



## STRATEGY FROM VISIONING AWAYDAY (2026–2027)

*Building a connected, welcoming, and sustainable church community*

### Our Purpose

To grow a united group of churches that are **welcoming, outward-looking, and rooted in community**, sharing faith, resources, and people to better serve our villages and wider area.

### Our Vision

A connected church community where:

- People feel **welcomed, included, and valued**
- Churches **work together rather than separately**
- Faith is **visible, accessible, and relevant** in everyday life
- We actively **reach beyond our walls**, especially to new and underserved communities

### Our Priorities

#### 1. Welcome & Include

- Explore welcome, accessibility, and inclusion for our churches
- Introduce **welcome packs** for newcomers and new housing areas
- Explore **tourism** and how that might work in our individual churches

#### 2. Community Engagement & Growth

- Host **regular community events** (music, recitals, social activities)
- Develop **outreach to new housing estates and non-churchgoers**
- Strengthen links with **schools, local organisations, and those on the margins**

#### 3. Stronger Together (Unity & Fellowship)

- Hold **quarterly all-church gatherings** (social or worship-based)
- Encourage **rotating services and shared meals**
- Build relationships across congregations to strengthen identity as one group

#### 4. Sustainable & Supported Churches

- Share **people and resources** to reduce pressure on individuals
- Reinforce the importance of all of our **village churches** and their sustainability
- Maintain and **revitalise our buildings** through collaboration and fundraising

#### 5. Youth & Families

- Build stronger **school partnerships**
- Ensure worship and events are **accessible and engaging for families**
- Expand **children and youth activities** at St Oswald's (choirs, services, groups)

#### 6. Clear Communication

- Explore shared **single, unified newsletter** with Clifton, Norbury, and Snelston
- Six-month test of **printed pew sheet** for St Oswald's
- Create a **shared communication system** (QR codes, website hub, weekly info)

#### Key Enablers

- Establish a **small working group** to guide delivery
- Appoint a **communications coordinator**
- Develop and promote a **clear shared mission statement**
- Use a mix of **digital and non-digital communication** to include everyone

#### What Success Looks Like

- Increased **participation and attendance across churches**
- Stronger **sense of belonging and shared identity**
- More **visible presence in the community**
- Better **connection between churches, people, and generations**
- Sustainable churches with **shared responsibility and energy**

#### Next Steps (First 90 Days)

1. Form a working group
2. Appoint communications lead
3. Plan first **all-church gathering**
4. Create and distribute **welcome packs where appropriate**

#### Guiding Principle:

*We are stronger, more effective, and more welcoming when we act together.*