

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



Name of Charge/s St Fillan's, Kilmacolm

Name of Facilitator Helen Ball / Elizabeth Matheson

MAP Completed

Strategic intent is growth

Stage 1: Why are we going for Growth?

<p>Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <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>St. Fillan's is a long established and faithful congregation in the village of Kilmacolm. We see ourselves as a minority church 'punching above our weight' in spite of the fact that the congregation has suffered decline in recent years. The membership is ageing and some families have moved away. The Vestry and congregation have shown determination to address the situation and is preparing to meet the challenges of the forthcoming retirement of our Rector. The close-knit and caring character of St.Fillan's has helped to give us a fresh vision of our mission and outreach in these times.</p> <p>St. Fillan's is mainly traditional in its forms of worship. The congregation finds strength in such continuity but are willing to consider how they might do things better; to be welcoming to all; to have family services on occasion and willing to reflect on how St Fillan's may continue to be a place of prayer, of worship and peace.</p> <p>St. Fillan's serves within the local community in many and varied ways.</p> <p>We need to be more aware of what we do, and to acknowledge that. We will strive over the next year to look closely at how we do things.</p>
<p>Check: <i>understanding of each strand</i></p>	<p>Each strand was discussed at a meeting with the Vestry on 2nd February 2012. They have been explained to the congregation at subsequent meetings and given a synopsis of the flipchart notes from the discussions.</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: The church is open from 8am – 10pm. We have lay assistants in worship; and we feel that our services do meet the needs of older members The majority of members are happy with the forms of worship at St Fillan's Varied worship – we have three different types each month Wednesday service in the vestry Evensong on the 5th Sunday of the month We attend Regional Council services</p> <p>Learning and discipleship: We hold Lent course The Sunday School display is used and commented upon by outside groups Colum's sermons strengthen our faith as we go out into the world We discuss topical things after the Wednesday communion service The Book Group is open to the whole village. Sometimes our books give us opportunities to discuss faith.</p> <p>Missional leadership: The Vestry has to be part of that We are praying individually for the future of St Fillan's The Rector and the Vestry discern missional leaders We are a friendly church and everybody in the church does something People do visiting We are better at this than we thought!</p> <p>Numerical growth, welcome and integration: We invite people to events and outreach projects We have good notice boards A nice comfortable building which is not intimidating, and it's kept well The garden is very attractive We have welcoming sidesmen We put a notice in the local Advertiser; and we have a web site Brunch and Browse has helped So does the charity shop – church members work there</p> <p>Children and young people: A very small Sunday School with 4-5 regulars Very high quality teaching in the Sunday School Some church members volunteer at the schools Young people's dance groups, drama groups and birthday parties use the hall as paying guests There is a good relationship between the children at St Fillan's and the other members of the congregation. They feel part of the church.</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into local communities: Open doors, Brunch and Browse, the hall lets, combined services We organise social trips with coach-loads of people The book group Our mother-and-toddler group met a need in the past Taxis for hospital visits We offer a warm welcome to Brunch and Browse and the Shrove Tuesday coffee morning We visit the sick – quietly</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: Bibles are not readily available in the church There are no obvious areas in the church that could be used as quiet areas Not all the church members know where the church key is kept, so they cannot come into the church to pray during the week. Our services are more traditional so someone looking for something informal won't find it If you go for one interest group, you might turn off the other members</p> <p>Learning and discipleship: No Bible study group Recently we have not been offering opportunities for Confirmation. We are not sure about the current role of Confirmation in the Scottish Episcopal Church.</p> <p>Missional leadership: It's hard to get volunteers, though we are delighted to have them Organising the MAP process has been a struggle so far Making decisions via informal chat might be a weakness in church life. It may be harder to make sure that everybody's views and ideas have been heard and taken into account. It may also be harder to communicate decisions effectively.</p> <p>Numerical growth, welcome and integration: We are on a side street and our notice board had to be removed from the main road</p> <p>Children and young people: We feel that we could not resource a new children's service or project at the moment. Teenagers – how can they be persuaded to stay?</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into local communities: We did not identify any weaknesses with regard to this strand of the growth strategy.</p>
<p>Investigate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we detect the following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>Worship, prayer and spirituality: To make time before the service for private devotion We could utilize the vestry as a quiet devotional space; also the garden has potential for development as a space for meditation – a quiet space of Christian spirituality for church members and anyone else We invite the village to our Carol Service We have a tradition of music in the church</p> <p>Learning and discipleship: We could reaffirm the place of work lives of members of St Fillan's at a special service</p> <p>Missional leadership: At present, we do not have a Priest-in-charge, who would assist us with this strand of the vine.</p> <p>Numerical growth, welcome and integration: We could develop our website further; and we have a Facebook page</p>



	<p>We have plans for a new notice board We have plans for freshening up the vestibule to make it as attractive and welcoming as the church.</p> <p>Children and young people: Our excellent small Sunday School could be a catalyst for future developments in children's work</p> <p>Imaginative outreach into local communities: Our community audit is still a work to be done We think we could reach out to the disadvantaged/unemployed people in the area One of our members helps to organize a social outing each year, this could continue We hold special worship services for the community: Nativity Play, Carol Service, Remembrance, and Harvest. One of our members is on the town twinning committee</p>
<p>Communicate: <i>How has everything so far been communicated?</i></p>	<p>The Diocesan Prayer for Growth has been regularly used at St Fillan's; a MAP supplement was circulated with the church magazine; MAP meetings have been advertised in the pew sheets; members have been encouraged to discuss MAP amongst themselves and to pray about it.</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</i></p>	<p>After much discussion and reflection on our vision for St Fillan's we have chosen: <i>A Place of Welcome, a Space for God, the Grace to Grow</i></p> <p>The values we need are: Growth in Prayer Good Communications with each other, in the community and with the diocese. Understanding the needs and aspirations of the congregations and wider community. Encouraging the use of gifts and talents within the congregation to the best</p>
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<p><i>growth to happen?</i></p>	<p>effect in the life of the church and beyond.</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>Worship, prayer and spirituality We are prepared to open our worship services to different groups and experiences We will ensure that those people who wish private devotions will be allowed the time and the quietude We would like to make sure that our service books are newcomer-friendly We would invite young people’s groups and/or schools to participate in, or even design our worship from time to time Ensure that the special worship services we hold for the community, Nativity Play, Carol Service, Remembrance, and Harvest will continue. Begin a Prayer Circle</p> <p>Numerical growth, welcome and integration: We are interested in advertising special services, using the website and Facebook We will ask a music student to develop a children’s community choir, which could perform at services in and around the community We could build bridges with local schools and our hall users We would also explore more ways of integrating young people in the service We will develop a web page to ensure that the community know what is going on in St Filan’s. We will continue with our monthly ‘Brunch and Browse’, to which we invite the community</p>
<p>Goals</p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giving time/quiet to those wishing private devotions before the service 2. Find/employ a music student willing to take on the children’s choir 3. Explore ways of integrating children more within the service 4. Set up a Prayer Circle 5. Continue ‘Brunch & Browse 6. Develop Facebook and the Website 7. Ensure the continuance of the community services 8. Explore ways of allowing young people to interact with/or desing a



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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
	Developing a Children's Community Choir (Angel Voices)	Maureen Russell Vivienne Smith	Sept '13
	Brunch & Browse monthly teas/coffee/soup	Ken Graham, Carina Bull, Helen Brown and Ann McBride	ongoing
	Kilmacolm Twinning Project - St. Fillan's input	Chris Butlin	Nov '13
	Developing Web page	Carol Lovett	
	New booklet for 1970 Liturgy	Maureen Russell	Jan '14



		Gardening Club and Cleaning Team	Evelyn Russell Peter Klovborg	Aug '13
		Advent Study Group and Lent Study Group	Gerard McKeown Maureen Russell	2013/ 2014
		Having Evensong on the last Sunday of each month – an increase from the quarterly Evensong	Maureen Russell Gerard McKeown	

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 ongoing Interregnum and the linking of the three charges of St. Fillan's, St. Mary's Bridge of Weir and St. Mary's Port Glasgow has involved the Vestry with a considerable amount of time and work however St. Fillan's has engaged with the MAP process with enthusiasm and continues to be actively involved in the life of St. Fillan's and the local community.

Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean

MAP signed by :

Pastoral Assistant (in the absence of Rector)Date.....

Secretary of the VestryDate.....

(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*

