

Preaching into the strategy as it emerges: May 2025

An overview

We believe that God...

longs for his Kingdom to grow

longs for us to join in the work of being transformed, redeemed, restored

is all that we need and far, far more

We are conscious that...

we often need to help people to let go of anxiety and routine in order to
rediscover their true vocation

we often need to support congregations as they embrace the fulness of life which
is found in Jesus

leadership and discipleship are vital to this work of being transformed

We know that our role...

is to be visibly transformed so that we embody these truths

is to work tirelessly to set others free to flourish

is to be prayerful, pastoral and prophetic leaders of change.

*... and include at some point an invitation to join the work of transformation, to pray, to engage
in the process, to be part of it...*

Key themes and ideas

(identified by members of BSM as being key to them)

Transformation is being the clay on the potter's wheel... However, this image doesn't convey the continued renewal needed in our lives. If we think we've arrived in the Kingdom, then we have more work to do!

Jesus captures the imagination of those he met: the disciples leave their nets; Levi leaves his tax booth; Nicodemus comes by night; Zaccheaus climbs down from his sycamore tree to cook dinner; the woman caught in the very act of adultery, or the one who touched the passing hem of Jesus' garment; Mary with her jar of perfume; Peter in the courtyard; the common criminals arguing as they are crucified on either side of Jesus; and those blind folk and beggars and lepers whose names we will never ever know who were welcomed home.

As we "turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ", as said in the Ash Wednesday liturgy, lives transformed by Christ should show the hallmarks of the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5.22-23). These fruits will also be seen in a Church willing to be transformed by Christ because transformation and conformation is also the goal of every gathering moment of Christians in their corporate life of being the Church.

Prayer is the oxygen of the church. Prayerful means being pastoral so we know how to pray- and it means being prophetic for prayer makes tyrants tremble.

Being Pastoral is about being and building a community of safety and welcome and acceptance and grace. Pastoral means being prayerful as an engine room, and it means being prophetic in reaching for a community and a world yet to be.

Being Prophetic is being a midwife for the kingdom. Prophetic means being prayerful so we can ensure that our hearts beat with the heart of God, and it means being pastoral so we remember always that we are standing up for those Jesus came to love.

It means being Transformed by Christ.

Transformed hearts transform hearts-
transformed communities transform communities.

Sermon extract from Richard Lamey, May 2025, at Kessingland

“Part of my role as Director of Mission and Ministry is helping to connect the Diocesan vision of being Transformed by Christ; Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic with the daily life of churches and disciples all across Waveney and Norfolk.

Transformed hearts transform hearts- transformed communities transform communities. That belief is at the heart of my prayer and longing for every church family in the Diocese. That people will see our lives, our service, our generosity, our light and know, even before we speak, that we are followers of Jesus. Transformed hearts transform hearts- transformed communities transform communities. Love one another as I have loved you.

We believe in a God who is more generous, more present, more exciting, more loving, more active, more wonderful, more creative, more tender, more powerful, more forgiving, more and more and more and more and more than we can dream or imagine- But we do not always live like it. We live at times as if we were defined by what we lack and not by what we have, which is God in all of his abundance and power and grace. A God who wants us to be more confident, more active, more optimistic, more generous. A God who wants people to know that we are his disciples by the way we love one another.

We have been working on trying to understand the specific challenges facing our Churches in Norfolk and Waveney in every different context, and we keep coming back over and over again to two key words- leadership and discipleship. Perhaps something of the new that God wants to bring to birth is held in these two ideas- in how we can set our leaders free to flourish and in how we can equip and support disciples who live love, who wholly and deliberately follow Christ’s new commandment. God longs for new things to grow, for that transformation in all of us which brings the kingdom a little closer, for transformed hearts to transform hearts, for transformed communities to transform communities. He longs for it here. In this place, in this community, he longs for us to be known as his disciples.”