

## **Short Guide to Creating a Mission Action Plan**

### **What is a Mission Action Plan?**

The Mission Action Plan (MAP) is a document which outlines and develops your church's vision for the future, and the practical steps your church community are going to take towards achieving those goals.

Developing a MAP provides a way to make sure the life and work of your church is purposeful, forward thinking and focussed.

### **4 Stages of developing a MAP:**

#### **1. Consulting Church Members – Getting everyone involved!**



***Consultation can be done in several ways, from corporate meetings to questionnaires, but involving all members of your church community is a vital aspect of creating a shared vision, and developing a plan of action which everyone can feel part of.***

To get your initial ideas off the ground, you could consider asking people about:

- Their story – how God has brought them here?
- The church's story – where God has been at work in the community?
- Their dreams – what they would hope for in the future of the church, without any constraints of resources?
- The key issues they believe there are in the church's life locally, and which are most important?

#### **2. Shaping a Vision**



***The 'vision' is the heart of your document; it is an aspirational, theoretical ideal upon which your plans can be built.***

A small working group could be formed to collate the raw data, collected from the wide community consultation, into a cohesive 'vision'.

Your vision should address issues such as:

- What would your church ideally like to achieve?
- What topics does your church feel are of key importance?
- What ideas really encompassed important aspects of Christian faith and mission which are currently underdeveloped or missing from your church?

**However**, once you have created your draft vision for your church, don't forget to again discuss your ideas with the wider church community. **Participation equals positivity!** Your congregation must recognise the vision as derived from their input, the more they are involved and consulted the greater their ownership, and acceptance, of your fresh ideas should be.

### 3. Developing the Plan



***The plan embodies the practical considerations, and should relate your mission to all aspects of church life.***

One way to structure your plan could be around the three central characteristics of your church:

Looking in – How will your mission nurture and grow the faith of your church community?

Looking out - How will your mission care for, and impact upon, the wider community?

Looking up – How will your mission provide worship and sustain faith?

#### **What to include in the plan?**

- What are you already doing which you would like to build upon or expand?
- What are you currently doing which should be reconsidered or ceased?
- What new ideas and initiatives would you like to start being involved with?
- What resources will you need to carry out your plans?
- Will any training be required in order for you to fulfil your aims?
- How will progress be reviewed?
- How will necessary changes to your MAP be made?

### 4. Communicating your MAP



***Your MAP is a living document. It is designed to be used every day!***

- Distribute your Action Plan as widely as possible throughout the Mission Community, the more people see it and hear about it in daily church life the better.
- You could consider creating an A5 flyer to have at the back of the church for people to pick up; include it in your newsletter; reference it in sermons and in your choice of charitable aid; include your vision and ideas in every aspect of church life!
- Review, and use, your MAP at each PCC meeting as a way of checking your church's priorities and use of resources.

### **Example sheet of a Mission Action Plan Summary**

<b>AGREED GOAL</b>	<b>PLAN</b>	<b>TIME SCALE</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>REVIEW</b>
<b>Grow the identity of the Mission Community and compliment Christian identity in each local community</b>	Establish new structures and ways of working	1-2 years	Meetings across the MC for Churchwardens, group leaders	Help with building a ministry team	
	Develop relationships across the MC	1-5 years	Meetings of leaders, congregations, social events, worship opportunities	Help with building a ministry team	
	Develop administration across the MC	1-2 years	Finance, office space	Help with delegation	
	Continue and further ecumenical relationships	2-4 years	Appoint a representative across the MC	Engage with county Ecumenical officer	
<b>Develop ministry to families, youth and children</b>	Establish further special groups and services for children and young people in each village.	1-3 years	Leaders in each Parish Spaces to meet in each parish	Diocesan Children work adviser. Deanery youth officer	
	Integrate work with children and young people in to the more traditional life of the congregations	2-4 years	Meetings with Mission Community leader and childrens and youth workers	Help with building a ministry team	
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<b>Maintain an active Christian presence in each distinct part of the MC</b>	Create networks of belonging within and across the parishes	1-3 years	Able and committed leaders	Worship leaders, Pastoral care team, evangelistic and outreach work	

	Develop our Sunday services	2-4 years	Worship leaders	Worship audit	
	Develop response to occasional offices	2-4 years	Pastoral care team, baptism visitors, marriage prep, bereavement visiting	Training in pastoral care	
<b>Commit ourselves to growth, making the gospel accessible to a wider range of people</b>	Establish greater capacity for mission.	1-5 years	Capacity within the leadership team	Evangelism	
	Discipleship course	1-2 years	Leaders	Training in running small groups	
<b>Growth of lay leadership and ministry</b>	Identify suitable leaders and lay ministers	1-3 years	Training of lay people	Vocations team	