

MERTON
PRIORY
CHRISTCHURCH
HOLY TRINITY
+ ST. JOHN'S +
TEAM
MINISTRY

Mission Action Plan

Introduction

Where is God calling us as a parish?

What are his longings and desires for our community?

In our Mission Action Planning we've sought to give expression to the ways we've heard God speaking to us.

The starting point for our plan was our Mission Statement:

In Merton Priory Team Ministry we aim to be a community:

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

We know we don't always get it right, but seek God's grace to fulfil his mission

We have consulted our congregations, sought God's guidance at Church Council meetings, held an Away Day to plan. And we have identified twelve action areas.

But this is only the beginning. Now it's time to put these into action.

Summary

	Holy Trinity	Christ Church	St John's
Faithful to God	Encourage members to explore a Rule of Life	Develop music making in the liturgy	Develop the new 10am family service
	Develop Team Music Making for Worship		
Sharing with those in need	Develop Holy Trinity as a hub for volunteering opportunities	Choose a charitable project for a year which whole church comes together to support	Hold a monthly Saturday morning breakfast cafe
	Support for Older People living in Poverty		
Caring for one another	Create a Pastoral Network for our congregation	Create a Church Network for the congregation	Create a Church Network for the congregation
	Establish Messy Church at St John's		

Merton Priory Parish

Faithful to God

Develop Team Music Making for Worship

Purpose

To enhance worship and deepen relationships within the team through music making.

Description

At five or more Team services during the year bring together people from the three churches to make music – singers and instrumentalists. These services will include the three Sunday morning team services, plus at least two other joint services during the year. Create a contact list of musicians in all three churches for communication. Hold appropriate rehearsals for these services. Consider ways of including children for all-age team services.

Planning

A small planning team led by Richard Webber and including the paid Directors of Music, who will work together on such services.

Review

Feedback progress to PCC during 2015.
Review with the planning group and PCC early 2016.

Merton Priory Parish

Sharing with Those in Need

Support Older People living in Poverty

Purpose

To enrich the lives of some older people living in need.

Description

In response to statistics identifying poverty among pensioners as a feature of our parish, to discern a project to be community resource where older people can receive friendship, support and advice. Initial conversations have explored the possibility of a lunch club, offering a hot meal in a warm and welcoming venue. This is subject to further research into local services, an audit of need, and the possibilities of working with other local faith organisations and agencies.

Planning

A small planning team led by Kate Tuckett will meet to plan a way forward.

Review

Feedback progress to PCC during 2015.

Evaluate whether specific actions have been identified by Sept 2015.

Merton Priory Parish

Caring for One Another

Establish Messy Church at St John's

Purpose

To bring resources from all three churches together to promote the mission of St John's for families and children in its local neighbourhood.

Description

Establish a Messy Church expression of church monthly on a Saturday morning at St John's. Bring together a group from all three churches to deliver this. Advertise on High Path Estate, at Merton Abbey School, and more widely. Nurture those who come in Christian faith.

Planning

A small planning team led by Ann Roberts and including at least one person from each church in the team. The planning team to include H&S and Safeguarding in preparation, and a visit to an existing Messy Church provider. Involve a wide and diverse group of helpers.

Review

Feedback progress to PCC during 2015.

Evaluation in Sept 2015, including whether the group is established and whether it is attracting new and local people.

Holy Trinity

Faithful to God

Encourage Members to explore a Rule of Life

Purpose

To deepen Christian prayer and discipleship

Description

Introduce the concept of a 'rule of life' to members of the congregation, through preaching, teaching, and literature. Develop resources to help people to develop their own rule. Give people opportunities to talk with one of the clergy or another wise person or trusted friends about their rule of life. Make a point of targeting young people and give them opportunities to engage with a rule of life. Continue to make these resources available and promote them as time goes on. Give people the chance to review their rule of life.

Planning

A small planning team led by Revd Chris Palmer.
Introduce the concept and material in Lent 2015.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.
Ask for feedback early 2016.
Affirm ways in which people tell stories of their Christian discipleship.

Holy Trinity

Sharing with Those in Need

Develop Holy Trinity as a Hub for Volunteering Opportunities

Purpose

To increase and celebrate the impact of our church on our community and world in meeting human need.

Description

Survey the congregation to ascertain what volunteering members already take part in; ensure that young people in the congregation are given a chance to take part. Publicise and celebrate this impact of our congregation. Plan occasions to hear stories from some of these people.

Research opportunities for volunteering in our community and world, including openings available to young people. Collate information on these and make it available to the congregation and others who wish to give their time – both in paper form and on our website.

Planning

A small planning team led by ...

Use Lent evening services as an initial way to hear volunteering stories.

Collect resources and carry out survey in first half of 2015. Have full resource available by September 2015.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.

Carry out second survey of congregation's volunteering mid 2016.

Affirm ways in which people tell stories of their Christian volunteering.

Holy Trinity

Caring for One Another

Create a Pastoral Network for our congregation

Purpose

To broaden our care for one another so that none are excluded.

Description

Create a network based on geographical areas of the parish and other places that our congregation lives. For each area recruit a leader (and perhaps sub leader) who encourages fellowship and care amongst those who live in that area. Welcome newcomers in their area of the network. Notice if someone has particular needs and follow up or refer to clergy as appropriate. The group leaders meet for training, review, and support three times each year.

Planning

A small planning team led by Claire Virik. Recruit group leaders in early 2015 and hold an initial training session. Be mindful of safeguarding issues that might arise and ensure these are addressed and included in training. Promote the network to the congregation after Easter 2015, being careful to explain its purpose and structure.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.
Review in each meeting of the group leaders.
Ask for feedback from congregation in 2016.

Christ Church

Faithful to God

Develop Music Making in the Liturgy

Purpose

Engage people in worship by developing and expanding music making for the liturgy.

Description

Create a music group and choir that regularly contribute to music at Sunday services. Have as a starting point a choir to sing once a month and at special services. Aim for broad participation.

Planning

A small planning team including Andrew Shouler (Director of Music), Paul Hambling, Karen Warman, and Jonathan Fletcher Rogers.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.

Planning group, Team Vicar, and DCC review progress Sept 2015.

Christ Church

Sharing with Those in Need

Choose a charitable project which the whole church comes together to support

Purpose

To address an area of human need in a way that unites and energises the congregation.

Description

Through consultation with the congregation choose a project or projects that become a focus of fundraising, fun events, and congregation giving for a year. Establish a two way relationship with the charity and hear from them about their work and how they use funds we raise.

Planning

A small steering group led by Alison Fletcher-Rogers and Emma Fraser.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.

Ask early 2015 whether a charity has been chosen.

Steering group to review events and how much money is raised and report to DCC.

Create a Church Network

Purpose

To broaden our care for one another so that none are excluded.

Description

Create a cohesive system based on geographical areas by which everyone in the congregation is known and does not slip through the net if they are not in church. Appoint a coordinator in each area of the network. Create a welcome pack for newcomers.

Planning

A small planning team led by Evelyn Douglas. Recruit and train local co-ordinators. Publicise to congregation. Be mindful of safeguarding issues that might arise and ensure these are addressed and included in training.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.
Review at meetings of the coordinators
Ask for feedback from congregation in 2016.

Develop the new 10am Family Service

Purpose

To offer worship accessible to a wider group of people from the local community.

Description

Develop the service on the last Sunday of each month to include more people in the planning and welcoming. Ensure that the service is accessible to and engages with families and children from High Path estate. Encourage members of the church to become friends. Create a book in which children record their experiences of church. Music??

Planning

A small planning team led by Emma Spencer and including Paul Hambling.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.
Ask for congregational feedback; review the children's record book.
Review numbers of regular and new people coming Autumn 2015.

St John's

Sharing with Those in Need

Hold a monthly Saturday morning breakfast cafe

Purpose

To display hospitality and increase interaction between the present congregation and the wider community. To raise awareness of St John's in the local neighbourhood.

Description

To set up a monthly breakfast café in church on a Saturday morning, as a place of hospitality and meeting. To advertise in the local community, to offer appetising refreshment, to provide welcoming people who can talk with guests.

Planning

A small steering group including Paul Hambling, Joan Brunt, Phil and Ros Bousfield, and Sylvia Tanner.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC and PCC during 2015.

Review at DCC in Sept 2015, asking particularly whether it is established, how many are coming.

Consider surveying users about what they would value.

St John's

Caring for One Another

Create a Church Network

Purpose

To improve care and communication through knowing each other better and praying for one another.

Description

Create a cohesive system by which everyone in the congregation is known and does not slip through the net if they are not in church. Develop a welcome pack for newcomers and occasional contacts.

Planning

A small planning team led by David Tanner.

Be mindful of safeguarding issues that might arise and ensure these are addressed and included in training.

Review

Feedback progress to DCC during 2015.

Ask for feedback from congregation in 2016