

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge/s **St Mary the Virgin, Port Glasgow.**

Name of Facilitator **Ian F Milne**

MAP Completed **...03/02/13...**

Strategic intent is growth

Stage 1: Why are we going for Growth?

<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>Welcoming, willing to work, striving, caring for one another, harmonious, joyful, flexible, people coming because they want to, committed Vestry.</p> <p>Through the involvement of individual members in voluntary and charitable work in the community; through making good use of church facilities; through concern with those outside the church.</p> <p>Sense of the value of continuity but acceptance of the need for change; realisation that church is not just a building and not just for Sundays.</p>
<p>Check: <i>understanding of each strand</i></p>	<p>Magazine articles; Vestry discussions; references during main service.</p>
<p>Appraise, affirm and celebrate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p>	<p>Prayer and Spirituality Valued liturgy; different types of worship –eg all-age service; variation in styles in ‘sermon slot’; lay members involved in the service – reading lessons, interceding, bringing the wine and bread to the altar at the offertory, lighting Advent candles; pew sheet includes a suggested theme for prayer for each day of the week ahead; prayer tree in foyer; well supported mid-week eucharist both morning and evening; contemplative use of recorded music; prayer shawls produced and distributed.</p> <p>Children and Young People Number of young people in church; number of confirmation candidates; Maundy Thursday sleep-over vigil planned for candidates (and others); active Sunday School; dedicated leaders; use of Messy Church (crib service and party); children’s slot in main service; young people included in service duties.</p> <p>Learning and Discipleship Advent and Lent courses offered; imaginative use of sermon slots including meditation.</p> <p>Missional Leadership Working with other local church guilds and the other episcopal churches within our grouping; ecumenical Remembrance Sunday observance; Members of our congregation are actively involved in missional activities in the local community eg Christian Aid, Girls Brigade, OBU, poppy collection; contact with house-bound members</p>



	<p>and those in care homes.</p> <p>Welcome, integration and numerical growth Friendly and welcoming congregation; concerned follow-up of absent members; loop system in place; large-print copies of the liturgy available; refreshments are offered in the church hall following the main Sunday service; occasional meals – harvest lunch, Passover meal; church magazine;</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into community Church building and facilities available for community use – Zumba, Youth Theatre, mums and tots, baptism and funeral receptions; seasonal renting of charity shop - as well as offering a valuable source of fund-raising this is an important link with the community.</p>
<p>Assess: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we suffer from the following weaknesses....</i></p>	<p>Prayer and Spirituality Not fully aware of our own strengths and spirituality.</p> <p>Children and Young People Family social problems can be inhibiting factor.</p> <p>Learning and Discipleship Poor uptake of parish and diocesan learning opportunities – not everyone’s cup of tea; more people needed to take on roles within the church.</p> <p>Missional Leadership Not so good at selling ourselves; finding it difficult to counter prevailing culture which no longer sees church as relevant.</p> <p>Welcome, integration and numerical growth The ‘missing generation’; number of ‘fringe’ members.</p>
<p>Investigate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>Prayer and Spirituality Willingness to experiment with different types of worship</p> <p>Children and Young People Church offered as a place for school visits</p> <p>Learning and Discipleship Opportunities afforded by social events for increasing discipleship.</p> <p>Missional Leadership Hinterland of large housing estates; large turnouts of uncommitted at baptisms.</p> <p>Welcome, integration and numerical growth Willingness to embrace fresh expressions of what it means to be church.</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into community Opportunity of involvement with St Martin’s in internet church. Internal and external notice boards convey details of church activities and involvement.</p>
<p>Communicate: <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p>	<p>Magazine articles, prayer, references during main service.</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>Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and making use of existing skills of members. • Developing individual ministries • Reaching out to the community • Working with other denominations • Being an Episcopalian presence. <p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love of God and of neighbours • Sense of family/community • Good communications • Generosity/hospitality • Prayerfulness • Inclusivity
<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>Children and Young People Learning needs to begin with our children and young people.</p> <p>Learning and Discipleship We recognise the need for growing ourselves as life-long learners.</p>
<p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce study groups eg during Lent 2. Provide opportunities for sharing personal spirituality 3. Identify what each individual member can offer to the church 4. Introduce 'Godly Play' 5. Work with partner churches



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
1.	Provide teaching eucharist.	Rector	Lent 2013
2.	Develop congregational skills questionnaire.	Rector/Vestry	Lent 2013
3.	Offer contextual bible study	Maureen Russell	May/June 2013
4.	Host worship leaders' course	Diocesan Ministry Development Team.	Feb. 2013
5.	Introduce reflective prayer hour	Gillian, Elizabeth, Helen, Andrew	Lent 2013
6.	Children to organise 'Messy Play'	Children, Gillian, Elizabeth.	May, June 2013.
7.	Introduce 'Godly Play'	Gillian, Elizabeth	September, 2013.



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:

..any encountered indifference.....

..any small setbacks.....

Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean

MAP signed by

Rector/clergypersonDate ...03/02/13

Secretary of the VestryDate... 03/02/13

(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

FacilitatorDate...03/02/13

Agreed frequency of ongoing Facilitator contactQuarterly.....

*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*

