

Our goals for the next three years

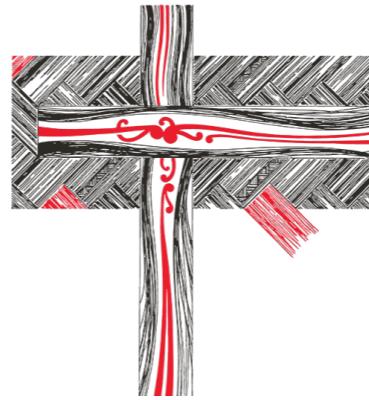
These goals reflect key aspects of our purpose and vision. They will not be our only focus, but they do provide us with a starting point and clear targets against which we can measure progress.

1. **By the end of 2023 we will have signed a Memorandum of Understanding** with the Diocesan Board of Trustees to build appropriate, affordable rental housing on our church land.
2. **By 2025 we will have increased the number of permanent small groups** meeting regularly in the parish for prayer and discipleship from five to more than ten.
3. **By 2025 we will have run at least two programmes** such as Alpha for new Christians and people wishing to explore Christianity and what it means to be Christian. Subsequently, at least 50 percent of programme attendees will be actively engaging in the life of St Mark's.
4. **By 2024 we will be hosting regular events** to engage and support individuals and groups that reflect the diversity of the Carterton population.
5. **By December 2023 we will have implemented a sound, sustainable financial model** that generates sufficient resources to pay a stipend, fund current and new parish programmes, meet day-to-day expenses, and manage the ongoing maintenance of all our buildings.

Review process

This Mission Action Plan has resulted from a comprehensive, six-month process led by a steering committee and parish clergy and open to all St Mark's faith community. See the document *St Mark's Mission Action Plan, 2022–2027: Our planning process* for detailed information.

Following the finalisation of this Mission Action Plan, St Mark's leadership and Vestry will develop processes to achieve the key goals. The Vestry will review progress towards the goals at each Vestry meeting, and will review the goals, vision, and purpose statement at least annually. The Mission Action Plan will be a standing item on the agenda at each parish AGM. A full review of the Plan will be completed before the end of 2025.



Equipped by faith, we serve Carterton

A Mission Action Plan for St Mark's Carterton, 2022–2027

Purpose Statement

St Mark's purpose is to bring God's light and hope to the Carterton community. This means strengthening our faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ, supporting one another, and building our capacity and willingness to serve others. It means following Christ's great commission to make disciples. And it means obeying Christ's call to love our neighbour and to stand against injustice, offering such service in humility because we know it is Christ's empowering that brings enduring change.

Vision

The St Mark's vision – Equipped by faith, we serve Carterton – embodies three key ideas.

We will be equipped. We will have the knowledge and skills needed to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and to engage effectively with one another and those we serve in Carterton. We will ensure our parish governance, finances, and resources are sound, so that our primary focus can be on serving our community.

We will be equipped by faith. Every member of St Mark's will understand the Gospel imperatives that underpin our focus on serving others: that we are followers of Jesus trying to work out how to live according to his example; that we see Christ in every person in our community; that Jesus' life was one of service, and so we seek to serve others with love.

We will serve Carterton. We will be unified in our commitment to serving the people of Carterton as the primary focus of our parish. We will be a beacon of hope, reaching out with others to those in need of support, healing, and assurance. We will also speak out on injustices in our community, ask what God is calling us to do in response, build capability where needed, and act.

What it will take to live up to our purpose and achieve our vision



We will look **UP**

Our strong and effective relationships with God through Jesus Christ will shape, strengthen, and uphold all aspects of our ministry. We will:

- » be joyful and grateful that God is generous
- » strengthen our personal and communal relationships with God through rhythms of worship and prayer, study, self-reflection, confession, communion, and learning from each other
- » adopt a mindset that we will receive, as part of God's provision, the resources we need to achieve our purpose and vision
- » foster a network of small groups focused on building our skills in discipleship, on deepening members' understanding of faith, and on driving social action.

We will look **IN**

The strength of our purpose and vision, the warmth of our fellowship, and the sustainable stewardship of our resources will be the defining characteristics of our parish. We will:

- » welcome and nurture all who come to St Mark's
- » offer a variety of vibrant worship services that are well attended, inclusive, intentional in style, and respectful of tradition
- » relate well to each other because we have spent time getting to know one another, and created safe places to be vulnerable
- » ensure that our leadership (clerical and lay) is motivating, strategic, innovative, decisive, and open to delegating work
- » be willing to change and adapt, both as individuals and as a faith community
- » focus on doing a few things well, and on celebrating our achievements
- » become a faith community that reflects the diversity of Carterton's population.

We will look **ACROSS**

Cooperating with other churches, with other faiths, and with community organisations will help to ensure we achieve our vision. We will:

- » be proactive members of the Wairarapa Anglican cluster
- » support Diocesan initiatives and priorities
- » engage with international initiatives, such as the Thy Kingdom Come worldwide prayer initiative
- » support others' initiatives that are consistent with our vision, including those of local government and secular organisations
- » be open to interfaith dialogue.

We will look **OUT**

Reaching out to those beyond our faith community is a response to Christ's commandment to love others and is key to our purpose and vision. We will:

- » train ourselves for ministry and mission beyond our parish
- » share our faith with the Carterton community and invite people into relationship with Jesus
- » be invitational, hosting events that draw people to St Mark's
- » share our facilities, skills, and resources with the community, being hospitable to those on the margins or in need of support
- » go to where people are – to understand, form connections, and humbly assist in serving their needs
- » mobilise support to meet particular practical needs of our community
- » take action on local, national, and global issues
- » support missionary work, refugees, and international programmes that alleviate hardship.