

# Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge/s                      St Columba's, Largs

Name of Facilitator                    Rev Liz O'Ryan

MAP Completed                         October 2013

**YEAR 2**

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

<p><i>From the scribe's notes of the Review meeting, list the last MAP actions completed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a Community Audit</li> <li>• Introduce "All Age" Eucharist</li> <li>• Establish a regular 'Messy Church'</li> <li>• Open the Sacrament to all church members regardless of age</li> <li>• Establish Largs Monday Toddlers Group (not on initial form, but grew out of on-going MAP discussions)</li> </ul>
<p><i>last MAP actions not completed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate a 'Largs Churches Together' youth gathering – although the 'initiation' has happened, the regular youth meetings have not yet been established.</li> </ul>
<p><i>learnings from the first year's MAP</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ From the Community Audit we have learned that: Largs is well provided for clubs and organisations; 33% of population is over 60 years of age; unemployment is low; Largs has many carers; a befriending project might be possible with Merton House Children's Home; there is an issue with homelessness in Largs to which St Columba's could reach out.</li> <li>✓ The 'All age Eucharist' has the potential to be more welcoming and 'child-friendly'.</li> <li>✓ The position of St Columba's, being out of the centre of town may have had a bearing on the success of Church activities/attendance – particularly Messy Church. Our position means that transport is a necessity.</li> <li>✓ The Largs Toddlers Group answers a real need in the town and therefore has been very successful.</li> <li>✓ St Columba's is a church which has an enthusiastic membership, a good number of which are willing to volunteer for projects. People are keen to encourage even more members to be involved in events and projects.</li> <li>✓ Largs Youth Gathering has a precedence in the form of MERGE. It is hoped this can be revived.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reflect</b> upon the <b>resourcing</b> of the first year's MAP and what that means for the second</p>	<p>This year funding was received from the Diocese to buy equipment for the Monday Toddlers group. The money was very welcome and well utilised. It is felt that funds being available from the Diocese is VERY supportive and helpful. It means that what would otherwise stay as a good but theoretical idea can now become reality.</p>

<p><b>Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>your Church as God would see it <b>now</b></i></li> <li>- <i>where God is at work in the community and in the church <b>now?</b></i></li> <li>- <i>what growth signs need to be built upon</i></li> <li>- <i>what avenues can be set aside for now?</i></li> </ul>	<p>It is felt that the MAP process, and all that has happened over the last year, has encouraged the congregation to become involved with its own journey of faith and to embrace the idea that change is a positive, non-threatening dynamic within the community. As projects have been introduced volunteers have come forward and ideas have materialised.</p> <p>The MAP has encouraged the body of the church to become more outward looking and to recognise the opportunities to become an active part of the community.</p> <p>More people have now become involved in St Columba's through its groups and provision – and that is seen as a positive dynamic, a basis which hopefully can be built upon. It is felt that God has been present in all the activities of the past year and in the resulting change. His creative Spirit has been very much in evidence.</p> <p>Although Messy Church may not continue for the next year, it is acknowledged that much experience has been gained and the year of its existence can still be viewed as positive. The success of the Toddlers Group will hopefully be built upon – and ideas are forthcoming by those involved.</p> <p>The recent stewardship campaign brought forth a 40% increase in giving. This is a remarkable sign of commitment and belief which is present in the congregation. The campaign had been underpinned by prayer and the result showed that God is at work in St Columba's. Not only has more money been pledged but also the offering of time, gifts and talents.</p>
<p><b>Re-appraise, re-affirm and celebrate:</b></p> <p><i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we <b>now</b> exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p>	<p>Reflecting on the past year we, in St Columba's, now more fully recognise these strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ As a church community we have the resources and opportunities to reach out into the community and answer need</li> <li>✚ We have a great human resource in our church members</li> <li>✚ Our church members are committed to St Columba's which has been seen in various recent developments eg the encouraging uptake in the buying of new hymn books</li> <li>✚ We have a dedicated team of people to help with children's activities</li> <li>✚ There is an intrinsic and growing willingness and enthusiasm within the congregation to try new things</li> <li>✚ The number of church members who are 'getting involved' is growing</li> <li>✚ With a new Director of Music appointed there is great potential for growth and exciting change ... and perhaps opportunities for mission through music.</li> <li>✚ Our Summer Mission week remains successful and reaches many un-churched in the town.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Re-assess:</b></p> <p><i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we are suffering from the following weaknesses <b>now....</b></i></p>	<p>Reflecting on the past year we, in St Columba's, now more fully recognise these weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ It is very difficult to encourage steady and full commitment from worshipping adults with children</li> <li>✚ Messy Church only reached a very small number of children and did not grow despite good publicity and resourcing</li> </ul>

<p><b>Investigate:</b> with regard to each strand of the strategy, we <b>now</b> detect the following opportunities...</p>	<p>Reflecting on the past year we, in St Columba's, now more fully recognise these opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Music could play an important role in future missional activities</li> <li>✚ We could make the 'All Age' Eucharist even more child-friendly by asking the children to read the lessons and intercede. We could issue specific invitations to these services.</li>   <li>✚ We could hold more 'special services' to which invite families and occasional worshippers.</li> <li>✚ We could follow up baptism/wedding families by matching them with a 'church visitor' who would build a relationship and interest in the family and invite them to appropriate events.</li> <li>✚ We could hold a Nativity as well as continuing with the Christingle.</li> </ul>
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## 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 now?</i></p> <p><i>(ii) list the values that underpinned last year's MAP; are there any new values which you need to adopt for further growth to happen?</i></p>	<p>During the year the understanding of mission amongst the congregation has begun to mature and grow. There is a wider perception that mission is not so much about the growth in numbers but about the establishment of genuine relationships in the name of Christ. Our vision from last year still holds but there is a greater awareness and recognition of the resources and talents that our congregation possesses. We believe that we are being called to share all we have with the wider community through and with the love of God. Mission is about being the servant of all. The quote which came to mind amongst our discussions was 'See how they love one another'. What a wonderful vision for us to have as a community. There is also a desire to continue to move out of our comfort zone as a community, for the good of ourselves and those we serve.</p> <p>The values at the heart of our missional activity are still to be outward looking and to offer and show love to all who are children of God and made in his image. We value each other, our talents and gifts and we value all with whom we come in contact.</p> <p>This year, as we take on goals and actions within the 'Prayer and Spirituality' strand we recognise the power and centrality of prayer. Prayer is at the heart of all we do and is vital for the growth of our relationship with God and with each other. We value that we are all on a dynamic journey of faith and that a deep spirituality will make a difference to us and speak more than words to the people we meet and relate.</p>
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<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><b>Prayer and Spirituality</b></p> <p>We wish to focus upon prayer and spirituality to complement our work last year and strengthen the basis of our community life. Our focus came out of our discussions as we looked at plans for the coming year and how we could further our actions of last year.</p>
<p><b>Goals</b></p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Hold a Congregational Retreat</b></li> <li>2. <b>Hold regular outreach services</b></li> <li>3. <b>Hold a series of meetings on the subject of prayer and spirituality. From this start a team of Daily Pray-ers who will pray the Daily Office either at home or in Church with clergy. Also from this start a group(s) of people who wish to meet and talk about their faith and support one another in their spiritual journey.</b></li> <li>4. <b>Explore the possibility and perhaps create a labyrinth in Church grounds</b></li> <li>5. <b>Develop music and hymnody</b></li> <li>6. <b>Involve children even more in ‘All Age’ Services</b></li> <li>7. <b>Take the prayer life of church out into the Hall for Hall users: eg prayer board/leaflets/notices</b></li> <li>8. <b>Bring website up-to-date to come in line with the values and goals of the Prayer and Spirituality strands</b></li> </ol>

### 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>Congregational Retreat</b> Organise a Congregational Retreat on the island of Cumbrae on the theme of Celtic Spirituality. Encourage as many members as possible of the congregation to attend.</p> <p><b>Measurement of growth</b> The number of laity who take part and the feedback from the weekend will indicate how helpful this venture has been in growing and encouraging the spiritual life of those who attended.</p>	The Rector Jennifer Fitzgibbon	13 – 15 September
2.	<p><b>Hold regular ‘outreach’ services during the year</b> Pet Service Healing Service Taize x2 All Souls Service and for those who have experienced loss</p> <p>Ensure that these are advertised extensively throughout the town with posters and adverts.</p> <p><b>Measurement of growth</b> Note the number of people who attend and reflect upon the effectiveness of the advertising. Talk to those who attend to gauge how helpful these services have been in encouraging those who attend in prayer and devotion.</p>	The Rector The Curate	5 October 2013 22 February ‘14 Advent and Lent November 2013
3.	<p><b>Set up a series of meetings to explore prayer and spirituality...</b></p> <p><b>.... from this encourage a group to pray the Daily Office at home or with the clergy at Church</b> Show how the Daily Office is prayed and how to use the Office ‘book’ . Also explain how to use the lectionary. Monitor the group regularly so issues can be answered and encouragement given, and to ensure the group know they are giving a valuable contribution to the life of the church and the community</p>	The Rector The Curate	Wednesdays in November, and then regularly through the year

	<p><b>..... from this set up small groups to support individual members of these in the journey of their faith</b></p> <p>Develop a growing number of small faith-sharing groups of about 4 people each. These will each have a leader and will meet regularly to pray together and encourage each other in matters of faith and theology.</p> <p><b>Measurement of growth</b></p> <p>The interest and number of partakers for these ventures will indicate a basis of success and growth. As time passes growth could be gauged by the faithfulness of the Daily Pray-ers and, through conversation, how members feel their spiritual lives are changing because of the more structured and regular prayer. With the small faith-sharing groups, again conversation will gauge how useful people are finding these groups. It would be hoped that numbers of participants might grow as the news of the positive effect of the discussions spreads.</p>	Alison Jones Idris Jones	Early in 2014 to start in Lent
4.	<p><b>Explore the possibility and perhaps create a labyrinth in Church grounds</b></p> <p>Gather a group who will explore the costs and feasibility of creating a labyrinth in the Church grounds. This will include clearing the ground; designing a layout which is easily maintained; designing ‘posts’ upon which the reflective journey of the labyrinth can be placed and even changed according to the group who uses it.</p> <p><b>Measurement of growth</b></p> <p>The labyrinth, of course, will only bring spiritual growth and depth if it is a feasible project. Once built it would need to be well utilised by congregation and community alike. Publicity and teaching will be needed for the possibilities and potential of the labyrinth to be fully realised.</p>	William Clark – Ferguson plus others to be identified	2013-2014
5.	<p><b>Develop music and hymnody</b></p> <p>In conjunction with the Musical Director introduce and develop psalmody to include Anglican chant and responsorial psalms; teach the congregation how to sing pointed psalms. Introduce and sing regularly a greater range of hymns.</p> <p><b>Measurement of growth</b></p> <p>Reflect with the congregation the spiritual effect in worship of new hymns/new words/new psalms. Are the new innovations enhancing worship.... helping the congregation worship at a deeper level...think about the theme of the service.</p>	Colleen Anderson The Rector Choir	2013- 2014
6.	<p><b>Involve children even more in ‘All Age’ Services</b></p> <p>Identify children who could be encouraged and trained to take a greater role in the service. Ring/Rota the children so that they are brought to church when they are taking part. The roles could include:</p> <p>Intercessions Readings Welcome/ give out books /take collection/ ring bell</p>	Linda Young	2013 - 2014

	<p>Take gifts up</p> <p><b>Measurement of growth</b></p> <p>The success of this will be seen in the number of children who continue to partake and the reliability of their inclusion. By talking to the children their enjoyment of involvement can be gauged.</p>		
7.	<p><b>Take the prayer life of church out into the Hall for Hall users</b></p> <p>Organise an up-to-date board in the Hall which will include:  Prayer tree with opportunity to add names of people in need of prayer (with promise to 'say' these prayers at certain service?)  Leaflets of interest to the Hall users  Notices informing users about church/community activities  Magazine rack with appropriate magazines</p> <p><b>Measurement of Growth</b></p> <p>The usage of the notice board will indicate how effective it is.  The number of prayer requests will hopefully grow as users become used to its presence.</p>	<p>The Rector,  William Clark-Ferguson,  Gib Fitzgibbon,  Hilary Moran</p>	<p>To be completed as soon as possible/ before Easter 2014</p>
8.	<p><b>Bring website up-to-date to come in line with the values and goals of the Prayer and Spirituality strands</b></p> <p>To re-examine at the website in line with the values and goals of the Prayer and Spirituality strands and add pages/prayers/notices/thoughts for the day as thought appropriate</p>	<p>James Currall  Mark Yeomans</p>	<p>To be completed before Easter 2014</p>

