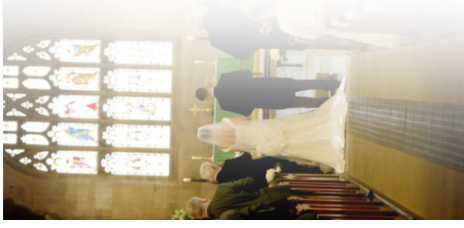
“St. Michael's Church” means many things:

St Michael's church is a historic building

There has been a place of worship on this site for over 1,000 years: much of the current building dates back to the 15th century, and replaced earlier Saxon and Norman churches. We must of course maintain this beautiful building (but the cost of this is significant, and we will need help from others in the local community).

St Michael's church is a place of worship

The physical presence over many centuries has been combined with the less visible but more important presence of a faithful worshipping community. We want both to honour past traditions and also adapt to answer the varied spiritual needs of people in the 21st Century. We try to provide forms of worship that meet the people's varying needs and tastes, but need to explore this further.



St Michael's church is part of the local community

Many people in Alnwick - not only those who attend regular worship services - think of St. Michael's as “their church”. We see the church as part of the community, through our involvement with local schools, baptisms, weddings and funeral services, festivals and special events. These are an important part of our life in the community and, as a church, something that we treasure. But we want to find more ways in which we, as individuals and as a church can serve our local community.

Our Vision

To be an open and inclusive church, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and serving the local community.

- To be a worshipping community, celebrating and sharing our life together in Christ
- To provide a place of solace, peace, healing, support and friendship to those in need
- To meet people where they are and to offer people, locally and worldwide, the life-giving love of Christ



Our Values

Our values as a church are rooted in our beliefs about what is important about God, the world and the purpose of the church. Our values explain why we do the things we do:

- Being outward-looking as a church
- Valuing a diversity of expressions of worship
- Encouraging young people and valuing their contribution
- Developing and strengthening our ‘Monday to Saturday’ faith
- Sharing life experiences with one another

Above all, we need to be clear that ‘Church’ is (above all) about us as people, and overcome the common assumption that it is just about a building.

