

# Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan

**Name of Charge/s** Greyfriars Church, Kirkcudbright

**Name of Facilitator** John Stevenson

**MAP Completed** 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2013



**Strategic intent is growth**

## Stage 1: Why are we going for Growth?

<p><b>Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>your Church as God would see it</i></li> <li>- <i>where God has been, and is, at work in the community and in church</i></li> <li>- <i>what needs to be retained or relinquished</i></li> </ul>	<p>What came across very strikingly was members' involvement with other churches in seeking to enhance the life of the community. This was clearly fun as well as practical and spiritual.</p> <p>It was abundantly obvious at the first meeting with the Facilitator that this was a group who care deeply about their church and community, and who have been actively involved in thinking about themselves and analysing what they do – and why.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be desirable for the growth strategy to be completed before the Rector retired. It was therefore suggested that the process should take no more than three years.</p>
<p><b>Check:</b> <i>understanding of each strand</i></p>	<p>It was clear from preparatory work done before the Facilitator arrived that the Vestry had been considering each strand very carefully</p>
<p><b>Appraise, affirm and celebrate:</b> <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p>	<p><b><u>Prayer &amp; Spirituality</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular liturgy seen as a strength</li> <li>2. Intercessory prayer being developed</li> <li>3. Desire to fit liturgy to contemporary culture</li> <li>4. Desire to find time for prayer together before or after worship</li> <li>5. Opportunities for quiet days</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Learning &amp; Discipleship</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Intercessors being trained</li> <li>2. Two worship leaders being trained</li> <li>3. Developing relations with sister congregation at Gatehouse</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Missional Leadership</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Virtually every member has a particular responsibility, so seeing themselves as participant parts of the whole, responsible with Rector and vestry for the missional life of the charge</li> </ol>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Widening lay involvement in worship</li> <li>3. Sharing Greyfriars House with community organisations</li> <li>4. Using the church itself for art exhibitions, etc., thus participating in the life of the community</li> <li>5. Very strong diet of ecumenical activities, ranging from fun activities to shared worship and community service (eg lunches)</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Numerical Growth</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New notice board flags up Anglican identity</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Imaginative outreach into communities</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Church open daily during the summer – and visited by locals as well as by visitors</li> <li>2. Fairtrade</li> <li>3. Provision of toys for needy children in the local area</li> <li>4. Harvest giving to overseas projects</li> <li>5. Link with St. Michael's Secondary Girls School in Upper Shire, Malawi – a link shared with St Mary's Gatehouse, and in existence for two years.</li> <li>6. Church and Greyfriars House both used for cultural activities – art and music, etc.</li> <li>7. Working with other churches in the area on a regular basis:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Churches together initiative</li> <li>b. Harvest &amp; Christmas meals</li> <li>c. Winter Wonderland</li> <li>d. Shared worship at significant times in the church year</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b><u>Children &amp; Young People</u></b></p>
<p><b>Assess:</b>  <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we suffer from the following weaknesses....</i></p>	<p><b><u>Prayer &amp; Spirituality</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concern that newcomers might find liturgy difficult to penetrate</li> <li>2. Lack of time for prayer together (dispersed congregation)</li> <li>3. Concerned about “old-fashioned” hymns</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Learning &amp; Discipleship</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No current study groups</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Missional Leadership</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Little social time as a congregation – so many live outside the town</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Numerical Growth</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Imaginative outreach into communities</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Children &amp; Young People</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No young people attend at present</li> </ol>



<p><b>Investigate:</b>  <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>Note: many wish to get involved in exploring what and why things are done, and to grow spiritually</p> <p><b><u>Prayer &amp; Spirituality</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Desire to learn new hymns – John Bell’s hymns well regarded</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Learning &amp; Discipleship</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Desire to review all activities – church or social club?</li> <li>2. Desire for teaching on developing discernment of the godhead (the “mysterium tremendum”) as part of daily life – perhaps by looking at how Paul taught this in his letters to the early church</li> <li>3. Desire to learn about the different forms of spirituality</li> <li>4. Possibly start an art and prayer workshop to stimulate ideas to introduce more creativity in worship</li> <li>5. Develop current monthly joint services with Gatehouse so that there is some reflection of the identity of each as well as our commitment to each other.</li> <li>6. Learning about conservation, green issues and issues of social justice – so that we can engage prayerfully and perhaps in small practical ways</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Missional Leadership</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Greyfriars House as well as church itself could be used more for exhibitions</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Numerical Growth</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of welcoming teams</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Imaginative outreach into communities</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore how to develop our welcome during daily opening of church during the summer</li> <li>2. Explore further areas in which we could work together with other local churches to the benefit of the community</li> <li>3. Regularly support an overseas mission (not just in giving money, but with prayer support, engagement with their joys and challenges). For example, a couple of people have mentioned St Andrews Teacher Training College in Paraguay as a possible mission to link with.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Children &amp; Young People</u></b></p>
<p><b>Communicate:</b>  <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p>	<p>The Facilitator will be invited to preach one Sunday during the summer, to introduce himself and communicate the purposes of the Growth Strategy.</p> <p>The planning group will hold an open meeting for the congregation to become informed.</p>



## Stage 2: What will our Growth Strategy involve?

<p><b>God's call to growth.</b></p> <p><i>Having thought about the challenges for each strand, discern your overall strategic response.</i></p> <p><i>(i) what is your vision of the way of life God is calling you to?</i></p> <p><i>(ii) what values do you need to have for this growth to happen?</i></p>	<p><b>(i)</b> In order to serve our community we need to see where we are in that community – how we are regarded and how the church as a building is seen.</p> <p>We see growth coming mainly from people who are new to the area, as this is a retirement area.</p> <p><b>(ii)</b> We need to concentrate on our “image” and let people see that we do have a great deal to offer. We need to examine what we have and how we can develop this.</p>
<p><b>Our prioritised response</b></p> <p><i>To work towards responding to that call, and expressing our values, we will focus upon the following strand (or strands) of the strategy because...</i></p>	<p>The strands we are making our first priority are: Numerical growth, welcome and integration with an added strand of how we can use our church.</p> <p>We see this as an achievable first step and one which can have an impact on our whole church.</p>
<p><b>Goals</b></p> <p><i>We will address the above by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Looking at a trail or labyrinth around the church – using what we have and introducing new things to give a sensory experience for those coming into the church.</li> <li>2. Looking again at the signage outside the church – to ensure that people know what is going on.</li> <li>3. Look at producing material that can be used by people moving into the area:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Welcome pack;</li> <li>b. Pew cards;</li> <li>c. information about the church</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Looking at other uses for the church:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. concerts</li> <li>b. exhibitions</li> <li>c. lectures</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Revisiting our service booklets – looking at their layout to make them “user friendly.”</li> </ol>



	<p>a. In this context, experiencing a “Service of the Word” led by our newly trained worship leaders.</p> <p>6. Renewing our web site and look at new methods of how we communicate to the community around us</p>
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### Stage 3: How will we encourage Growth?

#### Plans, processes, people and resources

*Remember: SMART – plans must be **S**pecific and documented, You must be able to **M**easure the difference you are making; so change or re-visit the Goals if necessary.*

*Your proposals must be **A**chievable; do not try to meet impossible goals.*

*Actions must be able to be **R**esourced, by people, buildings, and funding.*

*To enable proper review, your actions must be **T**ime bounded.*

<b>Actions:</b> <i>small achievable steps which gradually build into something bigger</i>		<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
1	<p><b>Labyrinth</b></p> <p>A Completed</p> <p>B Leaflet still to be produced</p> <p>C Prayer Tree to be designed and produced to complete labyrinth by providing space to “publish” prayer requests</p>	Rachel & Vivienne	Autumn 2012 Spring 2013 Spring 2013
2	<p><b>Signage outside church</b> Completed</p>	Vestry	Summer 2012
3	<p>A <b>Welcome pack</b> – idea dropped – ensuring warm personal welcome more important</p> <p>B <b>Pew cards</b> – to be followed up after special service in summer 2013</p> <p>C <b>Church leaflet</b> being looked at</p> <p>D <b>Parish Magazine</b> – joint venture with St Mary’s, Gatehouse Desire to use this for outreach by printing extra copies and depositing them where people can read them</p> <p>Needs much consideration – purpose, readership, content, joint “Board” to</p>	Vivienne          Under consideration	Spring 2013          Spring 2013



		oversee	Harold, Vivienne Roger	
4		<b>Looking at other uses for church</b>	Vestry	ongoing
5	A	<b>Special Events</b> <b>Baptisms:</b> Service Booklet required – making the visit as worthwhile as possible for families and friends of the baptised	Nigel working with Roger	Spring 2013
	B	<b>Non-Eucharistic Service</b> celebrating the Arts in Kirkcudbright (music, poetry, perhaps using new "Service of the Word" and Worship Leaders)	Sue	August 2013
	C	<b>Poetry Evening</b>	Roland & Vivienne	? Spring 2013
6	A	<b>Renewing website</b> Mechanics completed	Ken Smythe	Autumn 2012
	B	Content being written	Roger and others	Spring 2013

## Stage 4 Outputs: keeping the MAP alive

*We will endeavour to **address these plans in action, ongoing consultation and prayer**, and will regularly **affirm and celebrate God's gifts and blessings and our responses**, culminating in our annual MAP review. We will communicate widely what we have attempted, so that others may learn from our experience.*

*We have already identified the "resilience" required to keep the MAP alive. The following factors will not discourage us in our task:*

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