**ST. JOHN’S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MARSH GREEN**

**MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Our mission is:**

**To know God better and make God better known**

**To c****hannel God’s love to people near and far**

**To d****emonstrate God’s love by caring for God’s creation**

**OUR VISION**

**UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE:** To work with other churches locally and more widely, especially when action can be taken more effectively together.

 **VISION 1 – TO KNOW GOD BETTER AND MAKE GOD BETTER KNOWN**

* The church and the wider community of all ages will be able to access a range of options to be introduced to the Christian faith and learn more about God and his love
* The church will be a thriving and outward-looking community which is welcoming, safe and inclusive

**Strategy**

* Offer opportunities to increase knowledge and understanding of the Bible and reflect on faith, living as a Christian today, and help people be more confident in sharing their faith with others
* Enable an active prayer life, building on existing opportunities
* Further develop interesting and engaging worship
* Encourage participation in ecumenical opportunities
* Communicate effectively internally and externally

**VISION 2 – TO CHANNEL GOD’S LOVE TO ALL NEAR AND FAR**

* Be a church that provides an open and safe environment to support mental, spiritual, and physical well-being for the church and wider community
* Be a church that is outward looking and concerned with justice and reducing poverty in the world

 *PTO*

**Strategy**

* Review suitability of church premises (feasibility study is being undertaken)
* Encourage wider use of the building for the congregation and others
* Build and sustain relationships with the Preschool
* Build and sustain relationships with those who live in Marsh Green
* Develop and sustain church groups
* Develop the system of pastoral care to meet the needs of the congregation and community
* Increase focus on giving of time, skills and money and awareness of injustice in the world
* Communicate effectively internally and externally

**VISION 3 – TO DEMONSTRATE GOD’S LOVE BY CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION**

* A church that is carbon neutral, its land rich in wildlife, its people living sustainably and a church that lobbies, encourages and supports others (whether churches or politicians) to promote sustainability

**Strategy**

* Use worship, work with young people and occasional events or meetings to inspire and educate
* Encourage members of the congregation to live sustainably
* Work towards having carbon neutral and otherwise sustainable buildings
* Develop the biodiversity of the gardens and Nature Reserve
* Develop links locally, support other churches on their ‘eco-journeys’, attempt to influence politicians and support environmental charities
* Communicate effectively internally and externally

**ACTION POINTS** to be added later

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*Draft to members: 18.01.24*

*Document incorporating points made by Members 21.01.24*