

# **Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan**

**Name of Charge: CHRIST CHURCH, DALBEATTIE**

**Name of Facilitator Anne McWilliam**

**MAP Completed November 2013**

**Strategic intent is growth**

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



**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*

Christ Church is a living, caring, spiritual church, trying hard to reach out to the community, but encountering some stumbling blocks. The members are of the senior age group with no active child members. Members are active in the community but do not advertise themselves as Christians. They are also very welcoming to newcomers and regulars. Christ Church is a church where friends can be made.

There is a desire to change as demonstrated in their response to the questionnaire distributed to all members, i.e. "Indicate which of the areas of *Growth/Strands of the Vine*, they felt were the most important and appropriate for the developing of a *Mission Action Plan* for Christ Church " The replies indicated that *Numerical growth, Welcome and Integration* was the most popular Strand closely followed by *Imaginative Outreach into the Local Community*.

The lighting in the church is inadequate. This had already been realised and change is in hand. Seating in the church is fixed and uncomfortable for some. Members are prepared to explore using the church for purposes other than worship.

There is a church hall next to the church, which is leased by the local Dalbeattie Sea Cadet Unit. They have refurbished the Hall and contributed to upkeep.

There is some uncertainty about the future, as the Rector will be retiring sometime in the not too distant future. There is therefore a question of leadership and continuity. There is a non-Stipendiary Priest with a commission and a Lay Reader Emeritus, but no other worship leaders.

There are four Eucharistic Assistants.

Pastoral care is carried out by the clergy, assisted by some members. There is eagerness to learn. Worship, Prayer and Spirituality are very well organised and developed by the clergy and members. Prayers and Pew sheets are available in the church.

Members have been a little discouraged by previous Diocesan "processes" which they embraced but felt were ineffective in the long run.

What needs to be retained?-

Worship , Spirituality, Learning, Prayer, and Welcoming, Integration into the community.

What needs to be changed or relinquished?

This should be decided following discussion of the above.

As demonstrated by the Questionnaire, the two "Strands of the Vine" selected, should be followed up by contacting the diocesan officers responsible for the respective "Strand".(Names supplied by the Facilitator)

These meetings should be arranged with congregation members and the diocesan officers. (The Facilitator is not required to attend these meetings).

A further meeting should be held with the Facilitator to work out Stage 2 of the MAP.



<p><b>Check:</b> <i>understanding of each strand</i></p>	<p>Sermons and diocesan leaflets were given to inform members of the “Strands” prior to the Facilitator starting the first session..</p> <p>The Facilitator initially explained her role in the process of the duties of a facilitator.</p> <p>The 6 “Strands of the Vine” were displayed and explained and strengths and weaknesses of each were discussed and displayed on a chart. The completion of these took place over two sessions.</p> <p>The Mission Action Plan was displayed and explained at the first congregational meeting.</p>
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<p><b>Appraise, affirm and celebrate:</b> <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p>	<p>1. <i>Children and Young People</i> - there are no regular attenders in this category. When children come to visit they go to the Altar Rail for a blessing. Children's books are available . The Dalbeattie Sea Cadet Unit meet in the church hall–The Rector is their Chaplain. The Sea Cadets and children have both taken part in a concert held by and in the church.</p> <p>2. <i>Worship and Spirituality</i>-Very interested and organised groups are in place, including house groups. There are two Ecumenical Julian groups and three Ecumenical house groups. The Rector is interested in Liturgy and the composition of services. Special services are organised annually in the community. On Palm Sunday a small procession is made from the church hall to the church following the Cross. A service of witness is held in the town centre on Good Friday, where we are joined by members of the town and visitors. Two regular Sunday services; one mid week service and one monthly Sunday evening service are held. Members are “moving on” in their choice of music. The church building is left open in the daytime.</p> <p>3. <i>Learning and Discipleship</i>- members are eager to, and do already try to follow this category. They are keen to attend learning sessions organised by the diocese and study in their own homes. (See 5 <i>Missional Leadership</i>)</p> <p>4. <i>Numerical Growth Welcome and Integration</i>-Growth is sporadic. Welcome is good. With a few designated “Greeters” A web site is being developed and poster adverts are displayed locally to highlight special worship and other events. “The Scottish Episcopal Church Welcomes You” card is displayed in various locations in the district.</p> <p>5. <i>Missional Leadership</i>-There are many talents available among the members. We have four Eucharistic assistants Members enjoy visiting the sick and those in care Homes. Once a month our Assistant Priest celebrates the Eucharist at the Barlochan Care Home. They support other churches activities and local events. They are proud to have a member working on an educational project for schools in Swaziland, Africa. Healing Blankets” are available. “Hospital Bags” are supplied to those in need at Dumfries Infirmary, for those admitted there in an emergency.</p> <p>6. <i>Imaginative outreach into the local community</i>. The Dalbeattie Sea Cadet Unit use the church hall as their HQ and through that the hall has been kept in good condition. organisations use</p>
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<p><b>Assess:</b> <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we suffer from the following weaknesses....</i></p>	<p>1. <i>Children and young People</i> - there are no regular members in this category. Some feel the church is unattractive to young people.</p> <p>2. <i>Worship, Prayer and Spirituality</i> - Most groups are “in house”, even though efforts have been made to improve on this. There are no trained worship leaders. There is the uncertainty regarding future ministry once the Rector retires. Poor lighting. Hard pew seats.</p> <p>3. <i>Learning and Discipleship</i> - An uncertainty about the future exists but members have the talents to develop more in this field. Some people have difficulty hearing in church. Some members regularly visit the sick and “transport” elderly members to church.</p> <p>4. <i>Numerical Growth, Welcome and Integration</i> - It is recognised that growth is sporadic.</p> <p>5. <i>Missional Leadership</i> -At present there are few opportunities for Worship leaders.</p> <p>6. <i>Imaginative Outreach into the local community</i>- Members have felt discouraged by their previous attempts to reach out to the local community. (Mission 21) Christ Church tends to be regarded by many in the wider community as “The English church” This has been the same for many English churches. It has been difficult to develop Ecumenical links in the town. There is an annual Ecumenical Lent Group. The diocesan “Church and the Academy” lectures in the Galloway region are held in Dalbeattie. A previously discontinued Sunday afternoon service in the local Munches Park Care Home was renewed in 2013 by members of our congregation. Though the Church building is on the outskirts of town it is surrounded by residential housing</p>
<p><b>Investigate:</b> <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>At present we wish to concentrate on the 2 “Strands” most selected by the members who voted on the questionnaire ;</p> <p><u>1. Numerical Growth, Welcome and Integration</u> <u>2. Imaginative Outreach into the Local Community</u></p> <p>We will request the help of the diocesan officers concerned with these “Strands”, starting with our first choice, inviting them to come to Christ Church to talk to us about the subject. We will arrange a suitable date for the above meeting and inform all members of the church.</p> <p>We will obtain the booklets available from the diocesan website- i.e. “Welcome workbook” and “Will you come to church with me?” and read these in preparation for the meeting.</p> <p>Following this meeting we will contact the Facilitator to take us on to Stage 2 of the MAP, regarding “What will our Growth Strategy involve?” Several members of Christ church are planning to go to the seminar “Growing your church” to be held in Glasgow at the end of August 2013.</p>



<p><b>Communicate:</b>  <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p>	<p>Through the Facilitator who gave talks and held sessions on the project.</p> <p>Through the Rector in sermons and distribution of “Strands” leaflets.</p> <p>By dissemination of information through the church magazine and by information posted up in church.</p> <p>By summaries of sessions sent to the Vestry and Rector from the Facilitator.</p> <p>By a written clearer definition of the “Strands” sent to the Rector.</p> <p>By the Facilitator’s questionnaire to all members which was collated by the Vestry.</p> <p>Through email and phone contact between the Rector and Facilitator.</p>
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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?</i></p> <p><i>(ii) what values do you need to have for this growth to happen?</i></p>	<p>Our visions are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To have our own clergy person.</li> <li>2. To have a church full of people of all ages.</li> <li>3. To ensure that we pass on a vibrant and relevant Church to future generations in Christ Church's charge.</li> <li>4. To improve the internal layout of the church building creating a flexible environment for all kinds of worship and activities; welcoming to everyone.</li> <li>5. To raise it to a compliance with current legislation for public use, embracing ECO values wherever possible, (solar/photo voltaic panels etc).</li> </ol> <p>Our values are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To offer our Christian values to one and all.</li> <li>2. To be united as a congregation</li> <li>3. To seek God's guidance in all we do.</li> <li>4. To have a commitment to positive change.</li> <li>5. To be sensitive to all points of view.</li> <li>6. To maintain flexibility.</li> </ol> <p>In order to achieve these we realise that we will have to concentrate on retaining;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our Eucharistic worship,</li> <li>2. The Family feeling</li> <li>3. Working towards tolerance and patience.</li> <li>4. Enthusiasm.</li> </ol> <p>Conversely we will try to be aware of the following which might hamper our progress ;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fear of change.</li> <li>2. Past perceptions.</li> <li>3. Our own individual Agendas.</li> <li>4. Impatience.</li> </ol>
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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>We will focus on the following strands;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome and Integration.</li> <li>2. Imaginative Outreach into the Community.</li> </ol> <p>Because;</p> <p>We see this process as an opportunity to grow our church and seek God's Christian plan for us in Dalbeattie. We see it not as an option but as our Bishop's vision which we should embrace.</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. To improve the church's profile in town.</li> <li>2. We will improve the church lighting as our first priority in upgrading our church.</li> <li>3. We will undertake to update the inside and outside notice -boards.</li> <li>4. The "already in progress" web site will be completed.</li> <li>5 .We will undertake a Community Audit.</li> </ol>

### **Stage 3: How will we encourage Growth?**

#### **Plans, processes, people and resources**

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

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

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

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





<b>Actions: <i>small achievable steps which gradually build into something bigger</i></b>			<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
1	We have agreed to have an Overall Co-ordinator	Edith Thorp	Oct 2013	
2	<p>Welcome Integration and Numerical Growth Co-ordinator. A Leader for the Lighting project has been agreed upon. He will form a team to progress this part of our Welcome, Integration strand</p> <p>A leader for the replacement of the outside and inside notice boards has been agreed.</p> <p>The partly finished web-site will be finished.</p>	<p>Muriel Palmer</p> <p>Keith Dennison</p> <p>Nicholas Palmer.</p> <p>Sue Thomas</p>	<p>Oct 2013</p> <p>July 2014</p> <p>May 2014</p> <p>Advent 2013</p>	
3.	<p>Imaginative Outreach into the Community.</p> <p>A Community Audit Leader has been appointed to form a team to accomplish a Community Audit</p>	<p>Sue Thomas</p> <p>Sue Thomas</p>	<p>June 2014</p>	
4	<p>The Leaders will manage their own strands and draw in individuals to undertake tasks, within or without the congregation, there is no reason to keep this process internal. Indeed it is part of our Mission to reach outwards.</p> <p>When the time comes we will celebrate our achievements and remember to thank God for them.</p>	<p>Leaders and all members</p>	<p><u>July 2014</u></p>	



