

Mission statement for Disley Parish

Strap line

Share Christ with Others

Long form Mission Statement

We are an expression of God's church made real in the location of Disley parish. We are made up of individual followers of Christ who gather to serve God's mission across the parish.

We are part of the universal church, belonging within that to the Anglican communion, Diocese of Chester and Deanery of Chadkirk. We believe this parish is here to serve God's mission in this part of the world, and that the local church is important as God works his global purpose out through local people in this particular time and place. In other words that **local mission is an essential part of God's plans for his creation**. As such our mission statement is a localised expression and is in harmony with the Anglican communions 5 marks of mission and the Diocese of Chesters vision, but is seeking to find the way to incarnate that in the local setting.

Mission starts with God. We participate in a local expression of the mission of Christ and more broadly the mission of God. It is shaped by the nature of God who is **revealed in scripture** as Trinity – God in community and unity, showing love and mutual self-giving.

God the Father – God as creator (who loves everything he has made and delights in creativity); who also, as loving parent, is patiently longing for the return of those far off and healing of the wounds that spoil his creation.

Jesus Christ – both God and man – showing us our spiritual journey and doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves in his ministry.

Holy Spirit – the breath of life that hovers over creation, showing we are not abandoned and seeking to empower us.

We were always **called to reflect God's image in the world**, but in Jesus we get to see this in action. Jesus shows us how to fulfil our spiritual journey of both finding what it is to be truly ourselves and human, and what it is to reflect God's image in the world. In being both human and divine, **Jesus shows us what humanity should look like and what God does look like**. And in following him we find ourselves (following his example of humanity) and our mission to be image bearers in the world (reflecting the God that Jesus reveals to us).

Our role is to seek to both reflect Christ as individuals and together as a group, and we believe that as Christ-like image bearers we have a positive impact in our parish and to the people we share Christ with. We are shaped by three great themes – witness, sent and good news.

Witnesses – we are witnesses to the revelation of God in Christ

Sent – (both apostle and mission mean sent) we are sent in person within space and time to this place

Good news – Jesus framed this good news as ‘the kingdom of God is at hand’, and in word and action we build it – the good news is that Jesus is setting the world back to rights.

These three themes work together to shape the mission of the church. To reflect Christ (and more broadly God) in the world must **encounter God** in corporate and personal devotion and worship – we can only witness to what we experience. This encounter with God transforms us so that we join in inviting others to encounter God – it is a ministry of welcome to others to join in and nurture for us to grow as a community and individuals.

We seek to be present in God’s world, reflecting the values of Christ in the world and showing what it looks like in practice.

We are not left to do this alone but are **empowered by the Holy Spirit** and we seek to reflect Jesus and work to transform the world to reflect the creators good and loving intentions.

We are a friendly, open evangelical Church where all are welcome, and together we aim:

- ✓ **To experience** a relationship with God and grow in our knowledge and love of God and through this find personal growth and change.
- ✓ **To witness** to our encounter with God; as we intentionally apply our faith to everyday life so that in action and word we reflect Christ in the world.
- ✓ **To share** Christ with others both as individuals and together.
- ✓ **To connect** in unity across body of Christ; work closely with other local churches and related organisations. Also building broader connections into the world where we can work together with integrity.
- ✓ **To build** God’s kingdom and kingdom values in the place and people we serve, to be outward looking to our local community seeking to serve needs, promote justice and harmony, and promote healing and wholeness; working for these in both community and creation.

The church seeks to work this out as individual followers and as a community of faith, in both devotional activity and in transformational living in the world; in both the activities we do as a church where we invite others to join in, and in the ways we can take Christ out into the world we serve and as guest in the community we share with others.