

ST. ANDREW'S  
CHURCH  
*GORLESTON-ON-SEA*

Our vision to promote  
**INTENTIONAL  
DISCIPLESHIP**



***A guide to learning and living in the  
way Jesus intended.***



# Introduction

*Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
The Cost of Discipleship

Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John were among the first people who Jesus called to be his disciples. Following Jesus would dramatically change their lives forever.

Over the course of a few years Jesus would teach his first followers how to be disciples and how they could make disciples. His final instruction to them before returning to heaven is often referred to as the Great Commission:

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20

# *Discipleship groups*

## **Discipleship Groups**

The practice of being a disciple and making disciples is as relevant today as it was when the “Great Commission” was first issued by Jesus to his followers.

In 2018, with a view to promoting intentional discipleship, resources were produced to accompany the introduction of *Discipleship Groups* into the life of the church at St. Andrew’s.

Highlighted below are the four essential elements of a *Discipleship Group*:

- **Hospitality.**  
Group participants meet together in a relaxed but purposeful setting.
- **Learning.**  
Group participants read and learn from the Bible.
- **Prayer.**  
Group participants pray for personal needs and for the spiritual awakening of their communities.
- **Going.**  
Group participants look to tell others about Jesus and undertake a mission project beyond the life of the Group.

*Please contact or speak to Rev. Brian if you would like to know more about Discipleship Groups and how to become involved.*

## *Spiritual growth and Formation*

Intentional discipleship places an emphasis on the spiritual growth and formation of a believer in Christ.

In many ways spiritual growth and formation parallels the major stages in the life-cycle of a human being from birth to senior years - having passed through the stages of infancy, childhood, adulthood and middle age.

Every Christian will be in one of the four major stages of spiritual growth and development:

- The new-born baby stage

- The infancy stage

- The childhood stage

- The maturity stage

As the Bible passage below highlights, the key to spiritual growth and formation is being rooted in Christ:

*And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done.*

Colossians 2:6-7 (TLB)

***Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”***

**John 8:31**

The word “disciple” means “a pupil or follower of a teacher”. A Christian disciple is a pupil or follower of Jesus Christ. To be a Christian disciple requires living a life of faith in Christ and obedience to Christ.

### **Characteristics of a Christian disciple:**

- A Christian disciple worships God in Spirit and truth.
- A Christian disciple relates to Jesus as both Lord and Saviour.
- A Christian disciple is empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- A Christian disciple demonstrates love for God, neighbour, fellow disciples, and enemies.
- A Christian disciple knows how to read, study, and apply the Bible.
- A Christian disciple practices prayer.
- A Christian disciple makes a positive contribution to the life of the church.
- A Christian disciple will witness for Christ as a way of life.
- A Christian disciple is prepared to endure hardship and suffering.
- A Christian disciple exhibits the qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

## *Our Purpose*

The church of St. Andrew exists to know Jesus better and to make him better known.

## *Our Vision*

In order to achieve the kind of future we are striving for, our vision is to promote:

- **A**dventurous Mission
- **S**pirit-inspired Worship
- **C**ommunity Engagement
- **E**xtravagant Generosity
- **S**trategic Leadership
- **I**ntentional Discipleship
- **S**upportive Administration
- **F**riendly Hospitality
- **C**aring Relationships

