

our vision.



St Alphege, Seasalter

belonging.

believing.

becoming.

transforming.

We can see our lives, our town and our world being transformed by the power of God's love in Jesus Christ through 'belonging, believing, becoming' at Seasalter.

Welcome to St Alphege, Seasalter

Our vision comes from what we see God doing...

We can see our lives, our town and our world being transformed by the power of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Our vision comes from our calling...

We are called to encourage belonging, and nurture believing, so that we may all become followers of Jesus who share God's love for the world.

'Jesus was a guest at a wedding in Cana in Galilee'.

The words, familiar from the Wedding Service, come from a story near the beginning of John's Gospel. (John 2.1 – 11) This story is the inspiration for our transforming vision.

Jesus was with his disciples and with his mother, at the wedding of an ordinary couple in a little mountain village. As today, it was a special moment of celebration for family and friends. Embarrassment and disappointment loomed when the wine ran out. How can you celebrate without wine?

On one level Jesus' action in quietly turning water into wine was simple kindness. He saved the day for those he was with.

But for the Gospel writer, this 'sign' (verse 11) is the key to God's purposes through Jesus. He says it was the 'first' of Jesus' signs. The Greek word means, not just the first miracle in his gospel, but the 'ruling' one through which we can understand them all.

It is a story of total transformation. The most ordinary substance of all – water – is **transformed** into wine of the finest quality in the most abundant quantity. It is a sign of what God is doing for us in Christ – and what he is doing for the whole creation. This is the good news we treasure at Seasalter.

Through **belonging, believing, becoming** at St Alphege, Seasalter, we can indeed see our lives, our town and our world being **transformed** by the power of God's love in Jesus Christ.

We would love you to join us
on this extraordinary journey.

Our story and the values we share

In recent times, God has led his people at Seasalter on a surprising and delightful journey of movement and growth.

From the tiny Old Church on Church Lane, Seasalter congregations have moved through Joy Lane School, Seasalter Women's Institute Hall and Seasalter Free Church.

The church's sense that God was calling it to keep the vision for growth and to take steps of faith led to the opening of Seasalter Christian Centre in 2007.

Many great lessons were learned along the way – some of these were captured in the church's purpose statement and its list of values. **These are our sense of 'what God is doing here' and of the transforming life of Christ in us.**

Our Purpose

We are called to make Disciples of Christ and grow the church of God

Our Values

All involved - *Everyone playing their part*

Bearing witness - *Telling the Christian story*

Creating community - *Loving and belonging*

Deepening discipleship - *Following Jesus, becoming like him*

Encountering God - *Experiencing his presence*

Finding friendship: fun and food - *Laughing and sharing*

Giving generously - *Giving with gladness*

These words and phrases might give you a sense of what we're about – the church we believe God is calling us to be.

Congregations and small groups

Seasalter is **one** church, presently with **five** congregations and a network of small groups.

Each of our congregations is **different**, with different people and different styles. We rejoice in our difference, because there is a place for everyone. But we also rejoice in our **unity** – we are one family in Christ, with the same vision and values.

We call our small groups **cells**. They meet at various times and places during the week. Cells carry the same 'DNA' as the congregations – they have the same vision and values.

You could say that the Body of Christ at Seasalter is made up of small cells which go to make up the larger congregations, which make the whole church. **Cells make up the Body.**

You can be on the **belonging, believing, becoming** journey at Seasalter through being part of a cell or a congregation. Or, best of all, both!

Our prayer is that God will grow his church. This means we feel called to start new congregations, and new cells.

A prayer for growth

God our Father,
you grow your Church
as we proclaim the Kingdom of your Son.
Increase in number your Church at Seasalter
as you deepen us as followers and learners of
Christ,
in the power of your Spirit,
to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Encouraging Belonging

(John 13.34)

We are called to be an inclusive church. A diverse, cross generational community gathered around Jesus Christ, without boundaries or distinctions is a thrilling thing to be part of.

Helping each other **belong** is crucial for us. 'We don't just want to be a friendly church – we want to be a church where you can make friends.'

Nurturing Believing

(John 8.32)

We are called to help and encourage each other on the journey of life and of faith. **Cells and Nurture groups** of various kinds help us to do this.

At Seasalter we often learn from children, are inspired by young people and are encouraged by those who are older. We want to help each other to live for God's Kingdom in the whole of life – so that we and our communities are transformed.

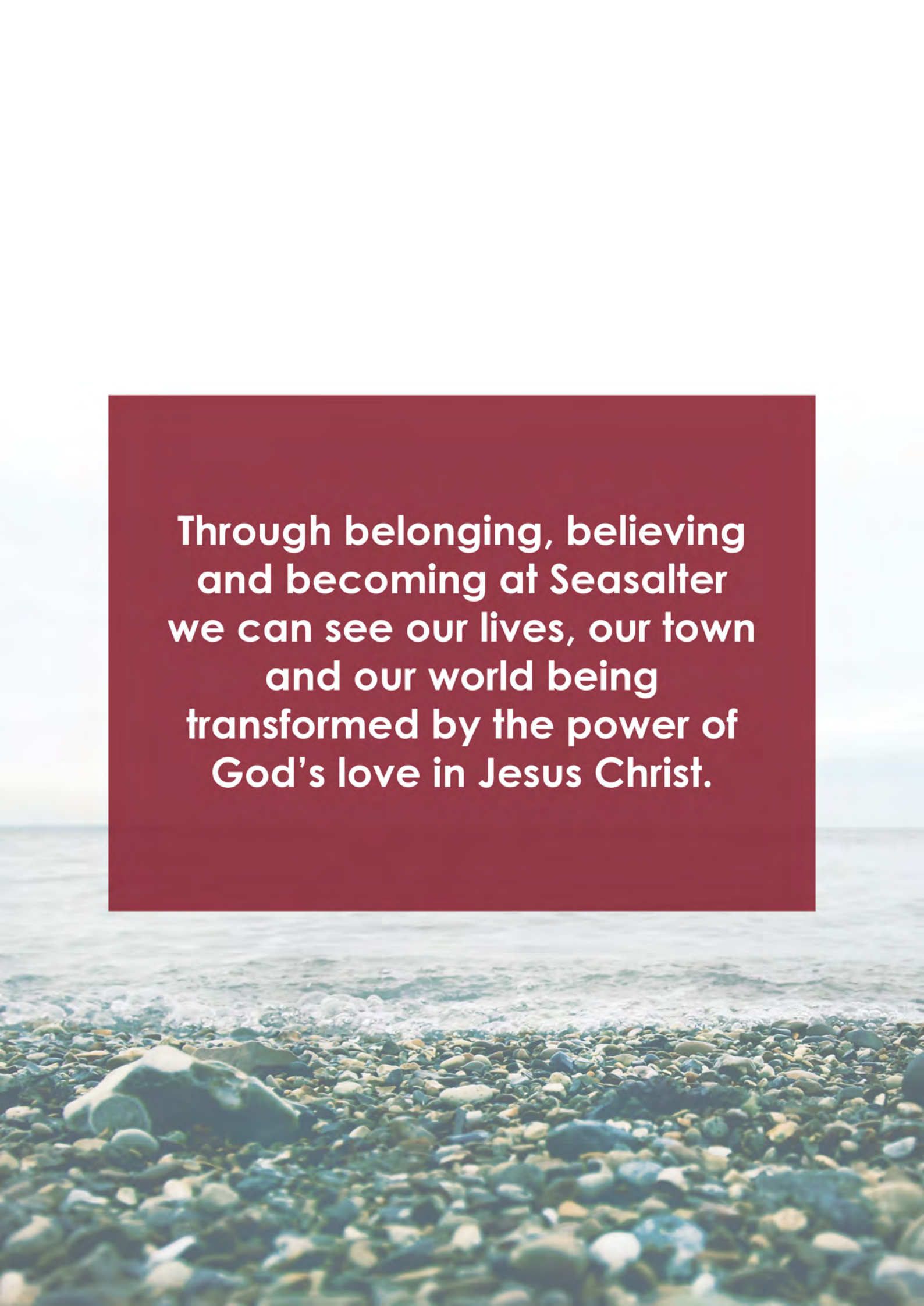
Everyone Becoming

(John 15.8)

We are called to become followers of Jesus who in turn are helping others to become his followers.

So we want to grow in **character** as the confident, loving, serving and whole people God wants us to be.

We are committed to allowing God to lead our church so that together we 'become' a sign and servant of his transforming Kingdom.

A photograph of a rocky beach with waves crashing against the shore. The foreground is filled with smooth, multi-colored pebbles in shades of blue, green, and yellow. The ocean waves are white and frothy as they break onto the shore. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. A large, dark red rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text.

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and becoming at Seasalter
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We feel God is leading us to...

Nurture Children and Young People

We delight in being a church of all ages, in which children and young people are fully part of the church – and sometimes ahead of the rest of us.

We reach out to many children and families and consider it a privilege to serve our local school.

Being a safe church is of first importance. As we seek to expand our teams supporting our children and young people, we offer support, encouragement and training.

We feel God is leading us to...

Embrace the Third Age

The 'active retired and above' play a special role in our intergenerational church.

As we ourselves grow older on our own 'belonging, believing, becoming' journey, we have so much to share. We wish to honour the wisdom and experience of the older generations, and are developing our ministry in this area.

We feel God is leading us to...

Support God's people near and far away

Through our 'Closer to Home' ministry we offer support to ministries locally, nationally and globally.

As a church we continually experience God's generosity through his people. Now we want to be part of God's transforming work by offering friendship and prayer for our mission partners, through generosity and by visiting them.

We feel God is leading us to...

Grow the church and serve God's Kingdom in our town and locality

This means we feel called to plant new congregations and to support other churches in Whitstable. We are committed to various community ministries.

Our aim is to work with the whole church in our town and our diocese to be signs of God's Kingdom.

We feel God is leading us to...

Be a hub for wholeness and healing

We are actively exploring our part in Christ's own healing ministry. We feel called to share this ministry within and beyond our own church family. We regularly offer opportunities for healing prayer during our services.

Address:

Seasalter Christian Centre
Faversham Road
Whitstable
CT5 4AX

The Old Church is found on Church Lane.

Phone:

01227 276923

Email:

seasalterchristiancentre@yahoo.co.uk



for more information visit
stalphegeseasalter.org



St Alphege, Seasalter