

St. John's Mission Action Plan 2008

It is crucial for us to consider some key goals in the area of local mission (i.e. in Horsham) for the 12 months following our AGM in March.

There are a number of reasons for doing so:

1. Evangelism is one of our five core purposes.
2. Evangelism easily slips off the agenda.
3. We need to generate momentum in this area for the year ahead.
4. The diocese is asking each church for a Mission Action Plan in June.
5. There is a nationwide mission campaign in 2008 called Hope 08.
6. We worship a Missionary God who loves us to be passionate about local mission.

On 1st March, members of the Leadership Team and Church Committee spent a day discussing mission goals in ten different areas of church life. This document aims to communicate these goals to the wider church so that we can embrace these goals as a church and pray for God's help in fulfilling them.

The ten areas of church life considered are as follows:

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Social Activities

Our Mission:

Making Friendships Count.

Our Vision:

To help and encourage everyone at St John's to feel supported in organising non-threatening events; and able and comfortable to invite others to organised social activities.

Key Bible Verses:

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47.

Goals:

- Gain the benefit of previous experience in organising any activity.
- Equip and encourage people to hold events e.g. shared lunch termly; quiz night annually; beach trip in the summer; church camp BBQ/entertainments; spring theatre/concert trip.
- Have a wide variety of events on offer to appeal to a diversity of people.
- For people to want to attend activities and look forward to going.
- For events to have a simple format.
- For follow-up to be available (whether talking through what happened with a friend, or more formally through invitations to seeker events).
- To evaluate the activity and get feedback informally.
- Repeat successful events.
- Quality publicity to give to people

Services and Welcoming

Our Mission:

To facilitate worship which is accessible, engaging and inspiring.

Our Vision:

We want to be an Anglican church where all who come will meet with God, find a warm welcome from glad and sincere people and will be able to grow in their faith from whatever stage they find themselves. Through our worship, we want to help people to respond to all that God is with all that we are, and be inspired to develop worship as a lifestyle.

Key Bible Verses:

"Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts praising God and enjoying the favour of all people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47

Goals for Welcoming and Preparation

- Raise the profile of praying for the services.
- Ensure that new people are noticed, welcomed, befriended and receive a welcome pack.
- Welcome pack to be clear, brief and easily updated (short print run).
- Visitors need to be comfortable and know what's expected of them.
- Give permission to visitors not to have to do actions during songs.
- Important for those inviting visitors (and for the visitors) that services are "safe" and relatively predictable in terms of timing and approach.
- Review what envisioning and training is required for Welcoming Team.

Goals for Services at 9.00am

- **Gather a small team of regulars to consider what changes may be right to develop the service, whilst retaining its special characteristics.**
- Improve use of microphones/loop etc. for hard of hearing.

Goals for Services at 10.30am

- Consider having a "service leader" to lead and guide service who is not music leader or preacher, provide integration, continuity etc.
- Recommend "team" approach for all services to work with Ewen.
- Aim to be disciplined about length of services and period that children are in groups so leaders are clear when to return and church is ready to receive them back.
- Recommend we tailor content to specific congregations.
- Review use of overheads/sheets etc.
- Experiment with the music group on the west side and screen on the east side using a more powerful projector.
- Review the need for PA training and PA upgrades (e.g. radio microphones).
- **Raise the profile of praying for services**

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Our Mission:

To use the fantastic opportunities we have as an Anglican church to sow seeds of faith in the lives of people who come to us for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Our Vision:

We want to be a church where those who come for these services find a warm welcome, appropriate challenge and effective encouragement to develop Christian faith so that all of them may be brought closer to Jesus as a result of their interaction with St. John's.

Key Bible Verse:

"Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15

Goals:

Baptisms:

- To maximise the contact we have with baptism families through the following pattern:
- Initial conversation with vicar; first visit from lay person; visit from vicar with invitation to family service; family service; letter before baptism; baptism; follow-up visit and/or invitation to vicarage; personal invitation to carol service or other appropriate occasion.
- Make this process clear on our website.
- Recruit and envision new baptism visitors

Weddings:

- Marriage preparation sessions.
- Invitation to banns reading; phone call before banns reading.
- Follow-up call after honeymoon.
- Invitation to carol service or other occasion where appropriate.

Funerals:

- Visit before funeral and then follow-up visit after funeral with recommendation of next steps.
- Invitation to memorial service at All Souls' Tide (close to 1 November).
- Invitation to carol service where appropriate.

Enquirers and Newcomers

Our Mission:

To provide easy and straightforward steps for spiritual enquirers to develop their Christian faith and become an integral part of St. John's.

Our Vision:

For St. John's to be a church where every newcomer is made to feel at home, is easily able to see how they can grow in their faith and is helped to become an active member of the church family.

Key Bible Verses:

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."
Ephesians 4:11-13

Goals:

- Termly guests services: Christmas/Easter/Harvest.
- Regular enquirers courses: e.g. Alpha, Journeys, Y Course.
- Meals for newcomers at the vicarage.
- Vision and values course offered to newcomers.
- Nurture courses offered: e.g. Marriage/Parenting/Freedom in Christ/Ordinary Day with Jesus.

Women's Ministry

Our Mission:

To encourage women in their relationships with other women and with Christ so that they are built up in their faith and spiritual maturity.

Our Vision:

To encourage women to pursue and become all that they are meant to be in Christ so that they can demonstrate how great God is and in turn encourage their friends, families and neighbours to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

Key Bible Verse:

"It is Christ whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Colossians 1:28

Goals

- One outreach session per term included in the Tuesday at Ten programme where the focus is serving others. In the past we have:
 - Taken the old people out for coffee.
 - Entertained QEII children at the farm for a day.
 - Helped at the Toddler Carol Service.
- One women's social per term planned specifically for women to invite their non-Christian friends to.
- One Times of Refreshing per term open to non-Christian women.
- Explore a possible link between QEII school and Tuesday at Ten. The intention is to form a support group to provide prayer and small acts of service e.g. baking cakes for staff meetings etc.
- Running a daytime Alpha Course when the need arises.

Men's Ministry

Our Mission:

To understand God's heart and purpose for us as men and to so fully live out that purpose that we become a band of men that others want to belong to.

Our Vision (expanded for 2008):

To be a group of men who are becoming like Christ, fulfilling all that God wants us to be so that we can lead others by example, actions and servanthood and into a personal relationship with Christ. Providing a space where men can share and discuss issues relevant to our Christian lives as men, to receive thought provoking teaching and to help us become companions on the challenging adventure that is our journey of faith.

Note: Our vision is essentially a response to three prophetic pictures – one of an army being prepared and equipped; one of a one winged bird; and the recurring vision of a lighthouse – we need a strong light to follow, and to be a strong light for others.

Key Bible verse:

"This is the way. Walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

Goals:

1. Re-examine our vision so that we can embrace this with new energy and see what fresh vision God wants to give us.
2. Strengthen our leadership team so that we can fulfil our vision and MAP, and so that the ministry can continue to progress when Ewen and Michael are away.
3. Increase the number of discipleship groups to fulfil the vision of community being built both as a large group and small groups.
4. Encourage our passion for outreach so that we are prepared to make the sacrifices of time and effort required to fulfil our outreach plans.
5. Find out what men on the periphery of church community would like to come to.
6. In the light of this information, run regular socials for men to which we can invite friends outside the church or men on the fringe of church.
7. Produce better publicity to give to friends e.g. printed activity cards for the year; printed invitations for social events.
8. Invite baptismal dads etc. to events in near future.
9. Explore the possibility of weekly sport together e.g. football or volleyball.
10. Explore the idea of a session on struggles with friendship evangelism and what to do about it.
11. Continue teaching on struggles with spiritual growth and exploring what to do about it.
12. Do a joint event with the ladies ministry.
13. Institute some "inspirations events", spiritual input but at a lower entry level to form a bridge between the social and regular events.
14. Investigate linking up with other churches.
15. Build on the wild at heart principles, particularly living the adventure.
16. Involve youth.

MAP coordinators, Dan and Michael.

Children and Youth

Our Mission:

To support families in encouraging young people to **ACT**:

Accept Jesus

Continue following Jesus

Tell others about Jesus

Our Vision:

We want to provide an opportunity for young people to explore the Christian faith, to be nurtured in their faith and to encourage them to support themselves and each other as they live out their faith, in a fun, friendly and safe environment.

We want to see the young people bearing fruit;

Apply Biblical knowledge to their lives

Praise

Prepare them to talk about Jesus to their friends

Learn about and use their spiritual gifts

Encourage them in their friendships

Key Bible Verse

"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest seed you plant in the garden. But when planted, this seed grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants. It produces large branches, and the wild birds can make nests in its shade." Mark 4: 31-32

Goals:

- **Sundays** – "to be the best hour of every young person's week": Jesus says, "Let the little children come unto me." We want to provide our children with a dynamic and exciting program that they will adore coming to and as a result will invite their friends to join them. We want to provide a fun, safe and child-targeted environment, where the Bible is taught creatively with the opportunity to apply it to their lives. There will be occasional "Special Sundays" with a special focus to provide them with the opportunity of inviting their friends.
- **Holiday Club:** a lively and fun event during the summer holidays to allow more contact with un-churched families in the local area. Links with Shelley School would be developed to help publicise the club.
- **Socials.** Some examples of social activities:
 - Drama or Choir for special occasions
 - A Games event in the summer
 - Film nights (Oct 31st, near Easter)
- **Youth Group:** We will explore ways of providing a low key social environment for young people in the community.
- **Assemblies:** The vicar will continue to do monthly assemblies at the two primary schools in our pastoral area – Shelley and Arunside.
- **Toddler Group**

Pastoral Care and the Elderly

Our Mission:

Becoming people who have found such wholeness in Christ that others will be desperate to find what we have received.

Our Vision:

To see people in need so loved and cared for that they cannot escape being impacted by God's love for them through the people of St. John's, and so be encouraged to develop their own faith in Jesus Christ as a means of receiving ongoing healing.

Key Bible Verse:

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Goals:

- Whole church to be aware of people in need who could be helped in a sustainable way and communicate this to PLT.
- Awareness of people who could be helped by HCT initiatives and provide referrals (eg debt/pregnancy).
- Home groups encouraged to have an outward focus – eg termly meals or other social events to invite friends to.
- Vicar to talk to Tea and Fellowship in the summer and at Christmas (with invitation to carol services).
- Increase the numbers attending Wednesday communion service and Tea and Fellowship through personal invitations.
- Offer practical help where appropriate as home groups e.g. meals /DIY /furniture/transport.
- Participate in the Let's Go Mission in May, including helping with practical projects in the community.

The Space Project

Our Mission:

The Space Project is a church-based arts project with a particular focus on drama and live theatre. The project aims to encourage and develop the vigorous artistic expression of our congregation, to share the fruits of this with the wider community in an accessible and compelling way and so foster a desire to engage further with the Christian faith.

Our Vision:

the space we share...the space within...the space beyond

The Space We Share: Looking outwards into the local community we want to make the best possible use of our magnificent facilities in the heart of the community as both a dynamic performance space and lively meeting place for the village and beyond, sharing laughter, silence and a deeper awareness of our common humanity loved and redeemed by Christ.

The Space Within: Pointing inwards we want to use the arts to help ordinary folk to recover a sense of that infinite interior landscape and limitless creativity we all have as people made in God's image.

The Space Beyond: Drawing us upwards to God, the source of all life and creativity, we want to use the arts to reflect and celebrate His transcendent mystery.

Key Bible Verse:

"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world." Matthew 5:14
(The Message)

Goals:

- Continue to meet weekly to develop fellowship, faith, and creativity.
- Plan, rehearse and present monthly all-age services until July to which guests can be invited.
- Rehearse and present cabaret/revue for arts festival celebrating the new hall in October.
- Organise a retreat in November to develop clearer vision for longer term future.
- Develop key skills such as devising and script writing through appropriate courses.
- Find funding for the longer term and develop technical facilities such as lighting.
- Take shows/workshops to community venues such as schools and/or prisons and other Christian congregations.

Communications

Our Mission:

To communicate information clearly and effectively so that guests know where and when to come and what to expect when they get there.

Our Vision:

To communicate information about church events in a way which captures people's interest and imagination and motivates them to participate.

Key Bible Verse:

"God is a God not of disorder but of peace." 1 Corinthians 14:33

Goals

- Complete church website. Monthly updates and photos
- Projection of notices before services begin.
- Special attention given to notices for important events.
- Welcome Pack materials.
- Develop e-letters further e.g. covering importance of friendship evangelism.
- Replace crucifix with striking piece of art.
- Develop church noticeboard areas.
- MAP presentation to church and diocese.
- Facilitate good patterns of communication between ministry leaders to achieve effective implementation of the MAP.
- Complete the New Church Hall and recruit a Hall Management Team which will ensure that our new hall communicates a powerful message of good news and hope to our locality.

GENERAL ACTION POINTS:

- Continue coffee between services after summer.
- Organise a Welcome Pack with ST with info on home groups/serving.
- Consider Friendship Evangelism challenges in Horsham.
- Consider blog on website which is youth-friendly.
- Consider explanation of single sex ministry e.g. transparency; helpful for those with pre-Christian spouses.
- Generation of more invitations for more events.
- Leadership Team to e-mail the rest of team with their plans in between meetings.