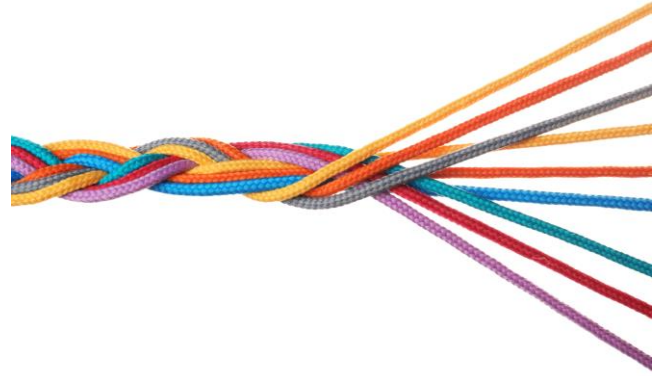


# The United Benefice of Bradworthy

## Stronger together



### 1) Building the Kingdom One Person at a Time

The heart of our mission is personal relationship and invitation. As a rural benefice, we aim to engage with individuals where they are, fostering genuine connections in everyday spaces. Our approach is not focused on filling pews, but about inviting people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. Inspired by Matthew 9:36, we want to show compassion, providing pastoral care, support, and spiritual growth opportunities. Every invitation, every conversation matters as we build the church one disciple at a time. We are called to meet people where they are, whether that's in everyday spaces like pubs, community groups, or at local events. Our strategy is to build relationships first, which will naturally open doors for deeper conversations about faith and personal invitations to church activities. This "one person at a time" approach is modelled after Jesus' ministry, where each individual encounter was valued. We aim to nurture these personal relationships as the foundation for church growth, ensuring that our faith community expands organically and meaningfully.

### 2) The Power of Invitation

Invitation is key to our outreach. We will empower our church members to confidently invite others, whether it be to a service, a small group, or a community event. We want everyone to ask, "Who is God prompting me to invite?" Our role as a benefice is to create spaces and opportunities where invitations feel natural, whether that's through informal gatherings, café-style worship, or by being a presence at community events like fairs and harvest festivals. Invitation is a powerful tool in building the church. We encourage every member of our congregation to consider who God is prompting them to invite into fellowship. By fostering a culture where personal invitation is the norm, we hope to create a church community that is constantly growing and evolving, as new members are welcomed into the fold.

### 3) Shared Ownership – Ecclesia

This mission plan is not just for the clergy but for the whole church community. "Ecclesia" refers to the gathering of God's people, and shared ownership of the mission is essential for its success. Every member of the benefice, whether clergy or laity, has a vital role to play. We need to work collaboratively, recognizing that each person brings unique gifts and perspectives to our shared goal of building the kingdom. This plan emphasises the importance of teamwork, mutual support, and collective effort to achieve growth. By fostering an environment of shared responsibility, we ensure that the mission is carried forward by the entire community, making the church a place where everyone feels empowered to contribute.

#### **4) Training for Lay Ministry and Away Days**

To achieve this shared ownership, we are committed to equipping our congregation through discipleship and training. Lay ministry will be a key focus, with opportunities for leadership, pastoral care, and community outreach. We propose regular training sessions, away days for reflection and growth, and mentorship programs where experienced leaders can guide others. Our aim is to create a network of well-trained lay ministers who can support the mission, take on leadership roles, and contribute to the vibrant life of the benefice.

#### **5) Designing Services to Be Relevant**

As we seek to engage both regular churchgoers and those outside the traditional church community, it is essential to rethink how we design our services. While the core message of the gospel remains unchanged, we recognise the need to adapt the style and liturgy to resonate with a broader audience. This includes exploring more creative and inclusive formats that reflect the diversity of our community.

Services may incorporate informal worship, themed elements, and liturgies that speak to contemporary concerns while maintaining the richness of Anglican tradition. The aim is to make the church a welcoming space where people from all walks of life feel connected, spiritually nourished, and able to engage meaningfully. This flexibility will allow us to better meet the spiritual needs of a wide range of individuals, ensuring that both longstanding members and newcomers find a place where they belong.

#### **The Role of Prayer**

At the heart of our mission is a Christ-centered commitment to reach those whom God is calling the lost sheep who have yet to encounter Jesus. Prayer is the foundation of this plan, as we seek God's direction and strength in every step. We recognise that without Jesus, people are spiritually lost, and our mission is to guide them into a life-transforming relationship with Him. Through prayer, we align ourselves with God's heart for the lost, asking Him to lead us to those who need to hear the gospel. As we design services and engage with the community, we will continually seek God's wisdom, asking Him to open doors for evangelism and stir hearts to respond to His call. Prayer will not only sustain our efforts but also sharpen our focus on bringing the lost into the fold of Christ, ensuring that everything we do points to Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.