

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge/s St Aidan's Clarkston

Name of Facilitator Anne Tomlinson

MAP Completed

Strategic intent is growth

What will our Growth Strategy involve?

<p>God's call to growth.</p> <p><i>Discern your overall strategic intention</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><i>Goals identified 2010-11</i></p>	<p>St Aidan's has been engaged in Mission Action Planning for over a year so is following the process in a slightly differently way from other charges, grafting its existing plans onto the diocesan vine as seamlessly as possible. At the previous year's Review, the Vestry and Ministry Team had identified that the area in which the church is set as 'very suburban'; they described it as 'commuter land'; middle class, mainly retired, multicultural (large Jewish and Asian populations). Across the Ayr Road there are numerous families with school-age children, but this is in St Margaret's patch.</p> <p>Asked 'how are you viewed locally?' the following answers were given: 'the place where the dancers come to/ AA'; 'part of the background'; 'benign mingling'; 'our ecumenical links are healthy and vital'; 'we are seen as working hard for Christian Aid'; 'we have a foot in the door at the local Secondary School (Williamwood) but not in the Primary'.</p> <p>'Being central to and known in the community'; 'outgoing and comprehensible to outsiders'; 'welcoming, inclusive and friendly'; 'financially solvent'; 'a vigorous, growing family church for all ages which is supportive and caring'.</p> <p>The underpinning values were seen to be (i) greater generosity; (ii) the capacity to be open to new ideas, new people, new ways of operating; (iii) the encouragement of everyone's participation and valuing of their skills (iv) courage and a positive attitude.</p> <p>The following had been identified as steps for 2010-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Care • Welcome and integration • Links with community • Increased participation • Growth, and growing younger • Finance <p>These were reviewed in January 2012</p> <p>Pastoral Care – this had been a real growth area with Pat organising a very efficient visiting scheme; all the visitors are well supervised and report that they are enjoying their task. They meet with each other and the Rector once a year; the system of ensuring that all necessary information gets to the Rector is working well. When the time comes for</p>
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retrospective disclosure of Pastoral Visitors, *that* is the point at which some refresher training will be offered by the diocese, possibly in conjunction with people from St Margaret's.

Welcome and integration – sides-people have developed the welcome they offer over the past year, and now see newcomers/visitors to a seat, introduce them to someone else and check that they are invited - and escorted - to coffee. The welcome 'seldom fails'. A form is now available and clearly visible for signing up for the roll.

Links with community – Hall-users have been circulated with information about times of services, and were personally handed cards during Advent detailing the Christmas events being run by St Aidan's; a few had attended these. Links have been built up with the residents of St Aidan's View through good relationships with the Warden, the coffee mornings and the singing of carols. Rachael, as representative of the ecumenical Peace and Justice Group, continues to make contact with members of neighbouring churches. The Rector has built up and maintained the church's web-site in the past year, and St Aidan's now has a Facebook page as well. The former will be developed by the addition of a history of the church to be researched and written by the Rector for St Aidan's 90th birthday next year, but it is hoped that someone could be found to develop the web-site even further, as this is the (proven) way that newcomers locate and choose churches nowadays. Sarah will print cards about the Holy Week/Easter services and distribute them to Hall users again. Notices about the lecture series will be put in local libraries.

Increased participation – there are more Pastoral Visitors than hitherto, more people taking Home Communion to the housebound. and more people attending the Rector's discussion group

Growth, and growing younger – there has been an increase in the number of children attending church in the past year, which is good news. All the children are invited to participate at the outset of the Liturgy before going to Sunday School, and they wear albs for that; some serve, some carry candles, others the Gospel book or the processional cross, and so on. They also report back at the end of the service on what they have been doing in Sunday School. Rachael, Aileen and Chris run the Sunday School and the crèche, but more teachers are needed as the age range is wide (3-11 and a baby - and more infants are expected); two people have been identified and will be approached by the Rector in due course. Some of the Sunday School teachers have attended trainings organised by the Children's Ministry Action Group. Money had been allocated by the Vestry for appropriate teaching materials. Craft days had been tried in the summer and during Advent, but despite extensive leafleting in the area, these events had simply attracted members and their friends; the local C of S churches have large Sunday schools and uniformed youth organisations meet on their premises. No contact had as yet been made with the 121 Scout Group

Finance – a Treasurer had been appointed who had overhauled the Gift Aid donations. A surplus had been recorded at the end of the year. It was noted that some intentional work on legacies might be helpful. There is a need for some turn-over of Vestry members.



<p>Our prioritised response</p> <p><i>In 2012-3 we will focus upon the following strands of the strategy because...</i></p>	<p>In January 2012, the Ministry Team spent time discerning where God was calling the congregation to devote its attention in the coming year; these ideas were then placed before the Vestry who agreed and amplified them. It was agreed that the following strands would be focussed upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship, prayer and spirituality • Learning and discipleship <p>The charge will continue to work hard at outreach and communication, as above, but these actions need to be rooted in a growing sense of what it means to be a disciple of Christ on the part of more members of the congregation; the intention is to help members grow in faith and spirituality so that they are more able to articulate their faith to those whom they encounter outwith the church's walls – more equipped, in other words, to be apologists of the faith in daily life. The growth of the congregation needs to be based upon the growth of its members' lives of discipleship.</p>
<p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of ...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. encouraging <i>all</i> members of the congregation to deepen their personal prayer lives by means of regular use of the shortened form of Daily Prayer. This will be attempted by the purchasing of sufficient 'green books' so that everyone is offered one, including the housebound, and the encouragement of everyone to pray Morning and Evening Prayer daily through Lent. Then the experiment will be reviewed shortly after Easter by means of a questionnaire and a discussion in church one Sunday. 2. offering various means of growing in spirituality: by learning about different ways of praying, and by putting on Lenten Evening Services which might comprise a meditation upon Passion music (Haydn – Macmillan) 3. inviting people to attend the House Group and introducing them to worship songs as a way of praying there 4. enabling people to engage in dialogue and discussion about faith on Wednesdays; 15-20 people regularly attend the midweek service and then stay for coffee so this is an opportunity to use the time for discussion of faith issues; discussing sermons in some way over coffee after the main Sunday service; learning about liturgy and doctrine. 5. encouraging members to use the church's library and offering aids to help them read and understand works of theology and spirituality



Stage 3: How will we encourage Growth? Plans, processes, people and resources

Actions: <i>small achievable steps which gradually build into something bigger</i>			Who	When
1	(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii)	Purchase green books for entire congregation Write explanatory article for February magazine Prepare the Pastoral Visitors so that they can take the green books round the housebound and explain the idea Make large print copies of green book from text on SEC web site Include the Sunday School in some way in this scheme Evaluate the experiment by means of a questionnaire and a discussion after church Determine 'in the light of this experience, what are the next steps?'	Nicholas Nicholas/Reena Jean, Pat and Nicholas Nicholas Rachael Vestry to discuss Vestry to discuss	January January Before Lent Before Lent Before Lent Before Lent After Easter After Easter
2	(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)	Possibilities for spiritual teaching are being explored Organise Lenten evening services with meditative music Put page on web-site about experience of coming to church for the first time Run a series of teaching sermons on the liturgy/Episcopalianism	Nicholas Nicholas and ? Nicholas Nicholas	Summer Before Lent
3	(i) (ii)	Introduce prayer-through-singing to House Group agenda Invite people to attend	Neil ?	After feedback from Lent prayer
4	(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)	Canvas opinion of the Wednesday service attendees about the idea of having a discussion group Approach people willing to lead Discuss the frequency of the discussions – every week? alternate weeks? Choose topics Think further about how sermons might be discussed after church on Sundays - small group in separate room?	Phyllis Nicholas Vestry ? Vestry	
5	(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)	Communicate ideas about library to Grace Invite Grace (and others) to contribute a page of book reviews to magazine and update of acquisitions Relocate the library to make it more visible by all Have books available on Sundays at coffee with display as in libraries (book of the month) Reorganise the books on the shelves so that the subjects/topics are easily identifiable	Nicholas Grace/Reena Jack Grace ?	



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: apathy, ill-health, old age, financial challenges.

Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean

MAP signed by

Rector/clergypersonDate.....

Secretary of the VestryDate.....

(5 copies are signed, being for the cleric, the Vestry, Bishop Gregor, the Convenor of the Regional Council and the Facilitator.)

I will keep in contact with the charge throughout this coming year as they work for growth

FacilitatorDate.....

Agreed frequency of ongoing Facilitator contact

*Spirit of our Loving God,
in your mercy and compassion
inspire, encourage and empower us
to live and work together
as a Diocese,
to allow your mission for us
to take flesh
through Jesus Christ
our Living and Eternal Lord. Amen*

