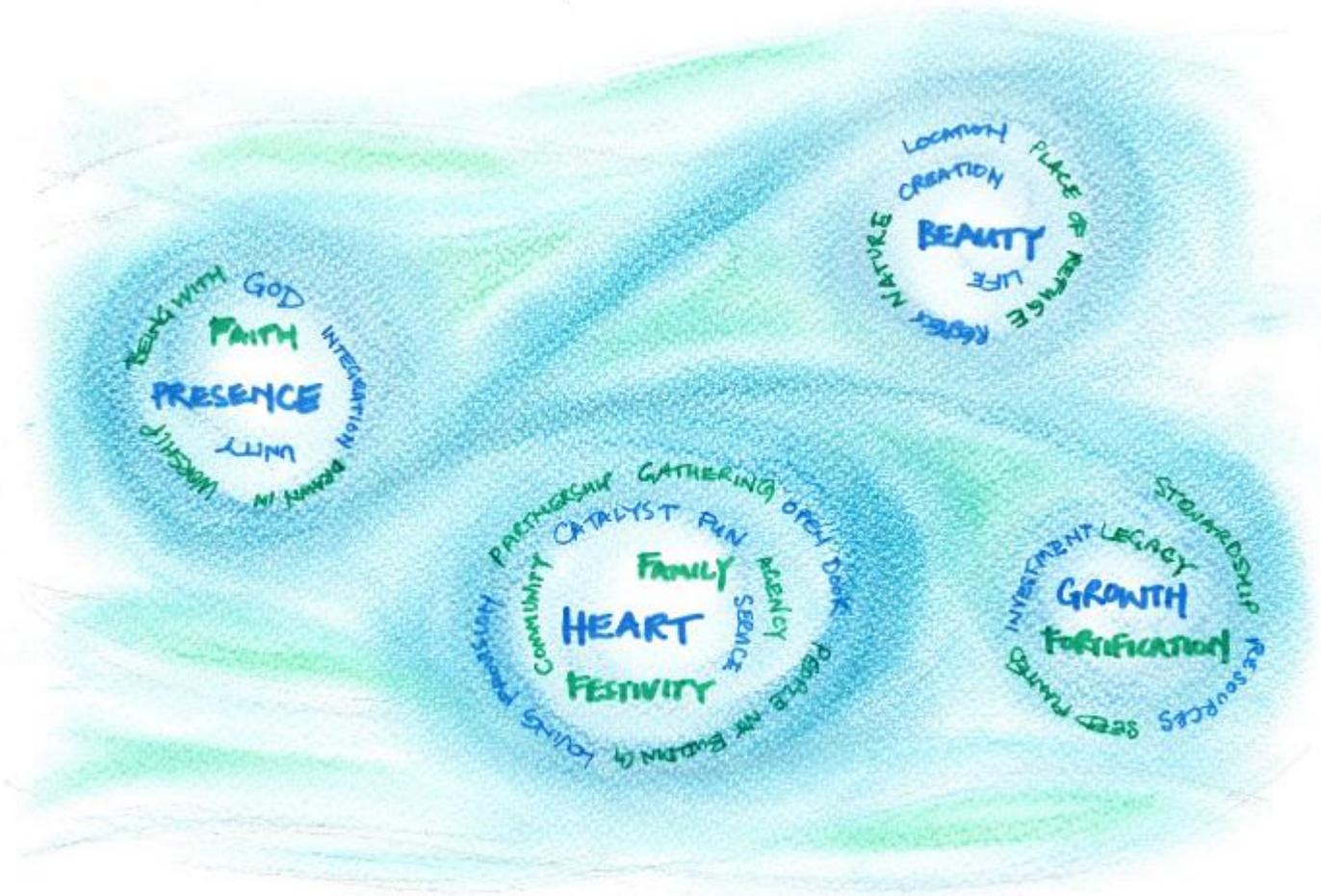




## Vision

Below are a series of values and principles which underpin the vision for the development. **Essentially these form the 'why' of the development.** The following diagram represents these in visual form.



**Presence:** St Leonard's Church has been an active Christian presence in the community of Chesham Bois for over 800 years. For centuries the church's presence has been expressed through personal and communal worship, multi-faceted outreach to young and old, support for those more vulnerable within the local community and in celebrating the beauty of creation in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Chilterns.



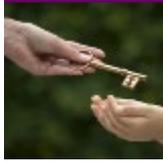
**Rhythm of Life:** Over such a long period, change and transformation are inevitable and welcomed. It is important for each new generation to consider visionary ways that this rhythm of life can continue to be expressed and be of relevance and impact. It is vital to plan for organic growth and development as the needs of the church and community evolve.



**Beauty:** Creation and nature provide endless sources of inspiration and, in modern, busy culture, give opportunity for personal renewal, refuge and restoration. We have a responsibility to care for our natural and built surroundings and live by environmentally sound principles. St Leonard's are respectful of the location of their current Parish Centre and see the natural woodland settings as a springboard for the design and a vital reference.



**Legacy:** St Leonard's value good stewardship of resources. Over 800 years, quite a legacy is built! As a church community, we are benefitting now from visionary seeds planted many years ago, and in the same way we are looking to sow seeds for the future to continue that legacy.



**Investment:** Each generation of the church is responsible for investing the resources they have received, and those they can generate, to continue to provide wisely in the present and courageously for the future. This way, generations beyond them will receive from that investment and have a strong platform from which to serve.



**Catalyst:** The local Christian church is an 'agency' of people, actively moving together to make a positive difference physically and spiritually. This catalytic role means that voluntary membership and service, partnership working, integrated and united activity, and genuine loving care and concern are at the heart of the way the church functions.



**Open Door:** The church is a welcoming community, and the Christian faith is open to all ages, genders, races and cultures. How that welcome is expressed, and how accessible and relevant the church is to the people around it, is an ongoing challenge and opportunity. The design of the new facilities seeks to express this open invitation for the community to participate.



**Family:** Essentially church is a family – it is the people not the building. Therefore the needs and desires of each part of that family have to be considered for it to be healthy and whole – young, old, married, single, working, dependant, hurting, happy, grieving and lonely – whatever age, stage and state a person is in, the church is a place where these needs can be honestly expressed and supportively met.



**Fun:** Regular gatherings of all kinds provide the glue that holds churches and communities together. Far from holding conventional 'religious' events, purely for the sake of tradition, St. Leonard's value fun and creativity, festivity and celebration and fresh cultural expressions, whilst also recognising the depth and meaning in more traditional expressions of worship.

The St Leonard's church community are hoping for two positive outcomes from this development:

- Firstly, **to enable the faith community to express its common life more fully;**
- And secondly, **to bless the community more.**

The vision of the Diocese of Oxford is to be a **Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous** church in the area. We believe this development is part of enabling this area vision, in a locally relevant way:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/towards-a-common-vision/>

The woodland setting provides both beauty and safety, and an invitation towards more rest and reflection. We believe the increased space and purpose-built facilities will give an opportunity for the church and community to flourish.