



## AVONSIDE MISSION AREA

Avonmouth - Lawrence Weston - Sea Mills - Shirehampton - Stoke Bishop  
 Bringing about **social, cultural** and **spiritual** transformation in Avonside

## 2018 CELEBRATION EVENINGS

Please join us as we celebrate all that God is doing through our partnership and to pray into the vision we have been given for the Avonside Mission Area.

### DATES AND VENUES

**17 January 2018 - St Andrew's Church Hall, Avonmouth**

**02 May 2018 - St Mary's Church, Shirehampton**

**09 Oct 2018 - St Edyth's, Sea Mills**

All 7:30-9:00pm with refreshments at 7:00pm

Loving Father, we commit ourselves as your people and the churches we represent, promising to uphold one another in prayer and build one another up in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Help us to work together so see an end to poverty and injustice in this area. We pray for healing for the broken, wounded and hurting; freedom for the oppressed, and restoration for the hope-less, needy and lonely.

We ask that you would empower us to be your hands, feet and hearts to our communities, that all people would know that they are loved, valued and of worth, and find a place of respect, belonging and acceptance.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**



## AVONSIDE MISSION AREA VISION

The Avonside Mission Area is a network of five local Anglican Churches serving the North West of Bristol. We exist to bring about the **social, cultural** and **spiritual** transformation of all our communities in partnership with Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### We long to see...

- a foundation of prayer underpinning all we do
- an expression of abundant generosity, joy, humility and blessing in our communities
- people experiencing life in all its fullness [Jn10.10]
- all people knowing that they are loved and valued
- an end to poverty and injustice
- healing for the broken, wounded and hurting
- freedom for the oppressed
- restoration for the hope-less, needy and lonely
- those involved in education, health and social care supported, equipped and flourishing
- all people finding a place of respect, belonging and acceptance
- God's love shared with everyone through our love of all people
- the development of people's gifts, skills and abilities
- people of all ages coming to faith and living full lives of worship
- disciples obediently living out their faith and bearing witness to Christ in the whole of their lives
- the Bible and purposes of God understood
- disciples growing in the fruit and using the gifts of, the Holy Spirit
- the adoption of a culture of invitation and of sacrificial service
- God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done

# AVONSIDE MISSION AREA COVENANT

In obedience to the call of Christ, we, the ministers and people of:

**St Andrew's Avonmouth, St Edyth's Sea Mills, St Peter's Lawrence Weston, St Mary's Shirehampton & St Mary Magdalene Stoke Bishop** in the Diocese of Bristol hereby renew our love for God and one another by this act of covenant to do the will of God by sharing in the Christian life together.

Accordingly, we confess our faith in one God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who will guide the Church, by the body of Christ into all truth.

We repent of everything in our past histories and present attitudes which has hindered or may prevent our serving together through partnership.

We are glad of our Anglican unity and the connections we hold with one another within the diversity of our traditions and commit to seeking to deepen our communion with Christ and one another.

Through this partnership we wish to express our commitment to the shared Diocesan vision 'Creating connections', in particular we acknowledge that through this covenant we are expressing our desire to be connected to each another.

Therefore we, the Avonside Mission Area, now covenant together to work in partnership with Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about the social, cultural and spiritual transformation of all our communities.

Although we cannot yet see the forms this covenant journey will take, we trust God to lead us and trust each other as we travel together.



## Through this covenant we commit to:

- Upholding one another in prayer and building one another up in Christ
- Working together to follow the Spirit's leading
- Serving one another and alongside one another
- Giving sacrificially of ourselves in His service
- Seeking first the Kingdom of God in our lives, our churches and our communities
- Strengthening the bonds of unity that exist between us

## This covenant commitment will require us to:

- Work together in mission across the Mission Area regardless of Parish Boundaries
- Listen to, share with and learn from one another with grace
- Share the resources, skills and gifts that God has entrusted to us
- Make ourselves accountable to one another and others
- Review, learn from and capture the story of that which we undertake together
- Lower the boundaries that are often established over time and increase our openness to partnership, collaboration and connectedness
- Be wise selfless stewards of that which is entrusted to us seeking to maximise the use of these resources for the Kingdom across the area and beyond
- Be open to the Holy Spirit's leading as we respond to the changing contexts in which we serve; willing to change ourselves and try new things
- Develop a locally agreed and owned 'Mission Area Plan' inspired by our Vision and invest energy and resources in seeking to make its vision reality
- Work in close partnership with the Diocesan Mission Area leadership team and Diocesan Advisors to develop the Mission Area programme for fruitful Kingdom impact
- Review and renew this covenant annually in light of our learning from this partnership



## In making this covenant it is our expectation that:

- We will see the Kingdom of God and His church grow across this area;
- disciples will be made, leaders grown and communities transformed
  - Christians will be equipped for mission and released in service to be His witnesses within the world
  - the Good News will be proclaimed, the captives released, the blind would see and the oppressed be set free
  - all the communities we serve will experience social, cultural and spiritual transformation through the power and activity of God working in us
  - We will share what we learn about ourselves, God and His mission, with the wider Diocese and National Church of England, that others might benefit from our partnership