



CHURCH VISION

Lower Wye South Methodists

In 2019 Methodist churches at Chepstow, Caldicot, Rogiet, Earlswood Valley & Hope and Penycycaemawr were organised into a locally focused hub of the Newport and Lower Wye circuit. We are the Lower Wye South (LWS) Methodist Hub

Returning to a 'new normal'

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are re-grouping and starting to wonder where God needs us to be in helping people build their lives back up into a 'new normal'. We have learnt a lot about praise, worship and discipleship over the last year and have seen spiritual maturity develop in new and unexpected ways.

God's kingdom needs you

We all have different gifts and talents we can use to help spread the Good News. In big ways and small ways, and by the grace of God, we are all called to help feed our communities with the bread of heaven.

To try and discern what God's call on us might be in the coming years, we asked everyone in our existing congregations to complete a survey. The survey tried to find those things that we need to return to and reinforce, but at the same time what new pathways to faith were needed in our congregations and wider communities.

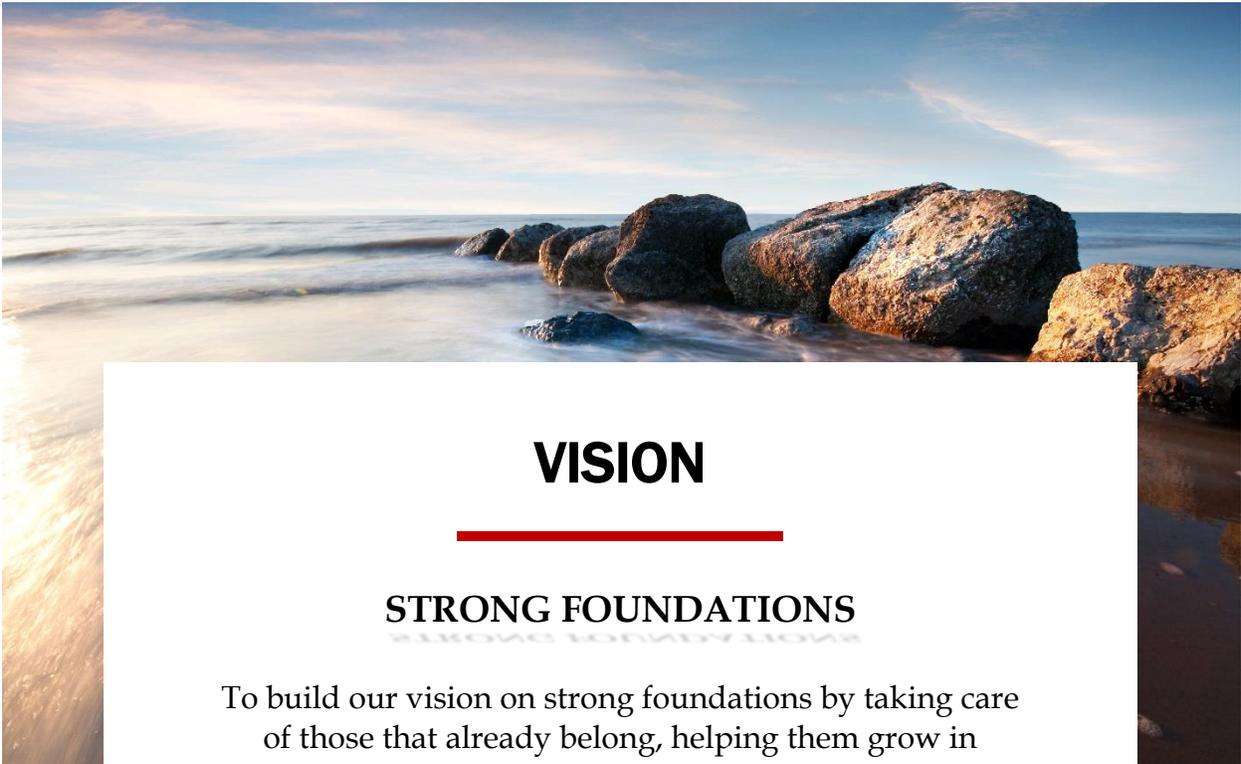
Fantastic to see that 90 of you completed the survey - thank you so much.

Key findings from survey

- **Nearly six out of ten** took part in **Zoom worship** during the pandemic, and the vast majority found them a satisfying way to worship God.
- Most of our existing congregations want to **return to traditional worship**, in the church on a Sunday.
- Many thought that we needed to offer different and **new pathways to faith** for younger people and other seekers.
- Over three quarters of congregations wanted to **worship on days other than Sundays**, with both traditional and new ways of worship.
- In survey feedback comments the most common theme mentioned related to **community outreach** and taking an ecumenical approach.

What next?

From the survey feedback we have developed four **vision statements** and a set of goals which you can see on the following pages. The last **page invites you to a launch event** and explains what to expect.



VISION

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

To build our vision on strong foundations by taking care of those that already belong, helping them grow in spiritual awareness & maturity. Planting our roots in tradition whilst creating new shoots of Grace.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

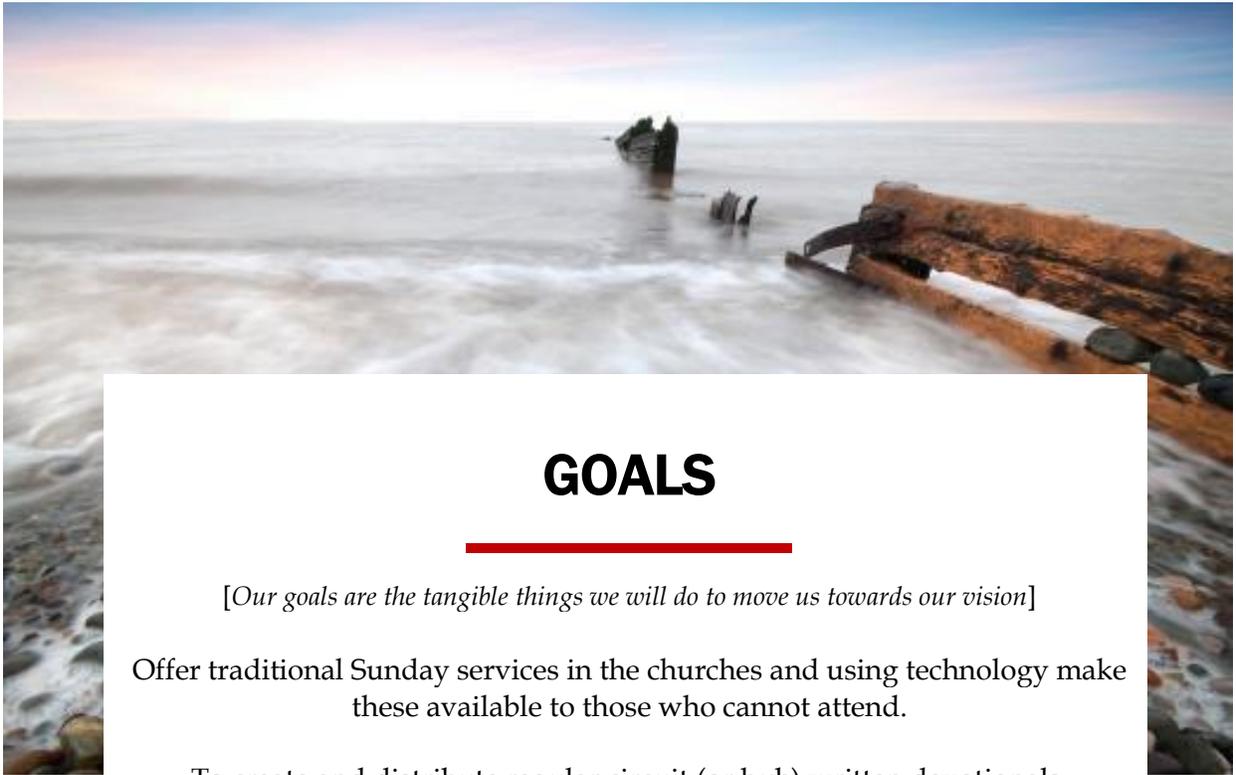
To offer uplifting praise & worship options that lift spirits, nourish souls and brings healing. To be widely known for being a warm, welcoming and inclusive space for all.

PATHWAYS TO FAITH

To be a church hub relevant to the lives of people in our communities. Having flexible pathways to faith for people to travel, at their own pace and in their own way, recognising we are all on a similar journey.

SMALL GROUPS & BELONGING

To provide inclusive care by looking both at the needs inside and outside our congregations, and in the wider community. Build outreach through small groups that offer radical hospitality and intentional faith development.



GOALS

[Our goals are the tangible things we will do to move us towards our vision]

Offer traditional Sunday services in the churches and using technology make these available to those who cannot attend.

To create and distribute regular circuit (or hub) written devotionals.

Develop & launch Café Church across the hub and find ways to make them accessible to all who want to attend.

Build on previous mid-week praise and worship by developing and coordinating different styles and formats.

Develop & launch a 'Chillout Church' – focus more on Taizé, music, candles & mindfulness, less focus on chat and preaching – prayer & peace

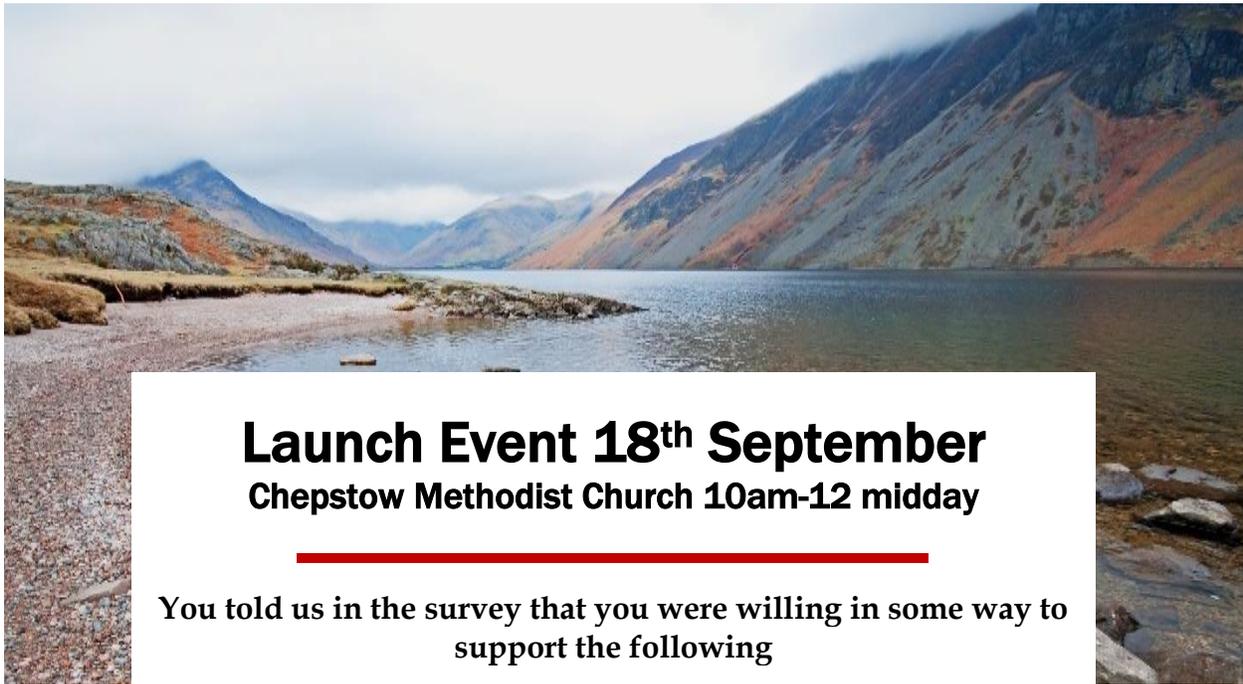
Have regular and publicised coffee drop-ins to make church feel normal inclusive and caring.

Develop and put in place a support structure, including ongoing education & learning, for Lay Workers and other small group leaders and helpers.

Develop a coherent 'visibility' campaign keeping our congregations and communities better and more regularly informed about what we are doing and what we offer.

To deliberately keep in touch with local, national and global concerns by wider working with the community, churches together, local authorities and other NGO's.

To retain the vision & mission development group to help coordinate the delivery of these goals and keep everyone informed about progress.



Launch Event 18th September **Chepstow Methodist Church 10am-12 midday**

You told us in the survey that you were willing in some way to support the following

**Café
Church**

**Small
Groups**

**Chillout
Church**

**Traditional
Church**

Together these will offer different styles of worship, different ways of seeing God, building our faith and enjoying a good helping of hospitality. To make this work well we need get some direct input from you, we hope you can come to the launch event and share your ideas and help us answer the following questions.

- How can our groups make a difference to people's lives in the community?
- Who are we planning for? Consider the groups of people we are trying to reach and the things that interest them.
- Which forms and styles of worship have been carried out previously in churches across the Hub and what would we like to carry forward?
- Is the same event being done successfully in a different denomination church?
- How can we fit in with people's busy lives? Being aware of people's other commitments and considering location, childcare, accessibility and timing.
- How can we get the right people to run each event?
- The survey has highlighted Café church, Chillout church and Small Groups as generating the most interest, so we should focus on these, but is there any other activity you are interested in?
- How can we get churches in the Hub to work together?

The launch event will be relaxed and laid back, with plenty of tea, coffee and cake.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission