

Mission Action Plan Update

Growing Faith, Building Community, Sharing Hope

At a vestry meeting in February this year, we shared a Vision and Mission Action Plan for the Parish moving forward. Since then, the following actions have been taken to implement the plan.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

The Joyful Noise Children's Choir has been rehearsing since May and we now have a stable core group of 9 singers. Everyone is warmly invited to attend the first concert on Saturday September 14th at 3pm.

The Development of Teams

Part of the Mission Action Plan was the establishment of several teams to further our strategic goals. The Parish Council has endorsed the formation of the following new teams:

The People and Participation Team under the leadership of Glyn Price, will develop and implement strategies to:

- Cultivate a sense of belonging across the church family (including the welcoming and integration of newcomers)
- Equip church members with the knowledge and information they need to participate meaningfully in the ministry and mission of the Parish.

The Community Engagement Team, under the leadership of Margaret Curd, will develop and implement strategies to:

- inform the wider community about our activities as a Parish
- seek opportunities to engage with the wider community in activities that serve our vision to Grow Faith, Build Community and Share Hope.

The Pastoral Care Team, under the leadership of Colin Fidock and Ann Dixon, will develop and implement strategies to:

- support families and individuals as they discern the needs and circumstances of members of our church family.
- these strategies may include praying, providing practical help to those who need support, hospital and home visits, including the administration of Holy Communion by extension, and pastoral care conversations.

These teams are in the process of formation and membership is not yet determined. Existing stakeholders in various related activities will be involved and consulted as the teams develop their plans.

Several existing teams also continue as part of the Mission Action Plan:

The Community Garden Team

The OpShop Team

The Work Health Safety Advisory Team

The Property Maintenance Team

Facilities Development

To resource our vision we identified the following needs:

- More suitable spaces for small groups to meet
- Renewal/development of worship space - lighting, sound, AV and provision for music ensemble and singers
- Room for Children's Ministry/Playgroup and storage for resources and equipment
- Improved space for events and hospitality, potentially a commercially operating cafe
- Work spaces for ministry team
- Investment fund to support paid ministry training positions
- Opshop and storage and sorting spaces which are safe, fit for purpose and built to last for the next generation
- Garden shed(s)
- Paid cafe manager
- Paid Playgroup Co-ordinator / Children's Ministry Worker

In order to resource the vision, it was determined that we should investigate the sale of the St Mark's site at Wynn Vale and undertake a building project at St Luke's. A motion was passed at the February meeting encouraging the Parish Priest, with the Parish Council and in consultation with Diocesan Office, to seek expert advice regarding the information necessary for an informed decision on the proposed MAP and subsequently to provide a sufficiently detailed plan for consideration by the Vestry.

The Parish Council has commissioned and received a draft building plan prepared by an architect who was recommended by the Synod Office. At this stage there are many variables to consider and the plans are not yet costed. It is likely that there will be significant variations to the draft plans as we look at what is affordable and will meet the needs of the Mission Action Plan. We don't believe that the current draft is suitable for consultation at this stage. Please be assured that the Parish Council will consult with the members of the congregation when we have a plan that we believe is appropriate and affordable.

In parallel to this process, the clergy and wardens are working with Synod Office to determine the best application of funds from the proposed sale of the Wynn Vale site. When any Parish property is sold, the Synod retains a percentage of the realised funds for mission and ministry in the diocese and beyond. This may be up to 45%. Obviously this will affect our development plans.

We have also considered the provision of suitable clergy housing. The current rectory requires significant renovation if it is to keep pace with current clergy housing standards. If, on the other hand, we purchase a new rectory, the money spent on that purchase can be attributed to the parish prior to any division of funds to the diocese. The purchase of a new rectory is therefore a way in which we can maximise the retention of funds from the sale and provide suitable clergy accommodation. The Parish Council believes that this is a good option. Retaining the Harrison Avenue property is also seen as desirable because it can provide rental income and it is a strategic location adjacent to the parish which, once sold, could never be regained. Therefore, the Parish Council has resolved to undertake some moderate maintenance and renovations to the Harrison Ave rectory, prior to re leasing the property.

There is much still to be done and many decisions to be made. As we discern the path forward together, I encourage everyone to regularly pray this prayer:

God our Father, you have a plan for us, you hold out to us a future full of hope. Give us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we can see the shape of your plan in the gifts you have given us. As we explore the various options which lie before us, help us to listen openly to others, and to respond to your

call to Grow Faith, Build Community and Share Hope. Give us the freedom of your Spirit, to seek you with all our hearts and to choose your will above all else.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.