

# Wakefield Ministry Scheme

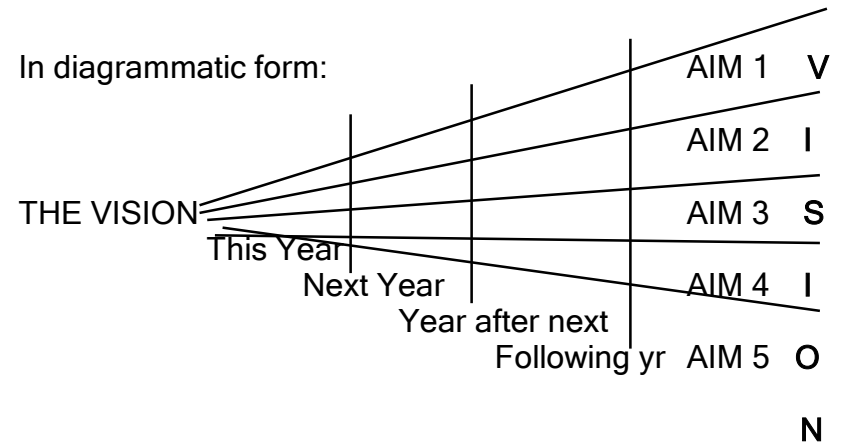


## VISION BUILDING A Resource Pack for Churches

### (5) Project Planning

GR C5

This leaflet contains three models to help you see the vision and the plans which flow from it as a whole. When a church goes down the route of developing a vision and a strategy for implementing it, it enters the realm of long-term thinking. Churches have often not been good at this. In particular, planning has been constrained on the one hand by immediate financial demands and similar practical necessities, and on the other by the length of service of a particular minister. Collaborative ministry involves setting a vision and developing plans for implementing it which take account of current practical exigencies, but are not time-bound by when the vicar leaves!



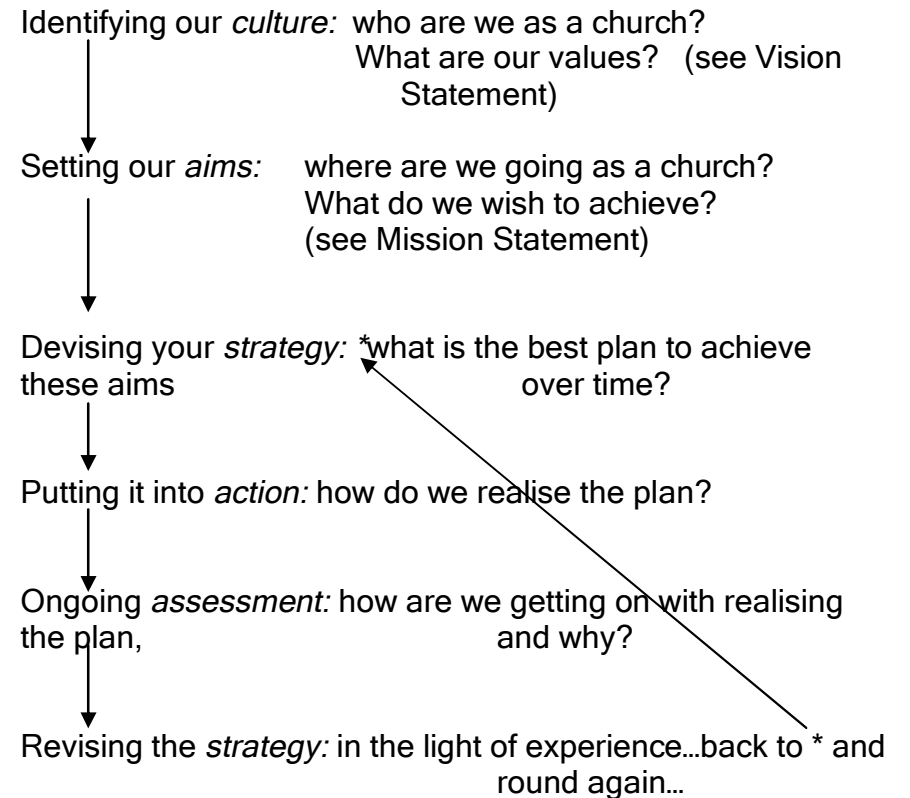
## Year-on-year Planning

It has already become clear that a Vision is long-term, even eternal in scope, and very broad and general. The Aims into which it translates 'on the ground' should be more tangible. They will be the way in practice by which the vision is kept alive and continually held before the church from year to year. The Objectives for any given year will be a matter of prioritising and planning, but the Aims as the intermediate stage between Vision and practicalities have an essential role. (Peter Brierley in **Vision Building** uses the term 'Thrusts' at this point but he means the same as is meant here by 'Aims'.)

If the Vision is broken down into some four to six ongoing Aims these can form the basis for annual planning (and budgeting). In the previous example, providing an environment for worship in which people could encounter God was just one aim. The vision about 'the glory of God is a human being fully alive' could produce several other aims as well: for example, the church could aim to provide a balanced programme of Christian teaching for all ages to promote maturity in the faith for all; it could aim to reach out to excluded and less privileged people in the parish to help them become more fully alive in God; it could aim to offer supportive and enriching fellowship and fun through which Christians could celebrate God's glory together. Aims such as these would lead to the four key areas of Worship, Teaching, Community Outreach and Fellowship and Social Life. Each year each of these areas would set its objectives and make its plans in line with the common vision.

## The Visionary Cycle

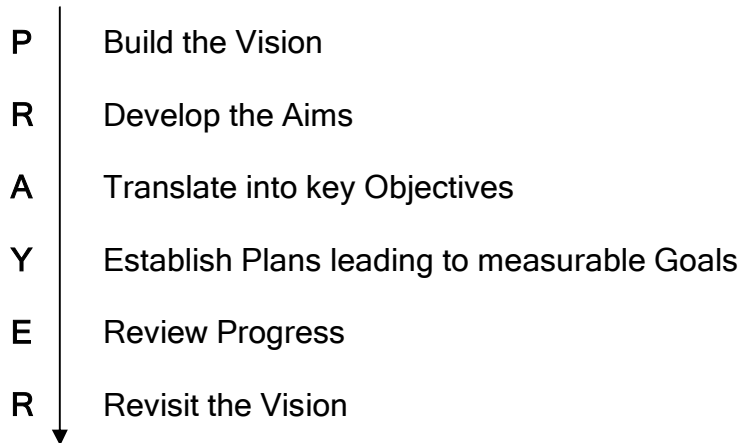
The process can be set out as follows:



n.b. when a particular piece of the strategy has been achieved, the assessment may take the process right back to 'Identifying our culture', because this may have changed in the light of what has been happening.

## The Vision and Strategy Process

Many of those who write and advise in this area recommend breaking down the process into stages which spring naturally from the original vision. Unfortunately the terminology is not used consistently, but here is one version you might be able to use as a basic guide.



Notice that PRAYER continues throughout!

The sequence Vision - Aims - Objectives - Plans is one of increasing precision and increasing practicality. For example:

'The glory of God is a human being fully alive' and our church wishes to see this become a reality (Vision)

We set out to provide an environment for worship in which every person can encounter God in a way that will be meaningful for them (Aim)

To this end our intention is to develop an alternative Sunday evening service which will reach out with God's love to unchurched people (Objective)

A working group has been set up with the task of designing a pilot series of such services to be run monthly from March to June 2007 (Plan)

Notice that it is easy to tell whether or not the Plan has been achieved.

The Objective is harder because the first part (to develop the service) is easily checkable but the second (reaching out to unchurched people) needs a bit more research to see how well the service is doing.

The Aim is only capable of limited assessment, i.e. as far as it is possible to tell do the people who come to the service find they meet God there?

The Vision is most unlikely to be fully realised this side of heaven!- but it is vital to have it in place as the impetus for everything else.