**Rebuilding after COVID**

*What should the future church look like?*

* Freer than it was, less formal
* People of ‘Holy Habits’
* Christians are gathering people so we need a building to congregate
* ‘Servant hearted’
* One that goes out to people in ways that are meaningful and accessible to ‘them’ not just us
* Members need their own confidence building so they can talk about their faith
* One that recognises Joan Winwood’s words that *‘we work alongside men and women who do not share our faith... how we are and how we act is our way of giving life to our faith’*

*How do we build the church we want?*

* We look to our ‘frontiers’…
* Existing contacts such baptisms, weddings and funerals and we make sure all are befriended, welcomed, included, and ‘kept in touch with’ in an open handed, generous way
* Increase our visibility and work in our community…
	+ We need to get over the ‘one day a week Christian’ mentality. A visible initiative of ‘St Oswald’s in the Community’?
* Being ‘upfront’ with prayer, worship and teaching
* Bringing down barriers so that the act of coming into church becomes less alarming…
	+ use the building for evangelisation – hosting non-church events, re-energising/re-imagining our tourism offering, creating a ‘story of Oswestry’ display board in church
	+ work with other people/organisations
	+ creating a safe space for people to ‘drop in and dwell’ midweek and on Sundays
	+ midweek informal hospitality – Place of Welcome
	+ Make the churchyard a nicer place to be – benches, re-wilding project

*Problems to be overcome:*

* Challenging those things we take for granted…
	+ We think people know we are open and/or they can just ‘pop in’ and sit.
	+ We think people see us as a ‘safe space’ where they can turn up and be themselves. But… they think things will be expected of them, that they cannot just come in, sit for a while and go. They wonder if their children will be criticised? How do we overcome this sense of them feeling uncomfortable?
	+ Are we sufficiently accessible… are the light levels adequate for reading, can people hear/see properly?
	+ Communication… our social media needs an urgent overhaul and rethink.
	+ How do we communicate that whatever anyone does for the kingdom, however small, it makes a difference?

*Some specific topics being taken forward…*

* Install live streaming technology
* Decluttering and improved signage throughout the church, parish centre and churchyard
* St. George’s Chapel as prayer space and chapel of remembrance
* Relocate the tourist info & hospitality area
* Create a church visitor’s route around the church with information boards
* Refurbish outside notice boards and include more comprehensive/relevant info
* Redecorate, explore dais and nave altar
* Improve the lighting throughout and include feature lighting
* Redevelop the children’s area
* Redevelop the Parish Centre to make it more attractive and suited to purpose

*Sunday worship*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Sunday 1 | Sunday 2 | Sunday 3 | Sunday 4 | Sunday 5 |
| 10:30 | LiturgyThemeWordSetting(Contemporary language) | Formal (A)LectionaryOTPsalm(choir)NTAlleluiaFull (A) | Informal (B)LectionaryOTNoneNTGradual HFull (B) | Formal (A)LectionaryOTCanticleNTGradual HFull (C) | Informal (B)LectionaryOT or NTNoneAlleluiaGloria & AD (B) | EitherTopicEither |
| 4:00 |  | Café C[P. Centre] | HealingS. George’s | Messy C[P. Centre] | ReflectS. Catherines | ? |
| 6:30 |  | Ch ES | EP | Ch ES | Ch HC | ? |

**Sunday 1: Café Church Sunday 2: Healing service**

Sept: Creation – star gazing Reconciliation

Oct: Harvest – giving thanks for the world around us & what we enjoy Stewardship & justice

Nov: Remembrance - sacrifice and thanksgiving Healing for the nations

Dec: Advent – Restart Renewal

**Others…**

Hearts & minds initiative, place of welcome, Prayer for the town day