

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge/s St Michael's, Helensburgh

Name of Facilitator Gill Reynolds

MAP Completed 17 May 2015

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>The church is beautiful, has been very well restored and is well-maintained. We know we are lucky to have this plant, and we are grateful for it.</p> <p>We think we are a little set in our ways, but it is difficult to find a way of invigorating services (for example) without upsetting a large number of the congregation. We also do a lot – 3 Prayer-Book services on a Sunday, plus the Open Spirit service (Sunday is 1982 liturgy and Tuesday we use the 1970). There are a lot of ecumenical initiatives – like the messy church, Christmas services.</p> <p>We think we should make some of the ecumenical services a bit more regular; we should work more with the young people of the community; and maybe we should find a way of engaging more people in prayer and in thinking of the future.</p>
<p>Check: <i>understanding of each strand</i></p>	<p>St Michael's people understand the strands well.</p>
<p>Appraise, affirm and celebrate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p>	<p>Welcome, integration, numerical growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is an excellent welcome team, especially (but not exclusively) at the 11am Eucharist, and generally the congregation is very welcoming ▪ We're pretty good at integrating people into the life of the church ▪ There is a lot going on which serves to integrate people into the life of the church <p>Worship, prayer and spirituality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is good worship ▪ The choice of liturgy is good ▪ Wide involvement of the congregation in intercessions, readings etc ▪ Good music ▪ Other services serve different needs – evensong and open spirit ▪ The meditation group is well attended ▪ Spirituality is well developed in individuals ▪ The bible study groups have good and consistent numbers <p>Learning and discipleship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 bible study groups serve different communities ▪ Open Spirit service is a teaching service ▪ Good sermons....



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bible study groups morph into Lent Groups and/or Advent Groups and also the various ecumenical groups <p>Children and Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are normally 2 or 3 children at the Sunday club... ▪ The Open Spirit service is intended for children and young people ▪ There is a good, big celebration on Christmas Eve ▪ The ecumenical service of Messy Church is excellent – people do come back to this and there are as many as 30 kids with mothers <p>Missional Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The vestry/other volunteers do a lot to take the lead – eg the Bible Study groups, magazine ▪ Eucharistic ministers take home communions <p>Imaginative Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many successful ecumenical services ▪ Lunch club – also ecumenical ▪ Badminton, hill-walking clubs ▪ Occasional concerts in the church ▪ Invitations are extended to hall users to join in
<p>Assess: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we suffer from the following weaknesses....</i></p>	<p>Welcome integration and numerical growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's mainly the same people who do everything ▪ We're not specially good at numerical growth ▪ Numbers are gradually going down over the years as people move away or die <p>Worship prayer and spirituality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surprisingly few at evensong ▪ Prayer group is OK but there are small numbers ▪ Communal prayer seems to be a big obstacle for most people in the church <p>Learning and discipleship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ But the sermons don't really explore enough aspects of a topic, even when there is a visiting preacher <p>Children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ .. but if everybody came there would be about 24 ▪ Timing of the Open Spirit service is wrong for it to grow ▪ We really think we have tried everything but children or their families don't really commit to church ▪ The Christmas celebration for children and young people is very good, but it doesn't bring people into church at other times <p>Missional Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There still aren't enough people to take on additional duties <p>Imaginative outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>This is all a bit ad hoc</i> ▪ <i>The activities provide a very pleasant, very friendly atmosphere but</i>



	<p>don't really bring people to the church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>We don't really have enough hall users</i>
<p>Investigate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>Welcome, integration and numerical growth We didn't really think that numerical growth came out of any specific action, but might arise as the result of some of our other activity (children and young people?).</p> <p>We did however contemplate adding links to websites of others (council, local paper etc) and also wondered whether finger signs might be an added reminder that we exist.</p> <p>Worship, prayer and spirituality We recognise that prayer is the foundation of everything we do, and that it is an essential at this stage of the MAP process. We probably need to find a way to help other members of our congregation to pray corporately.</p> <p>How about an online forum for prayer? Or specific areas of discernment through one or other of the prayer meetings?</p> <p>The Open Spirit service is fun but is it at a time when young people don't/can't come: other than that, we have 3 prayer book services in a week – maybe they could benefit from different settings of Gloria, Sanctus etc?</p> <p>Learning and discipleship What about a faith development course? The potential of Emmaus, Alpha other courses was discussed. Could this be ecumenical?</p> <p>Children and Young People We recognised that there were two fairly distinct groups – small children, and teenagers, who should be looked at separately.</p> <p>There had been a suggestion of having a family service regularly (1 x month) – but this could have a divisive effect on the remainder of the congregation. And would the children actually take part? Maybe this is something we could work up to? (in year 2 or 3).</p> <p>We should really ask the young people what they want in the way of other services (but not so that it becomes a huge exercise of different suggestions!). This should really be an ecumenical exercise, so perhaps ask Andy Lang and Helen Buchanan from St Andrews to help. There are issues here of there being nobody obvious to run the service, and also should it be in an evening (instead of Evensong – giving rise to the inevitable objections).</p> <p>Although the Open Spirit service had been intended for this group of teenagers, it had really failed in that regard as they weren't particularly keen on the timing.</p> <p>Other things discussed were the potential for special events at festival times – drama, processions, music etc.</p>



	<p>Missional Leadership Suggestions of a tick list for people to volunteer for various tasks – this was already in the magazine, but a different way of doing the work might well work.</p> <p>The magazine could be taken round and people actually engaged in conversation, rather than just delivered through the doors!</p> <p>Imaginative Outreach How about a regular service with the United Reform Church? Seems a good idea.</p> <p>Likewise members of Park Church (which was being incorporated into another CofS congregation) could be invited into St Michael's if it could be done without upsetting the CofS Minister.</p> <p>We could ask those organisations which use our hall if they'd like to display their 'wares' in church, and then do this on a regular basis. Maybe we could look around and offer the hall to others?</p>
<p>Communicate: <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p>	<p>To date, the vestry has had a regular report on the MAPping process, and there is a vestry report in each issue of the magazine. However we will now start a very focussed exercise about telling people what we're doing and why: this will be both on an individual basis, and by written report.</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 that we must make an effort to start something which can be sustained for the young people of the community. This should build on existing ecumenical links, and should be implemented soon, so that the current youth worker can advise, and start the process with his successor.</p> <p>We shall need to be diplomatic, so that the existing congregations come with us, and are not alienated. Although there was a suggestion of having a monthly family service, we don't really know who this is for, and we do think it could easily cause difficulties.</p> <p>What we do know is that we want to emphasise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christ's love among us ▪ Service, welcome, worship and fellowship ▪ Sharing the good news ▪ Being at the heart of the community <p>And we adopted the following Mission Statement</p> <p>Sharing Jesus' love and peace with everyone</p>
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<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. They are the obvious future of the church – and if we do it ecumenically, we are also helping with that future.</p> <p>Worship prayer and liturgy We like the idea of an Easter vigil for the young people – we are going to work at this for next year, we hope with other churches.</p> <p>In addition, we really think that prayer should be prioritised. We can try an online forum for prayer; and a re-start of the monthly prayer meetings</p> <p>We also want to try an occasional (at least) service with different musical settings of the Eucharist.</p> <p>We know that the joint worship with the URC is very popular; so we shall offer them other opportunities and see if this can become a more entrenched option.</p> <p>Outreach We are going to contact hall users with the intention of asking them to put up display boards in church, showing us what they do. We may also ask them if they would like to give a performance to us.</p>
<p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to start an Easter vigil in 2016 for young people 2. to investigate and discuss what young people want from church and to introduce this if we can 3. to ask the hall users to share with us 4. to have more regular joint services with the URC 5. try to increase our corporate prayer life 6. to investigate new musical settings for worship 7. to increase our general links in the community

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	Contact the 'Contraflow' worker and his successor to get to know the young people better and increase this over the year Start planning the Easter Vigil – break down a bit more If we can, work towards a more regular service for the young people – possibly on a Sunday evening a month	David Anne plus others Anne/David plus other churches and other vestry/MAP members	April Soon Autumn onwards
2	Get the SW corner of the church watertight and improve the display boards Identify then make initial approach to user groups and see how they react to all of this	Richard with Vestry David initially plus other members of MAP group	Summer Autumn
3	Propose to URC that there are more (regular) joint services	Kevin	May
4	See if we can restart or reinvigorate the Tuesday prayer group Start an online forum for prayer Can we start monthly prayer meetings	Kevin Richard David	Starting in May and ongoing
5	Look for some new musical settings for liturgy	Fiona	May
6	Get some links from/to other websites See if we can get some 'finger posts' set up in Helensburgh	Fiona	May

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:

That it will be difficult, and that we may need a few attempts before we come up with the right mix for St Michael's young people's initiative



That moving an Evensong (a possible long-term aim) may initially cause some disruption

Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean

MAP signed by

Rector/clergyperson *David Cook* Date *17 May 2015*

Young member of the congregation *Amy Nooney* Date *17 May 2015*

pp Secretary of the Vestry *Kevin Boak* Date *17 May 2015*

(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 *Gill Reynolds* Date *17 May 2015*

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*

