

**ST MARY'S IN THE LACE MARKET**  
**BISHOP'S STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**  
**DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

**1. HOSPITALITY**

*Creating space where people can flourish, grow and be drawn together within a diverse community: a Christian is an open hearted and generous host.*

**St Mary's to become better known, and in Nottingham as somewhere free and open-to all, a building with dynamic associations, not just an exceptional medieval building.**

- **Visitor experience** via App, display, etc to draw on St Mary's history, story, images, symbol, aiming to bring to life the Christian faith.
- St Mary's to become a 'must' destination for **school groups, young people**.
- **Café idiom** in northwest area, with simple server, easily able to serve food and drink.
- As an expression of welcome, install **glass doors/porch** at west end.
- Make building available at minimal cost for **Creative Quarter/Lace Market businesses** needing space for start-up event, awards ceremonies, networking events, Annual Meetings.
- Improve **signage, Notice Boards**, etc

**2. PRAYER**

*An integral feature of being human, a (if not the) primary expression of relationship with God, our greatest privilege and our source of life.*

**St Mary's to nurture a community of prayer, putting to fuller use the building as a focus to stimulate and draw others into prayer.**

- Intentionally to **work with** the City Prayer Network, Workplace Chaplaincy and within broader Nottingham world to become part of a Nottingham wide prayer movement, to foster a prayer community, ie shared priorities, App, friendships.
- **Visitor experience** to include each being drawn into and helped to pray, ie helping the visitor become a pilgrim and disciple.
- **Chapel of the Holy Spirit** to be reserved/resourced for individuals who want to pray.
- New times/forms of worship and/or prayer – for those **who live and esp who work locally**. Wednesday to become a 'Business day'.
- Explore relationship between St Mary's and **Fusion, students** to use the building for prayer and as base for outreach.
- **Prayer 'stations'** at key points of building, which help us engage with different emphases in prayer, including the use of art to inspire prayer.
- **Prayer App** linking to wider Nottingham prayer world and to guide in prayer.

### **3. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND LIFE IN NOTTINGHAM**

*The Christian's primary vision is the New Creation, the fullness of the justice, peace and prosperity which the Gospel promises, expressed both through true friendship with those whose circumstances are characterised by poverty, oppression and injustice, as well as in influencing civic policy, urban development, etc.*

**St Mary's, by reason of its location, size and history has unique opportunities to nurture relationships with local government, commerce, the voluntary sector and with other churches and faiths to the end that Gospel priorities are established in Nottingham.**

- **Social Justice, ie**
  - **Emmanuel House** relationship already exists – opportunity to strengthen. **Stone Soup Academy** similarly, **Clewer Institute** looking to develop relationship with us.
  - Work with Transform Notts Together, Faith Action Nottingham, within the Universities and Colleges to **link would be volunteers to projects.**
  - Encourage **hands on participation** in projects (as well as financially, in governance, etc).
  - Explore if/how St Mary's could be **venue for projects** needing somewhere to meet.
- **Civic Life, ie**
  - **Partnership** with civic leaders, Universities, key organisations, networking.
  - Part of **Coalition** of churches
  - Inclusion of **other religious leaders**
  - Symbolic **events/services** to be hosted at St Mary's, ie for certain institutions, marking important moments, happy and sad, local/national.

### **4. CREATIVITY**

*God the Holy Spirit inspires humans to give creative expression to the awe and wonder of our world, and also of the glimpses we are given of the New Creation*

**St Mary's, especially within the Lace Market and Creative Quarter to initiate, encourage and assist in creative initiatives throughout Nottingham, both artistic and technological.**

- A high value to be given to **beauty** in the preservation and development of our architectural heritage, in the furnishing, lighting and equipping, etc of St Mary's, and in our worship.
- St Mary's worship services to be innovative in the **use of art and of technology** to draw people into a richer and fuller encounter with God.
- To develop and forge closer working relationships within the Creative Quarter, with Nottingham Contemporary, contributing to and helping **Nottingham become a significant centre for the arts in the UK.**
- To work with **arts/creativity based projects/charities** in contact with those with mental health, disability, victims of displacement, servitude, etc.

- To promote and make widely available **St Mary's as a venue** for art exhibitions, choral and other musical events and dramatic productions.
- To make building available as venue for **student events**, ie music competition, art exhibitions, film showing, etc.

## 5. WELL-BEING

*God in His love richly blesses and brings us healing in body, mind and spirit.*

**St Mary's to develop ways to improve well-being within Nottingham.**

- Part of an experience of being in the peaceful and prayerful environment of **St Mary's church** may in itself lead to improved well-being.
- As the House of Prayer at Ffald-y-brenin aim that no one should leave without opportunity to receive a **prayer of God's blessing**, so should it be at St Mary's.
- Develop **courses/groups** to promote well-being for those working (and living) in Lace Market/ Creative Quarter.
- Close relationship with, including becoming 'home' for **Workplace Chaplaincy**.
- Develop and foster **local business relationships** through networking events, etc.
- Work with **University and schools** chaplaincies, pastoral teams, medical practices, etc to help meet realities of rise in mental health issues amongst young people.
- Hosting a mindfulness (or equivalent) **group session(s)** and making available **simple exercises** for the individual to do alone.
- A Christian understanding of well-being to include facing our own and the world's pain within a context of '**Lament and Thanksgiving**', to include a corporate act of worship.

## 6. SUNDAY SERVICES

**To explore how our worship services could develop to draw in more people, especially families, children and youth.**

- The PCC, through its worship sub-committee, is to carry out a **review of the current Services**, especially the 1045.
- Particular consideration be given to introduction of a **less formal, family friendly service, with a different musical idiom**, say
  - To take place around festivals, themes, so approx. monthly (January, February **Carnival/Lent**, March **Mothering**, April **Easter**, May **Ascension/Pentecost**, June July **Education** September **Harvest**, October **Homelessness**, November **Advent** December **Christmas**)
  - Musical idiom, Contemporary Gospel? Singing group? Include children?