


What if we could share our knowledge, support one another, learn from each other's experiences and discover opportunities that might be difficult to pursue alone?

What if working together could make our churches stronger, more confident and better equipped to serve their communities?

That is the possibility we are beginning to explore. And we would love every church to be part of it.

**WHAT IF BEING PART OF THE REDDITCH MISSION AREA COULD MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE LIFE AND MISSION OF YOUR CHURCH?**

## SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE REDDITCH MISSION AREA?

It's a fair question. In fact, it's one that has been asked quite a lot!

The Redditch Mission Area (RMA) brings together twelve churches across Greater Redditch, each with its own identity, traditions, gifts and community.

**Our shared vision is:**

**Facilitating, Enabling, Sharing in God's Mission across Greater Redditch.**

The vision itself is not new, but we have recognised that, somewhere along the way, what the RMA actually is, what it does and how it benefits our churches has become unclear. There have been some wonderful shared initiatives, including the Christmas Toy Appeal and Bags of Hope, which have made a difference to the people who have accessed them. and we are grateful for the people who have worked hard to make these happen. But we have also heard that many churches have struggled to see how the RMA supports their own ministry and mission, some have felt disconnected from decisions, while others have wondered whether the RMA is simply another organisation asking for volunteers, money or time. We need to be honest about that.

The RMA should not be something separate from our churches that we are asked to support. Our twelve churches are the RMA, and it is this understanding that is at the heart of an important new chapter.

## PUTTING OUR CHURCHES AT THE HEART OF THE RMA

Following a review of the Mission Area's first year, a Steering Group was established in July 2026, bringing together representatives from across our twelve churches.

Its purpose is straightforward but important: to give local churches a genuine voice in shaping the future of the RMA. The group has now met three times, moving from listening honestly to people's experiences, through exploring what kind of Mission Area we want to become, towards identifying practical ways forward. Our discussions have been open, sometimes challenging, but increasingly hopeful where despite our different traditions, sizes and communities, **we have discovered that we share many of the same hopes: churches that are welcoming, growing in faith, connected to their communities and making a difference in people's lives.** We also share many of the same challenges. We may not always have enough volunteers, time, money, expertise or confidence to do everything we would like.

**But perhaps we have more between us than we realise.**

Imagine your church wants to develop children's ministry but doesn't know where to begin. Another church may already have experience, resources and people willing to help. Perhaps your church is struggling with a building project, a grant application, technology or administration. Someone in another church may have already navigated the same challenge. Or perhaps your church has developed something wonderful that could inspire others.

**This is what we want the RMA to become: a network of churches that connect, encourage, equip and support one another. It might mean sharing resources and expertise, offering training, supporting volunteers, learning from successful projects or exploring new opportunities for mission together.**

And it doesn't mean all twelve churches must do everything together. Sometimes collaboration between just two or three churches will be exactly what is needed.

**The aim is not to make all our churches the same. It is to help each church flourish in the community God has called it to serve.**

### YOUR CHURCH HAS A VOICE

The Steering Group is not intended to make decisions in isolation, the vision is for representatives to listen to their churches, bring their ideas and concerns into the conversation, and share what is happening across the Mission Area. This will then inform the group to shape priorities and recommend ways forward, working alongside RMA staff and trustees, who retain responsibility for governance and financial decisions.

**Your Steering Group representatives**

**The Bridge, Headless Cross** Rev Kay Dyer
**Christ Church, Matchborough** Rev Ian Evans
**St Bartholomew's, Tardiebigge** Vacant
**St John the Baptist, Feckenham**Tony Mortimer
**St John the Evangelist, Greenlands**Reg Moore
**St Laurence, Alvechurch** Susan Lambert
**St Leonard's, Beoley** Phil Mitchell
**St Mary's, Lower Bentley** Revd Sarah Jayne
**St Matthias and St George, Astwood Bank** Colin Robertson
**St Peter's, Crabbs Cross** Di Mowatt
**St Peter's, Ipsley** Paul Sherwin
**St Philip's, Webheath** Anita Stronach
**St Stephen's, Redditch** Rhiannon Walpole

We have only had three meetings, so we haven't solved everything, we recognise that trust, relationships and meaningful collaboration take time, and we will need to demonstrate that this approach makes a real difference. But there is a growing sense that something worthwhile is beginning. **We have twelve churches, each with its own gifts, people, experience and opportunities. Imagine what might become possible if we were better connected, more confident in asking for help, and more generous in sharing what we have.**

This is about strengthening our local churches and enabling God's mission in our communities. The RMA belongs to our churches, we are the RMA, so **its future is something we can shape together, and that really is something worth being part of.**