

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge: St Bride's, Kelvinside

Name of Facilitator: Fr. Donald Orr

MAP Completed: Easter 2013

Strategic intent is growth

Stage 1: Why are we going for Growth?

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| <p>Review <i>- your Church as God would see it</i> <i>- where God has been, and is, at work in the community and in church</i> <i>- what needs to be retained or relinquished</i></p> | <p>We are a welcoming Church within the Anglican Catholic tradition. Though we are a diverse congregation with different perspectives on many of the great issues facing the Church today, we are united in a common love of liturgy and music. Though we have had troubled periods in our history, there is a real sense that these are behind us. In recent years we have sought to enhance our liturgical life and to put our finances and fabric in good order. Indeed we have witnessed an increase in our membership. We are coming to the end of a major restoration project (funded with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other external bodies) which will leave our Church wind and watertight enabling us to focus on further congregational growth and upon the refurbishment of our toilets and the restoration of our historic organ.</p> |
| <p>Check: <i>understanding of each strand</i></p> | <p>From the outset we have chosen to reflect upon prayer and spirituality; learning and discipleship; and imaginative outreach into the local community because these are the areas which the congregation have suggested could be developed further. In future years we will reflect more fully on the other strands.</p> |
| <p>Appraise, affirm and celebrate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p> | <p>Worship, prayer and spirituality: Our liturgical traditions and pattern of services are very highly valued, both by our members and by the wider Church. People travel long distances to worship with us and many of those who have joined us in recent years cite our liturgical life as the reason why they have chosen to make St Bride's their home.</p> <p>Learning and discipleship: St Bride's is a highly educated congregation with a thirst for knowledge. A number of our members are able and willing to facilitate opportunities for learning and discipleship.</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into local communities: We are situated within a clearly defined neighbourhood. Many of our members are involved in community groups and activities. We have been a popular venue for concerts and recitals hosting around twenty concerts a year.</p> |



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| <p>Assess: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we suffer from the following weaknesses...</i></p> | <p>Worship, prayer and spirituality: Our liturgical life does not include as many opportunities for meditation and silence as our members would wish. It is felt that the perception that our liturgies are very elaborate and formal may deter some from exploring what we have to offer.</p> <p>Learning and discipleship: Opportunities for learning and discipleship have been limited to weekly study Groups throughout Lent; Congregational Weekends; and talks organised by the St Bride's Women's Group. Study Groups are not as well attended as they might be (typically 8-12 people).</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into local communities: It is felt that, as a Church, we are not as involved within the local community as we might wish to be. Recent changes in Public Entertainment legislation have severely hampered our ability to host concerts and recitals. Though we are well known within Hyndland and Kelvinside we have little or no members from the other neighbourhoods that fall within our parish e.g. Partick.</p> |
| <p>Investigate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the following opportunities...</i></p> | <p>Worship, prayer and spirituality: There is a desire for more devotional services; times of meditation and silence; more informal services, and there are people willing to facilitate these.</p> <p>Learning and discipleship: There is a desire for a monthly study Group and there are people willing to facilitate this.</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into local communities: There is a willingness to conduct a Community Audit to discern further what we might offer the communities in which we are set and there are people willing to undertake this. There is also a desire to offer our Church as an educational resource for local schools.</p> |
| <p>Communicate: <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p> | <p>The Diocesan Growth Strategy has been discussed at Vestry Meetings and at a specially convened Congregational Lunch. The chosen strands have been explored in a series of sermons which were subsequently published in "The Oystercatcher – the Magazine of St Bride's Episcopal Church".</p> |



Stage 2: What will our Growth Strategy involve?

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| <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 perceive that God is calling us to be a community that celebrates the feasts and fasts of the Church gloriously and prayerfully whilst at the same time offering our beautiful Church as a place where the community can be still, pray, learn, and enjoy music. In order for this to happen we need to continue to be a loving community willing to respect each other's perspectives and willing to give our time to enact our plans.</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 worship, prayer and spirituality; learning and discipleship; and imaginative outreach into the local community because these are the areas which the congregation have consistently suggested could be developed further and for which we have people willing to undertake new projects.</p> |
| <p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of....</i></p> | <p>Worship, prayer and spirituality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A monthly Meditation Group. 2) Monthly devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. 3) Quiet Days. 4) Carol Singing for the local community. 5) An evening "Songs of Praise". <p>Learning and discipleship</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A monthly study and discussion Group <p>Imaginative outreach into local communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A "Community Audit". 2) A series of lectures for the local community explaining how our Church is used liturgically, complemented by small booklets. 3) Invite local schools to visit our Church. |



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.*

| Actions: <i>small achievable steps which gradually build into something bigger</i> | Who | When | |
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| | Introduce a regular Meditation Group. | Pat Hay | Monthly at 2.30pm on the 4 th Thursday of the month from September 2013 |
| | Introduce a regular period of devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. | Clergy and John Davies | Monthly at Midday on the 4 th Saturday of the month followed by a Eucharist at 12.30pm from September 2013. |
| | Hold an Advent Quiet Day | Clergy | Advent 2013 |
| | Organise a time of carol singing for the local community. (The carols would be interspersed with non-biblical readings, appropriate to the season, and would be followed by refreshments.) | Clergy and Vestry | Christmas 2013 |
| | Hold a "Songs of Praise" featuring more popular hymns from a variety of eras. | Clergy and Vestry | Sunday Evening at 5.30pm in the Autumn 2013 - If successful this could be repeated on the 5 th Sunday of each month. |
| | Introduce a regular study and discussion Group. (Possible areas of study and reflection could include - - The Bible - The Prayer book Collects - Anglican History - Famous Christians - The Creeds) | Rector and Margaret Adam | Monthly at 7.00pm on the 4 th Wednesday of the month from September 2013 |
| | Conduct a Community Audit | Sarah Holmes and Hannah Strommen | Completed by end of 2013 |
| | Hold a series of lectures for the local community explaining how our Church is used liturgically complemented by small booklets. | Rector, John Davies and John Hume | Spring 2014 |
| | Draft a pack for local schools indicating how our Church could be used for educational visits. | Alison Gifford, Kevin Francis, John Davies, Anne Blackwood. | Completed by Easter 2014 |



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:

- The demands and limitations imposed by legislation.*
- Uncertainty as to whether all that we undertake will be well supported.*

We appreciate that not everything we undertake will necessarily succeed. However, we are prepared to risk failure in order to grow.

Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean: *Easter 2014*

MAP signed by:

Rector/clergyperson - *The Reverend Canon J. H. Milne* Date - *07/04/13*

Secretary of the Vestry -*Mr Jonathan Lord* Date - *07/04/13*

(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 - *Fr. Donald Orr* Date - *April 2013*

Agreed frequency of ongoing Facilitator contact: *Quarterly*

*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*

