

Vision Statement

“To be churches where every child and young person in Yorkshire has the opportunity to experience the love of Jesus”

Values

These are our values which are integral to our vision. To move towards our vision we need to be churches where:



We are Church every day

Worship can happen every day and in any place outside of our church building. These are just as important as Sunday worship in our church. Jesus is interested in all aspects of our lives; in the everyday and ordinary activities that can be part of our worship too.



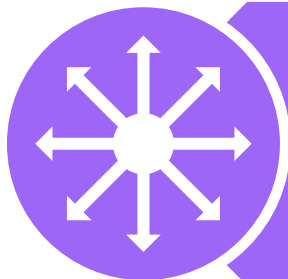
Everyone is valued equally

Children, young people and adults can all follow Jesus together and can support, encourage and learn from one another on the journey of faith. All adults in church share the responsibility, and can share the joy, of having children and young people in the church family.



Everyone feels safe and welcome

Anyone is welcome in our church and they will be accepted as they are. Our churches will be safe places where people can ask questions without feeling uncomfortable, disagree without being judged and doubt without being rejected. In this place we are able to explore life and faith in Jesus together.



We go out into the world

We can support children and young people in our communities and help them experience God's love in many different ways, including in their schools, families or groups. We don't always need to run more groups or events at our church.

Aims for churches and the synod:

Our aims are targets, which embody our values that will move us towards our vision.

NB. These do not replace the usual church activity of worship, prayer, mission, discipleship, evangelism etc - but they tell us *how* we can do those things so children and young people can better experience the love of Jesus.

1. To remember that church and faith is our everyday activity:

- We will value activities that happen during the week as opportunities for worship, the same as on Sundays
- We will treat people who worship in our groups during the week as much a part of our church as those who come on Sundays
- We will try to explore our faith and worship at all times and in all places – talking about Jesus, praying, learning from the Bible, acting truthfully in our lives.
- We will try to offer opportunities for others to explore faith and worship (prayer, reading the bible, acting justly) in our non-Sunday groups.

2. To value children and young people and adults as equals in our churches, so we can give to and receive from each other (*see Charter for Children*)

- We will ensure that children and young people can join in all areas of our church's life so we can worship together, learn together, make decisions together, and join in God's mission together.
- We will develop ways to include children and young people in areas of church life where they do not join in with adults at the moment (worship; teaching; mission; decision making etc).
- We will make the effort to be humble and open to learning and receiving from each other, whatever our age.
- We will look at the needs of ALL ages to see they get the same support in our church.

3. That every child and young person feels safe and welcome in our churches so that we can explore life and faith together:

- All adults will welcome and engage with children and young people in the church (talking to them when they come in; asking them about their lives; listening to what they have to say without jumping to correct or challenge them; hearing the challenges they might have for adults)
- We will recognise that all adults share a responsibility for the children and young people in our church.
- We will ensure good safeguarding procedures are in place and are followed.
- We will ensure that children and young people's views are represented in the church leadership (eg: by assigning a CYP elder or including other representation)..

4. To go out and engage with children and young people in our communities:

- We will pray and look for opportunities in our area where we can help and support children and young people, sharing God's love with them.
- We will support faith sharing in our families, not just in church.
- We will support other local groups, activities, schools etc where children and young people can grow and develop, and we will get involved where possible.
- We will support charities (local, national or global) that are focussed on the needs of children and young people.