

# GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY MISSION ACTION PLAN

Name of Charge        St Mary's Gatehouse-of-Fleet  
Name of Facilitator   Gordon Mursell  
MAP completed        1st February 2013  
Date of Stage 1 meeting 10 July 2012

## STAGE 1   WHY ARE WE GOING FOR GROWTH?

### Review

Where is God at work, in the community and the church? What needs to be retained or relinquished? The following suggestions, among others, emerged from the congregational meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012:

- God is at work in the wider community around us as well as within the Church. We should hold a community audit, both to understand our context better, and to see where God is calling us to prioritize our mission.
- We need to retain the current congregation, and use those talents that are not yet being used.

### Appraise, affirm and celebrate

We exhibit a number of strengths, not all of which were discussed at the meeting, but many of which appeared in the questionnaire which had been circulated beforehand and attracted a significant response:

- The monthly socials are much valued
- We are, broadly speaking, a welcoming and inclusive congregation
- Our music is one of our greatest strengths
- Much good pastoral work is carried out, especially in times of sickness or bereavement
- We have a fine church in a prominent position and an attractive interior
- Local ecumenical partnerships are strong
- Broadly speaking, we do a few things well

### Assess

We identified the following weaknesses:

- We have very few children, and the majority of local residents are probably retired. But we offer nothing to the 2- or 3-year olds who occasionally attend now.
- It is hard for some (perhaps especially newcomers?) to build up pastoral relationships with the Rector when he has to hurry off to Kirkcudbright immediately after our principal Sunday services.
- The fact that the church doors are often closed during services (especially during winter, to keep the heat in) gives the impression that we don't welcome newcomers.

## Investigate

We detect the following opportunities:

- Use of the church garden more, for social occasions, perhaps including refreshments after the service on Sundays in summer
- Development of our ministry to and with children; perhaps occasional services linked with the local school? Local schoolchildren could be invited in to visit/tour the church building (developing a good link with the new headteacher). Messy Church could be tried.
- We could extend the number and variety of our existing services, building on the popularity of existing special services (carol services, occasional choral evensong, the Wednesday Eucharist etc), for example by having non-eucharistic Morning Prayer, Songs of Praise, or Taizé services. As a licensed lay worship leader, Sandra Walsh could help with leadership of these, as could the retired clergy.
- We could occasionally meet for breakfast before the Sunday Eucharist.
- We could offer acts of worship or other resources for those who attend the local drop-in centre.
- We could pray and study together more; we could do more to share our faith and grow in our understanding of it. "We have to take steps to learn about God and listen to him."
- We need to develop our prayer life, and consider setting up a dedicated prayer group or groups.

## Communicate

How has everything so far been communicated?

- A suggestion box, or suggestion cards, will be installed at the back of church.
- The church magazine could have its profile raised, not only with regard to the MAP, but as a source of outreach: at present it is very much in-house.
- The MAP working party will keep the congregation informed about progress, and the Rector made it clear that any proposals which emerge from the working party will be put to the whole congregation.

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MAP completed      1<sup>st</sup> February 2013  
Date of Stage 2 meeting 06 November 2012

### STAGE 2    WHAT WILL OUR GROWTH STRATEGY INVOLVE?

#### God's Call to Growth

Our vision of the way of life God is calling us to:

- Our vision begins with the belief that everyone is precious to God and uniquely loved by him. Our mission is to make that belief known to all who live in our community, and to all who visit here. In our worship, and in all that we do, we seek to give expression to that belief.
- We see ourselves as the servants of the community around us. Our vision will be earthed in the realities of that community, and we hope the forthcoming community audit which we are undertaking will help us achieve this. We see ourselves as a welcoming community, and we long to make friends with those we want to welcome.
- We believe that God is calling all of us to grow spiritually, both as individual Christians and as a worshipping family. A key priority for us is to find ways to enable that growth to take place.

The values we need to have for this growth to happen:

- A commitment to grow in the knowledge and love of God as revealed to us in Jesus, and to help one another grow in them as well.
- A commitment to serve the needs of those around us, not just those connected with our (or any) church, and especially the elderly and the needy.
- A commitment to making our worship as attractive and accessible as we can, and to making our church a place of welcome and fellowship.

#### Our Prioritised Response

We will focus on the following strands of the strategy:

- Worship, prayer, and spirituality
- Numerical growth, welcome and integration.

## Goals

- We will continue to work on implementing the suggestions made by members of the congregation during Stage 1 of the strategy process, giving particular priority to those linked to the two strands listed above. For example, the church website is being completely renewed and improved.
- We will undertake a community audit, led by John Martin (volunteers are needed to help with this).
- We will invite the WINGS Team to help us in looking at Welcome & Integration
- We will continue to keep the congregation fully informed at every step of the process, so that they can see that suggestions made are being acted upon.
- We will look for ways to extend our outreach to the community, perhaps along the lines of Denis' Easter Garden and Jackie's flower festival.

## 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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Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean .....

MAP signed by

Rector/clergyperson R.C.Cutler Date 12 Feb 2013

Secretary of the working Party R. Durling Date 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013

(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*

Facilitator Rt. Rev'd G. Mursell Date 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013

Agreed frequency of ongoing Facilitator contact As Required

*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*