

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge/s St Oswald's Maybole
Name of Facilitator Lorraine Darlow and Anne Tomlinson
MAP Completed 20th June 2012

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>Small but active congregation. Family feel, supportive church family as well as family groups. God has been and is at work in all that we do, individually and together. We need to maintain our ability to work together with all tasks being achieved cheerfully. Be aware of non-essential things that could be lived without, e.g. Vestry decision not to have pew leaflet during July/August to ease workload.</p>
<p>Check: <i>understanding of each strand</i></p>	<p>This was completed at the Stage 1 meeting on 04.03.12</p>
<p>Appraise, affirm and celebrate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we exhibit the following strengths ...</i> * <i>see attached document</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hospitable • generous in fundraising and use of time and talents • strong part of ecumenical body and in town • energetic - managed to maintain a Sunday School • mutually supportive • musically innovative • adaptable <p>- an ability to welcome people into the fellowship easily - an outward focus towards the local/global community - the ability to work together/collaborate on a common project - great resilience and stickability</p>
<p>Assess: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we suffer from the following weaknesses....</i></p>	<p>Prayer and Spirituality – only Clergy and Worship Leader leading intercessions Learning and Discipleship – no opportunity to meet together for Bible Study, sharing groups Missional Leadership – only one Worship Leader, no Pastoral Assistants Numerical growth, welcome and integration – at times we can be too enthusiastic in our welcome Children and young people – not many at present Imaginative outreach into local communities – relationship with local nursing home needs to be re-assessed</p>
<p>Investigate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the</i></p>	<p>Prayer and Spirituality – members of congregation leading intercessions on a regular basis; experimental use of Service of Word; music group leading worship Learning and Discipleship – Lent Study groups; Maundy Thursday</p>



<p><i>following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>Christian Passover re-enactment; autumn series of study groups using York Course; experimental use of Service of Word Missional Leadership – music group leading worship Numerical growth, welcome and integration – continue with friendly approach but we aware of sensitivities Children and young people – keep Sunday School available on ad-hoc basis for when several children attend; explore use of area at back of church if only one or two children Imaginative outreach into local communities - Flower Festival; Doors Open Day; Charity Shop; Concerts; Christingle Service; Maundy Thursday Passover re-enactment supported by people from other churches and another faith</p>
<p>Communicate: <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p>	<p>Congregational meetings with and without facilitators; updates in Parish Magazine / pew leaflet as appropriate; verbal – members of Vestry speak to people in congregation. This will continue.</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) 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>(i) The Church we see is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vibrant • family-filled • happy • tranquil • peaceful • joyful and full of singing • going from strength to strength • relevant and welcoming • ‘covered in the dust of the Master’ who goes just ahead of us • growing in depth of knowledge <p>(ii) mission values: (magnet)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preaching of God’s word motivates us to go out to live and work for the Kingdom of God • we believe in the power of prayer • gathering as Church on a Sunday is a sign; we are called to be Christ to others by our example, and thus have to be a good example • we come to worship empty, to be refilled, in order to go out • the church is a family; it has a corporate identity as the Body of Christ • we will overcome challenges • we are called to be a sign of healing in the world
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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>Prayer and Spirituality; Learning and Discipleship; Imaginative Outreach into Local Communities.</p> <p>We feel that a number of the new things we are trying don't stand alone in any one section, but that there is overlap, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service of the Word encompasses both the learning and prayer and spirituality sections. • Our Maundy Thursday Passover re-enactment fulfilled all 3 priorities. • The music group are teaching us new worship songs and attracting different people to our services, while enriching our spiritual experience.
<p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intercessions to be led by different people 2. Experimental use of Service of Word, combined with Music Group leading worship 3. Regular Bible Study 4. Exploring different ways of celebrating / symbolising events during the church year 5. Vestry proposal to re-furbish church interior, to create a more comfortable and flexible worship space.

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
Intercessions led by members of congregation	Marilyn and Becky	Spring 2012 onwards
Music Group continue to practice and learn new music	Music Group	Spring 2012 onwards
Lent Bible study groups Autumn Bible study groups	Ian and helpers Vestry to arrange	Lent 2012 Autumn 2012
Christian Passover re-enactment	Ian and helpers	April 2012
Experimental use of Service of the Word	Ian, Gordon	April to September 2012
Vestry proposing to congregation refurbishment of church to be more comfortable and give flexibility.	Vestry	Congregational meeting 12th August 2012



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:

- Being a small number of people
- Amount of effort required
- Perceived financial constraints

Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean August 2013

MAP signed by

Rector/clergyperson *Revd Dr Ian Meredith* Date 12.08.12

Secretary of the Vestry *Marilyn Pope* Date 12.08.12

(5 copies are signed, being for the cleric, the Vestry, Bishop Gregor, the Convenor of the Regional Council and the Facilitator.)

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

Facilitators *Lorraine Darlow and Anne Tomlinson* Date 17.08.12

Agreed frequency of on-going Facilitator contact – twice yearly, once a year meeting with interim 6 monthly contact either by e-mail or phone to Vestry Secretary.

*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*



Appendix Strands reviewed

Imaginative outreach into local community 2010-11

The Flower Festival involved local schools, churches and neighbouring communities. We built worship into it and 'made spiritual connections'; on the Saturday before Easter, we invited people to decorate the Easter Cross with flowers which were a remembrance of loved ones. We had a service of hymns celebrating the Christian year at the start of the Festival. It was thus an event that was both about community outreach and evangelism.

The Charity Shop is a good example of how we present the church outwith our walls. Through it we become aware of the needs in our community and also modelled neighbourliness and care. It was a way of 'sowing seeds'. We work *with* another organisation – Save the Children – in running it.

The Maybole Concert Party event packed the church with many different people attending.

Support of Save the Children – on-going support for Save the Children is greatly appreciated by the local committee.

Russian Choir concert in Oct 2011 filled the church.

We try to be 'accessible and inclusive'. We participated in the 'Doors Open Day' and Remembrance Sunday events in the community; we maintain our plant well so that we are **an attractive sign** in the community. The Christmas Fair, the shoeboxes for Blythswood and our Harvest Lunch are other examples of our vigorous, caring outreach. In all of this it is noticeable that **everybody gets involved**; all gifts are utilised and no-one is considered too old to be involved. For instance, at the Flower Festival older members helped by stewarding the church while it was open.

Worship, prayer and spirituality 2010-11

Developments in music. When our organist retired, we made the decision to use a sound system instead, so bought the equipment and CDs. This is a good way to provide music for Sunday worship, but the burden of burning the CDs rests with just a few people. Meanwhile we discovered that the organ was deteriorating through disuse, so we are going to restart using organists. But we are also developing a Music Group for alternative musical provision. They played at the Christingle Service and are continuing to develop. They will have a role especially in the Service of the Word. See below.

Liturgy. We are part of the group in the diocese asked by Bishop Gregor to pilot usage of the new Service of the Word, licensed for experimental use for two years. It is a form of 'modern Mattins', and we will be experimenting with it for six months. It will allow for more time for Christian education in the 'sermon slot' as there is no Eucharist. This will add to the **variety of worship** we offer within St Oswald, and between the three churches.

Participation. We have involved more people in the **ministry of Intercessions** of late, and this has been of great value. One notices 'different textures' in this way.

The Christingle Service attracted 80 people and we had to put out extra chairs. We worked hard at **publicising** the event round the town, and we noted that the **timing** – on a Saturday – seemed to be one when families were available. We told the Nativity story in a **comprehensive and comprehensible** way; familiarity seems to be an important issue here. Our Christmas attendance was up 500% - this was not just a factor of the weather but was linked to the attendance at the Christingle Service.

