



A Lighthouse for the Community

MISSION ACTION PLAN

2017/18

A year of pilgrimage

Our Vision to be a Lighthouse to the Community continues to inspire our mission to serve the community, nurture disciples and to grow in worship and intimacy with God. Last year, in reviewing our mission action plan, we heard God saying that 2016 was to be a year of spiritual growth. We understood that whilst God was affirming our vision of being a lighthouse to the community, He was also calling us into deeper relationship with Him and with each other. He was calling us to ensure that our focus first and foremost is always on Jesus Christ from whom our call to discipleship and service to others must flow.

Looking back, we can see just how much God has fulfilled his promise to us. We are thankful for the growth in numbers of people joining our church family and in the depth of spirituality and fellowship over that last year. Our prayer life has deepened and expanded through the growth of prayer triplets; we have celebrated several baptisms of adults, young people and children; fellowship with one another has grown through our many social events, especially our church weekend away at Letton Hall and our mission trip to Bradford; fellowship has grown also as we have worked together serving our community at events such as Fun Day, Who Let The Dads Out and Christmas/Easter Journeys. Our Junior Church has continued to expand and God has called more people to lead this important ministry with children and young people.

Reflecting on our MAP goals for 2016:

- **Prayer:** We can see that the 5 goals interrelate and that through prayer, leadership and communication we have been inspired to do new things. We feel that deepening our prayer life is fundamental to our mission.
- **Communication:** We see this as essential to becoming stronger together. The developments in communication this year have been welcomed as the foundations on which we need to build. We recognise that there is more to do to strengthen our sense of belonging and shared engagement in mission.
- **Children and young people's work:** The parenting programmes have been delivered and were well received. We recognise that we need to support this work through prayer as the number of children and young people continues to grow.
- **Mentoring:** Mentoring has been an exciting development, with several potential mentors currently in training. This is just the beginning, with implementation about to start in 2017.

- **Mission:** Our Bradford mission trip has given much food for thought about how we nurture disciples from 'brokenness into serving' and how we use our building to serve God. There was also a sense that we need to be clearer about the pathways between our various events and activities that take people from the fringe to faith and to deepening discipleship. We aim to capture this within our communications goal.

So, what next for 2017/18?

"See, I am doing a new thing!..... I am making ways in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland". [Isaiah 43:19]

Recognising God's blessings in 2016 has created a tremendous sense of expectation for 2017. We believe that God is calling us to continue to walk with Jesus, wherever he may lead us in our personal lives and as members of a church family which continues to grow together in love. We are mindful that God's way may not be what we expect (Isaiah 55 v 8 & 9) and we believe that God is promising to do a new thing, the beginnings of which have started. So, we believe that God is saying to us that He has planned this to be a **year of Pilgrimage** – a journey to a sacred place in which we each commit to spending more time with God in quiet and reflection and in which we can also enjoy the company of each other on our journey into a deeper relationship with Him, through serving Him together.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"..... "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart". [Jeremiah 29: 11 & 13]

We have identified two key challenges as we embark on the next stage of our journey. The first is that as we grow, we need to become more intentional about how we build relationships throughout our church family and embrace newcomers and longstanding members alike in hospitality and love - going deeper into God's love through hospitality to others.

Secondly, whilst we have balanced our budget this year, the increase in giving has been outpaced by costs beyond our control. We need to develop a financial strategy to address a budget deficit in 2017/18 and beyond. Many members of our church family also give generously of their time and talents. However, as we grow, we want to encourage more people to become involved in the many aspects of ministry. We believe that God is calling us to deepen our generosity, using more of our gifts and skills and money to better resource our mission.

With all this in mind, three of our priorities for 2017 are a continuation of the journey started in 2016:-

- **Prayer** - in which we consolidate the recent developments in our prayer life
- **Communication** – which enables everyone to feel part of church life and which reaches out to our community
- **Mentoring** – supporting the development of disciples of all ages

Two new priorities for 2017/18 are:

- **Hospitality** - in which we grow together in fellowship and love, serving God together
- **Generosity** - in which our resources, financial and human are freely given to ensure that God's mission is fulfilled in St Paul's.

PRIORITY	To become a more prayerful faith community by increasing the number of people praying as a whole church and in small groups by...	WHO	WHEN
Goal 1	To provide ongoing support to prayer triplets which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consolidates their place in the prayer life of the church and • increases the numbers of church family members involved in triplets 	Louise and Mike Pedrick	April 2017 onwards
Goal 2	To consolidate the involvement of home groups in monthly prayer requests by increasing the number of testimonies received and shared on answered prayer	Mike Pedrick	April 2017 onwards
Goal 3	Providing teaching on prayer through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sermon series • short course(s) on learning to pray 	Simon and Louise	May Autumn

PRIORITY	To enable everyone to feel part of church life and to reach out to our community through better communication	WHO	WHEN
Goal 1	To streamline our communications, ensuring that we provide clear and consistent information, targeted at our various audiences.	Comms team	From April
Goal 2	To provide effective communication to members of our church family who do not have access to IT	Comms team with Tony Glenn	
Goal 3	To implement the ChurchApp database which will enable us to more effectively communicate within our church family and to all those who are connected with our church.	Ian Nelson and Maureen Phillips	From April 2017
Goal 4	To introduce a periodic newsletter which helps members of our church family and others connected with our church to understand and become involved in our mission.	Jill Thomson Brian Evans Andreea Weisl-Shaw	Summer term onwards

PRIORITY	To develop a culture and a strategy to foster mentoring which develops disciples of all ages within our church when	WHO	WHEN
Goal 1	To complete the first stage training course for mentors	Peter Eyles and Jill Thomson	End March 2017
Goal 2	To recruit a team of mentors from those who have attended the training		
Goal 3	To finalise policies and procedures to support the mentoring scheme		
Goal 4	To match a number of mentors with mentees		
Goal 5	To provide ongoing support to mentors		
Goal 6	To review		End March 2018

PRIORITY	To extend hospitality more widely so that we grow together fellowship and love, serving God together	WHO	WHEN
Goal 1	Provide teaching on going deeper into hospitality in the sermon series	Simon and Louise	May
Goal 2	Establish the practice of 'intentional' hospitality by opening our homes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'supper parties' • Coffee mornings 	April launch Emma Vernon	From April
Goal 3	Encourage home groups to plan a hospitality event:	Simon/Louise	HG leaders meeting
Goal 4	Organise a series of social events throughout the year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Bring and share lunches • Picnics • Barn dance • Outings • Competitions <p><i>(target 3 social events Feb/ May/Sept, in addition to current programme)</i></p>	Expanded events group to coordinate	April onwards
Goal 5	Hold a newcomers welcome meal	Churchwardens	July / Jan

PRIORITY	To ensure that we have the resources to fulfil our Mission and Ministry in St Paul's by generously giving our money and time	WHO	WHEN
Goal 1	We provide clear communication which links giving to the church with the mission and ministry that flows from it.	Ian Nelson and Roger Thomson	Following each PCC
Goal 2	We have a programme of teaching about giving within a framework of discipleship	Simon and Louise	tba
Goal 3	We send letters of thanks to our regular givers as part of our annual programme to help church members review their giving	Ian Nelson	November
Goal 4	We provide regular updates to our congregation about the state of the church finances	Ian Nelson	After PCC meetings
Goal 5	We publicise more opportunities to give:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mechanism to give online • A legacy policy • A leaflet on how to give (outside the annual letter) to inform newcomers and occasional church attenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms team 	End March 2017
Goal 6	We engage our church family in prayerfully discerning how they can use the gifts that God has given in His service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Gifts and Skills survey • Through 1:1 conversations • Through teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church wardens • PCC • Ministry team 	March 17
Goal 7	We have an overview of volunteers in all aspects of church life, which we can report to PCC	Church wardens	By end May