

St Mary's Linton: Mission Action Plan

Being Church in the Community and being Community in the Church

'Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own (see Philippians 2:4). The question, therefore, is not "How can we make community?" but "How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?" (Henri Nouwen).

Background and Preamble

This Mission Action Plan seeks to build upon the Vision Statement adopted by the PCC during the interregnum of 2014/15, 'Being Church in the Community and being Community in the Church'. Its development began during the summer of 2016 when members of St Mary's met together in groups to consider 4 'Levers for Change' (as suggested by the Ely Diocesan strategy, *People Fully Alive*):

1. Nurturing a confident people of God
2. Developing a healthy church and leaders within it
3. Serving the Community
4. Re-Imagining our buildings

Each topic was tackled by a group led by a PCC member, and came up with a list of suggestions of things we might fruitfully consider doing in that area. These ideas were then presented to members of the regular congregations of the church for their comments about desirability, priorities and possibilities. Around the same time, members of our Junior Church were consulted about changes they would like to see within the church, and in particular, its worship.

In mid-November 2016, members of the PCC had a day away together to consider the ideas and the responses they elicited. The day was structured through a set of questions which derive from our original vision statement and from a fundamental idea of Christian Mission i.e. being sent to the world to make Christ and the Gospel of his Kingdom known in word and deed, so that both communities and individual lives may be transformed by his Spirit. These questions now form the *aims* of our Mission Action Plan:

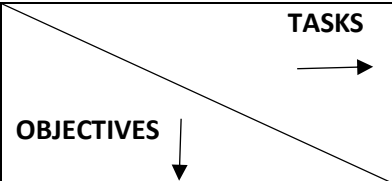

AIMS To share the experience of Christian faith and community with others;

To grow our Christian faith and community together, through worship, learning, prayer and fellowship;

To help the community of St Mary's to be an active and serving presence in the wider communities (village, Team, Deanery, Diocese, local area, the world) in which we are set;

To identify people's gifts, encouraging one another, and equipping members of the community to share, grow and serve the good news of the kingdom.

The **OBJECTIVES** below, informed by the 'Levers', seek to begin to realise these four aims through a set of tasks which attempt to be both achievable and realistic.

OBJECTIVES 	TASKS 	WHAT will be involved?	What are the RESOURCE implications?
1. To train people in discernment of skills, gifts and ministry		A process to encourage discernment and use of gifts.	Possible payment if outside facilitator is required.
2. To DE-CLUTTER the CHURCH BUILDING and improve the MUSIC AREA		A process to simplify and enhance the beauty of the church building, removing unnecessary clutter and providing appropriate storage for essential items.	Look at storage in general. Possible purchase of a shed or other facility (planning permission?) to store necessary items used only occasionally.
3. To facilitate SPIRITUAL GROWTH	Continue to organise Lent/Advent courses, promote existing groups and set up Home Groups (Team wide). Develop area in church as a place of prayer and reflection. Liaise with other churches (team and village) over possible joint activities such as prayer groups.		Some financial implications
4. To raise the profile of JUSTICE, PEACE and the INTEGRITY OF CREATION	Finish and maintain the Peace Garden (could become part of Quiet Gardens Movement). Set up Group for Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation. Explore membership of organisations such as Inclusive Church, Christians in Poverty, Eco-Congregation.		Significant financial input still needed Some possible fees

<p>5. To improve COMMUNICATION (within congregations and across wider community)</p>	<p>Appoint a Communications Team with an active chair.</p> <p>Consider ways to advertise children’s and family services and activities more effectively.</p> <p>Develop links across the 5 parishes.</p> <p>Review, expand (and rename) the pewsheets, distributing more widely.</p> <p>Identify enough volunteers to re-establish a church magazine.</p> <p>Develop (team) website and other online media and ensure kept up to date.</p> <p>Build up and advertise the directory of activities undertaken at St Mary’s.</p> <p>Review noticeboards and literature in church and ensure displays are more attractive and kept up to date and portray a clear message about who we are and what we’re about.</p>	<p>Possible resources needed</p> <p>Possible resources needed</p> <p>Hosting fees</p> <p>Cost of new noticeboards</p>
<p>6. To develop ministries with CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE and FAMILIES</p>	<p>Consider whether to appoint someone to act as formal liaison across work with children and families.</p> <p>Explore possible training needs in children’s ministry.</p> <p>Continue support of Beacon Trust.</p> <p>Develop Godly Play.</p>	
<p>7. To enhance HOSPITALITY</p>	<p>Nurture team social activities.</p> <p>Ensure a warm welcome is given to visitors, newcomers and each other, including resurrection of welcome lunches.</p> <p>Make entrance through north porch more welcoming and informative.</p> <p>Re-configure space in boiler cupboard to enable refreshments to be served in church more easily, beginning with plans drawn up in 2010.</p>	<p>Some financial costs</p> <p>Significant financial implications</p>