

# RECTOR

## We love because **he first loved us...**

1 John 4: 9 (NIV)



### INTRODUCTION

Recently I heard the story of the laying of the first communications cable across the Atlantic. It took numerous attempts because the cable kept on breaking, but eventually after 12 years and 5 attempts, the first message was sent between the US and UK on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1858.

It included the words:

“Glory to God in the highest; on earth, peace and good will toward men”

Of course laying a cable which would last in North Atlantic waters as deep as 4 km was a formidable task and so by the time the Great Eastern (which incidentally was built at a shipyard in Millwall) set sail to lay what proved to be the final cable in 1866, engineers had learned much from their previous failures.

There are 3 things which strike me about that story:

First, God was acknowledged then in a way that God isn't now.

Second, People were determined to succeed at all costs. To do so required a fierce desire to accomplish the task and that took courage and commitment, as well as time...

Third, they learned from their mistakes

Now go back more than a few centuries: to the first Christians who settled on the site of Bermondsey Abbey: a Christian community of the Benedictine Order, whose members, to this day make a “vow of stability” — the uniquely Benedictine commitment to live in a particular monastic community for life.

While I'm not thinking of founding a new monastic community here at St Mary's yet, I do believe we can learn important lessons from the determination of the pioneer Transatlantic Cable layers and the staying power and commitment to one place, of the early Benedictines.

Today, more than ever- it is becoming difficult to stay in the inner city and so all the more important that we, as God's people in this place and time, take seriously our call to be **“Here for Good”**, no matter how long that might be for.

### 1290:

Since the first stone was laid on this site and even before that, on the site of Bermondsey Abbey- now the Square- for generation after generation, our purpose has been the same.

As  
 Christians  
 worshipping  
 together in Bermondsey, we are seeking to live  
 for the glory of God  
 by  
 following  
 Jesus  
 in  
 the  
 reality  
 of  
 God's  
 world



We are seeking to be Christian community- in many ways imperfect and yet in our diversity, an expression of the Kingdom of God. Each of the pictures which make up the cross on the cover of this report, are like windows into the story of the people of God. Like the windows from the street into church:

## Windows to another World....

2012:

2013:



And so, as we set out on the road to produce a Mission Action Plan (starting with a PCC Away Day in July 2014) we quickly came up with the following 3 part Vision Statement to describe how we want to be:

## Here for Good

1. Going Out- Physical Presence
2. Worship (exploring the "otherness of God)- Spiritual Presence
3. Building- Fruitful Partnerships



As part of the on-going process of reviewing this, we decided to have another PCC Away Day in July 2016, in order to come up with a plan to mobilise more church members. The result was:

## St Mary's Got Talent:

A phrase which emphasises the belief and Biblical principle, that we all have an essential part to play in the Body of Christ.



## 2017

All the Reports below relate to the Working groups we set up, having identified the main areas of ministry in our church:

### RESOURCES

+ Building +  
Phase 3

### WORSHIP +

Music with

LEADING +

PREACHING



CHILDREN +  
YOUNG PEOPLE

COMMUNICATION

MISSION

WELCOME +  
HOSPITALITY

PASTORAL + PRAYER

## CONCLUSION

All of these are connected and so are we as each essential member of the Body of Christ:

**Here for Good: Here for God: Here and Now.**

*Charlie*

Revd Charlie Moore: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017



**I will give you  
a new heart  
and put a new spirit  
in you; I will remove  
from you, your heart  
of stone and give you  
a heart of flesh**

Ezekiel 36:26 (NIVUK)