

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge: Holy Name, Cumbernauld

Name of Facilitator: Canon Anne Tomlinson

MAP Completed: **Strategic intent is growth**

Stage 1: Why are we going for Growth?

<p>Review - your Church as God would see it - where God has been, and is, at work in the community and in church - what needs to be retained or relinquished</p>	<p><i>This aspect of the work had been carried out with the previous MAP Facilitator but alas, his notes have since gone astray. In the circumstances it was agreed not to go over this ground again now in any great detail; if necessary, an in-depth Community Audit might be factored into the Year 2 MAP as new housing develops and the community changes.</i></p> <p>There is currently a great deal of change taking place in the community. Primary Schools are closing or being amalgamated which is a sure sign of a decreasing population of young families. We will keep an eye on the demography of the new housing that is being built at Carrickstone, and the new flats that are being built in the vicinity of Fleming Road in the wake of the demolition of the 60's 'tall flats'.</p>
<p>Check: <i>understanding of each strand</i></p>	<p>This was done on Sunday January 12th; after a service for the Baptism of the Lord at which the strategic intention for growth was once more outlined, the six strands were described at the subsequent meeting which the entire congregation present at worship attended.</p>
<p>Appraise, affirm and celebrate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p>	<p>Imaginative Outreach to Local Communities: Various recently-started ventures such as the outreach to Carrickstone Residential Home have gone well and there is a desire (and energy) to continue these and expand them.</p> <p>Numerical Growth, Welcome and Integration: The congregation is small but in the past few months has started to grow. People work hard at being welcoming and hospitality is one of the congregation's main charisms.</p> <p>Children and Young People: There are at least 4 children under 10 in the congregation now and a super crèche area has been created. There is great hospitality towards children shown in worship.</p> <p>Worship, Prayer and Spirituality: The new priest has refreshed the worship and it is of a high standard, both midweek and Sundays. Added to this, a much-loved member of the congregation has recently been Licensed as Lay Reader, and this 'team ministry' is working well. New services have been introduced, such as a monthly service of Evensong. A gifted organist has been recruited and music is an aspect of the life of the church that the congregation now wishes to develop.</p> <p>Education and Discipleship and Missional Leadership: Several members of the congregation have recently gone on diocesan training courses in the areas of 'Pastoral Visiting' and 'Working with Children and Young People'; there is a pool of talented people who are keen to work hard alongside their new priest.</p>



<p>Assess: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we suffer from the following weaknesses...</i></p>	<p>Imaginative outreach: the experience of setting up Saturday coffee mornings under the previous MAP did not make an appreciable difference alas. The hard work of those who engaged in this goal is to be commended and much of use has been learned from the experience. Going round the houses did not bring people in, but those who visited others in this way found that they were made very welcome on the doorstep. Issues about publicity and identity came to the fore in this way. Nothing is wasted; this experience had laid good foundations for subsequent work under this new MAP.</p> <p>Children and Young People: We have very few at present and would like more. However note the demographic of which we spoke at the outset and also give thanks for the fact that young couples are starting to appear at worship – for it is on <i>that</i> foundation that the next generation will be grown.</p>
<p>Investigate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>There are many exciting possibilities in the air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • widening out hall usage • using the church for concerts and other musical events • Baby Sensory Group now using the hall for baby development classes – this is just an ideal seedbed! • Carrickstone services • Excellent ecumenical atmosphere again • Someone seeking to bring youngsters if there is provision for them
<p>Communicate: <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p>	<p>The service on January 12th was a good way of letting <i>everyone</i> know about the strategic intention for growth, and the fact that the entire congregation then attended the meeting, not just a representative group, only added to this sense of widespread communication. Everyone received a leaflet and extras were left for the noticeboard; and once the new website is up and running, then further communication will be possible. We are seeking to have a noticeboard attached to the outside rear wall of the church which is overlooked by the town centre car park, as a way to publicise our presence in the community.</p>



Stage 2: What will our Growth Strategy involve?

<p>God's call to growth.</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>We believe we are being called by God called to go on; and not just to 'survive' but to be a faithful and growing 'beacon' in this part of the town. It is a place where once again people are saying they have lost 'a sense of community' and are lonely for company; our church fellowship can provide this in an anonymous world. This is what we can offer:</p> <p><i>In a big world, the small church can remain intimate.</i> <i>In a fast world, the small church can remain steady.</i> <i>In a smart world, the small church can remain plain.</i> <i>In a complex world, the small church can remain simple.</i> <i>In a noisy world, the small church can be a place for listening.</i> <i>In an anonymous world, the small church should be able to call us by name.</i> Michael Langrish <i>Changing Rural Life</i> Canterbury Press (2004)</p> <p>So we will strive to be generous with what God has given us and live by a cycle of grace. We will not be anxious or downcast but rejoice in the signs of new life and growth that are before us. We will be a Eucharistic people, welcoming others to the Lord's bounty and love. We will be an evangelistic community as we heard in today's Epistle.</p>
<p>Our prioritised response</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>We will focus upon the strand of Imaginative Outreach into Local Communities because that is where the energy and the calling is in our midst right now, and meets an expressed need in God's world out there right now.</p> <p>This strand received by far the majority of votes in our discussion. Children and Young People received the next number of votes. We believe that in focussing upon Imaginative Outreach in this coming year, that will indeed encompass work with children and young people, upon which strand we may then focus upon in a future year</p>
<p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refreshing our publicity 2. Developing our ministry of music 3. Thinking imaginatively about the use of our halls 4. Growing our current work with the elderly



Stage 3: How will we encourage Growth?

Actions: <i>small achievable steps which gradually build into something bigger</i>			Who	When
1	a	Invite Carol Lovett to help us set up a WordPress web site; revamp site and keep it live	David	by Easter
	b	Look at the value of including church information in Cumbernauld news; scope the cost and the benefit; review policy	Heather	asap
	c	Think about how we might put on a Church Open Day at which we have stalls advertising our wares to coincide with Cumbernauld Open Doors Day.	Margaret	September 2014
	d	Look at exterior signage	Sandy	After Easter
2		Discuss the possibility of setting up a choir-cum-music group for all ages. Community Choirs are very popular right now. Think also about the possibility of hosting concerts in church. Think about how it might be possible to have sporting activities going in the hall at the same time.	A group convened by David including Sandy and Kirsty	To start after Easter.
3		Think about how we can make intentional links with existing hall-users; e.g. holding a little act of worship in the midst of the Baby Sensory Group on occasions (at Mothering Sunday time, Christmas) and the like. Think about other hall-users we might encourage: children's parties, badminton group?. Factor in the information that town libraries are closing and access to computer facilities diminishing.	Moira and Vestry	Ongoing throughout the year as occasions arise.
4		Develop the work that is being done at Carrickstone Home with 'knit and natter'. Staff it in such a way that it can grow.	Jill and Irene	asap



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:*

Lack of immediate response; lack of money; our age; our numbers.

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. One is posted on the Growth Strategy web site for public viewing.)

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

Facilitator *Anne Tomlinson* Date *17.01.14*

Agreed frequency of ongoing Facilitator contact: *Quarterly either by face-to-face meetings or e-mail as desired*

*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*

