

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge/s **St Aidan's Clarkston**
 Name of Facilitator **Revd Canon Anne Tomlinson**
 MAP Completed

YEAR 2

Stage 1:

<p>From the scribe's notes of the Review meeting, list the <i>last MAP actions completed</i></p>	<p>Creation/continuation of opportunities for deepening Learning and Discipleship on the part of all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Group relocated and grew • Flourishing of the Wednesday discussions, attracting 19 participants when held in the warm vestry • Lent and Advent groups had been vibrant, well led and well attended • Renewal of the church library and its usage by congregation and by other Hall users • Web-site as a developing vehicle for education and a significant entrance portal for newcomers/seekers. • Growth in the number of children attending Sunday School • The St Aidan's lectures and booklets, and the Livingstone day <p>Creation/continuation of opportunities for deepening of Worship, Prayer and Spirituality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School; growth in terms of the children's spiritual development • Use of Daily Prayer by the congregation • Sunday bring-and-share lunches; fellowship and discussion
<p><i>last MAP actions not completed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at the day conference on 'David Livingstone and Christian Mission & Ecumenism Today' had been disappointing. • Idea of including singing as part of the House Group experience had not worked.
<p><i>learnings from the first year's MAP</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The congregation had come together and shown resilience and energy in facing the financial difficulties of the past year.
<p>Reflect upon the resourcing of the first year's MAP and what that means for the second</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of the financial situation, initiatives had been chosen which would not entail major capital outlay. The day conference had run at a financial loss. • The St Aidan's Lectures 2012 and resultant publication had been a great success and a way in which the church acts as an educational resource for the wider diocese. Bids made to Growth Fund for digital projector and peripherals; these had been successful, enabling the congregation to develop this aspect of ministry in/for their Region and wider. • Need for the cascading of involvement leading to even greater participation on the part of more people

<p>Review - your Church as God would see it now - where God is at work in the community and in the church now? - what growth signs need to be built upon - what avenues can be set aside for now?</p>	<p>St Aidan's has been a growing congregation since early 2011, a year before the MAP was adopted. The 'Learning and Discipleship' and 'Worship & Spirituality' strands were selected as best reflecting where growth was already happening and where further potential for growth was to be encouraged. It was felt that growth in the Sunday School, in terms both of numbers of children and of their spiritual development, had been notable. While 'Children and Young People' had not been one of the Year 1 development strands, their learning, discipleship, spirituality and worship are as much a part of the congregation and its growth as anyone else's.</p>
<p>Re-appraise, re-affirm and celebrate: with regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we now exhibit the following strengths ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missional Leadership: more Authorised Lay Ministers - more Eucharistic Assistants and 1 new Pastoral Visitor; overhaul of pastoral visiting to coincide with retrospective disclosure • New members and a good number of young children: 9 of Sunday School age (two in secondary school) and up to 8 or more in the crèche • Feeling of desperation about lack of cash has gone • Liturgical participation of children has increased; peace prayer now said • Some new members integrated into significant roles already
<p>Re-assess: with regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we are suffering from the following weaknesses now....</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As well as the difficult financial situation, in some respects our buildings are not adequate to our needs, and we do not have the facilities for activities we might otherwise consider. There is no secluded place for pastoral encounters, for instance. The Hall and Choir Vestry are used extensively by external groups, and despite the noise from these groups, and the fact that they use space that might otherwise be used by church groups, these factors are trumped by the fact that the income from those lets is essential. A smaller space than the church is needed for meetings, but the Lady Chapel is not immediately suitable as it cannot be heated separately from the rest of the church and screening would be expensive • The Council's new parking measures are likely to make Sunday parking near the church very difficult and may affect attendance • Fund-raising fatigue setting in • Staffing of growing Sunday School is very stretched; teachers need to be able to have at least one Sunday off a month
<p>Investigate: with regard to each strand of the strategy, we now detect the following opportunities...</p>	<p>Welcome, Integration and Numerical Growth/Children and Young People: increased number of children and young parents raises opportunities and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think how to staff/support (and enlarge) a very disparate age-range of Sunday School attendees including ways of involving parents <p>Learning and Discipleship; increase the range of people who come to groups; think about the kind of material for the Advent and Lent groups that might appeal, and the media that might be used (film?)</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 now?</i></p> <p><i>(ii) list the values that underpinned last year's MAP; are there any new values which you need to adopt for further growth to happen?</i></p>	<p>The underlying vision had not changed: 'Being central to and known in the community'; 'outgoing and comprehensible to outsiders'; 'welcoming, inclusive and friendly'; 'financially solvent'; 'a vigorous, growing family church for all ages which is supportive and caring'.</p> <p>The underpinning values were seen to be (i) greater generosity; (ii) the capacity to be open to new ideas, new people, new ways of operating; (iii) the encouragement of everyone's participation and valuing of their skills (iv) courage and a positive attitude.</p> <p>Added to this, though allied to much of it, was</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a desire to be able to discern the gifts of others • the centrality of communicating the message <i>outwith</i> our walls in ways that are relevant and accessible • the belief that <i>all</i> ages need to grow in faith and understanding
<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 wish to continue with the existing strands for another year as we feel they comprehensively cover the areas on which we need to continue working:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship, Prayer and Spirituality 2. Learning and Discipleship <p>The intention is to help members of all age-groups grow in faith and spirituality so that they in turn are more able to commend their faith to newcomers and seekers. We believe that the growth of the congregation needs to be based upon the growth of its members' lives of discipleship.</p>
<p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. offering training in liturgical understanding and behaviour for both adults and children 2. growing the Prayer Group in the Chapel and continuing with the series of sessions on varieties of spirituality 3. planning a congregational retreat 4. increasing children's participation in liturgy, especially through music 5. improving the means of sharing worship electronically, overhauling the sound equipment for recording of services 6. addressing issue of the staffing of Sunday School and Youth work by involving new parents and also engaging in discussion with neighbouring charges in the Region about sharing 7. increasing the scope and confidence of the Pastoral Visiting Team

Stage 3: How will we encourage Growth?

Actions		Who	When
1	Worship, Prayer and Spirituality		
1a	Benedictine Spirituality session Franciscan Spirituality session	Paul Romano Lawrence Osborn	16.11.13 tbc
1b	Congregational Retreat on Cumbrae	Rector	06-08.06.14
1c	Prayer Group Discussion Group	Sarah Dinsdale-Young Lawrence Osborn	ongoing ongoing
1d	Advent Course Lent Course using US material	Lawrence Osborn Lawrence Osborn	
2	Learning and Discipleship		
2a	St Aidan's Lectures (Day Conference)	Rector	
2b	Overhaul of sound system electronic address list	Stephen Dunlop Joan Donaldson	
2c	Discussion at Wednesday Eucharist	Rector and Phyllis Cross	
2d	Hold regular Pastoral Visitors' meetings for fellowship, sharing of information and ongoing training; continue to think about how to encourage, train, authorise and use new Pastoral Visitors	Pat Newton	05.11.13 and as needed
2e	Sunday School and Youth Work increase Sunday School staff complement Increase resources for children, particularly musical instruments Meet with clergy from St Ninian's, St Margaret's, and St Aidan's with Sunday School attendants to discuss ways of sharing a dedicated post across Region Liturgical formation for children for adults (silence and stilling)	Ministry Team Growth Fund bid to be discussed Rector, Rachael Samuel Sarah Dinsdale-Young and Rachael Samuel Rector	21.11.13

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:

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Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean

MAP signed by

Rector/clergypersonDate.....

Secretary of the Vestry

Date.....

(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.....

Agreed frequency of ongoing Facilitator contact

*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*