

Context

Over the past several months, the Clergy and PCC of the Langley Team Ministry, in full consultation with the congregations, have been engaged in developing a Mission Action Plan (MAP) for the Parish. We have had a morning of open meeting for the whole congregation, as well as several discussions in our PCC and DCCs, to discern how God is calling the Parish to join his mission for our church, our community and the wider world.

Out of that process has emerged a MAP document which is available on the website and copies will be available in each of our churches for consultation. However, one point that we have been clear about all through the process is that the MAP has to belong to the whole church. This short version lists the priorities that have been identified, at the Parish level, and at individual District level, and is made available to all members of the congregation so that they may own it, and sign up to doing their part in achieving the priorities.

This Mission Action Plan is organised according to Oxford Diocese's Living Faith priorities: Sustaining the Sacred Centre (that is, being rooted in God through worship and prayer); Shaping Confident Collaborative Leadership; Creating Vibrant Christian Communities (that is, communities that are full of life and vigour); Making Disciples (that is, bringing people to Christ and nurturing them); and Making a Difference in the World.

The following pages list what we see as our priorities, first for the Parish as a whole, and then for each District. An important element is to recognise and affirm those areas where good work is already happening, and which we wish to CONTINUE to make a priority. We have also identified some NEW areas that we felt we needed to develop and these are marked in red when listing our priorities.

It is important for us to recognise both that our new initiatives are likely to take a year or two to develop, and that our Plan may change during that time as we continue to pray and listen to where God is leading us. **Please take time to consider prayerfully your individual response to our Mission Action Plan.**

PRIORITIES FOR THE PARISH AS A WHOLE

CONTINUING priorities are shown in black print and **NEW** priorities to be explored over the next three years **are in red** below.

Sustaining the Sacred Centre

While continuing to maintain our services of worship, we need to encourage each other to establish good patterns of regular prayer and study, and time for rest and reflection.

CONTINUE to nurture discipleship through study and prayer
ENCOURAGE more church members to participate in small groups
CONTINUE to develop our corporate prayer life

Shaping Confident Collaborative Leadership

Regular weekly Staff Meetings (often including Parish Wardens) in the Parish, as well as collaboration with Clergy in the Deanery, offer mutual support, joint activities, and shared training and mission opportunities. However, development of lay leaders is an important priority for the Parish.

CONTINUE to develop lay leadership through training courses
PROVIDE better publicity for courses and help with transport
CONTINUE to provide opportunities and encouragement for individuals to exercise leadership in new ways and to encourage members to explore vocation to lay or ordained ministry in a variety of forms

Creating Vibrant Christian Communities

Communities that are full of life and energy are vital to sharing faith with others. The mission of the Parish also needs resources through pledged, regular giving: to maintain our clergy as well as to support mission agencies through setting apart 10% of Parish income. Enhanced mission activities will need an increase in financial resources.

CONTINUE cementing **relationships** within the congregations and across the Parish, through joint services, social events, pastoral care and shared activities

CONTINUE to pay the Parish Share in full and to give 10% to mission agencies

PROVIDE teaching, preaching, and study course on stewardship

INCREASE overall stewardship giving by 5% each year

INCREASE the number of pledged givers

ENCOURAGE all givers to move towards giving **5%** of net income

Making Disciples

We have regular opportunities for Making Disciples through courses such as Alpha, Emmaus and Christianity Explored, and traditionally, by our contacts with non-church goers, through occasional offices such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Opportunities for mission and outreach are present through our existing good relations with local schools. A strong theme that has come up in our priorities is working with school children during the summer holidays.

In order to reach out to people in new housing developments, in a multi-faith environment, we need to meet the desire among members for a better understanding of other faiths.

Our Priorities are to:

CONTINUE to provide opportunities to explore Christian faith

CONTINUE to support mission beyond the parish through the Giving Committee, partnerships, prayer etc.

CONTINUE relationships with our primary and secondary schools

DEVELOP relationship with new schools

PROVIDE and distribute Welcome/Greeting Leaflets for new housing

CONTINUE to develop the use of our website for communication
PROVIDE training in evangelism and teaching on other faiths to enable us to be confident and effective in communicating our faith
PROVIDE a children's Holiday Club with a focus on musical activities

Making a Difference in the World

Members of the Parish are already involved in community service in a wide variety of ways, both through church activities and by volunteering for other organisations. Also, through the Giving Committee we help agencies that alleviate suffering and aid development in many parts of the world. Our buildings are a resource that we can offer for use by suitable organisations.

RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE the many ways people are already 'making a difference'; and ENCOURAGE all to play their part
CONTINUE involvement with Langley Community Coffee Shop and Slough Foodbank, encouraging volunteers and donations
CONTINUE to be a Christian 'voice' in the community, in partnership with the other churches in Langley, through *Around Langley Magazine*
CONTINUE involvement in the community with Langley Neighbourhood Forum, Neighbourhood Action Group and other means
CONTINUE to engage with issues of social justice
DEVELOP our engagement with those who already use our buildings
EXPLORE new partnerships, in particular with SHOC and Homeless Shelter, or Christians Against Poverty; offer the use of our many buildings, and engage by volunteering
HOLD an open air Harvest Celebration in Langley Memorial Park, in September 2015, as an opportunity to be a Christian presence and voice on common concerns, with a programme that involves various charities and the wider community, including local schools

Mission Action Plan 2015: *St. Mary's District*

As the historic Parish Church St. Mary's has particular opportunities and challenges. A key priority is to welcome newcomers and integrate them into the life of the church. In addition, the pastoral care, spiritual life and vocation of each member of the church must be nurtured. We also have thriving activities for children and young people that need to be developed and sustained.

In 2011 we formulated our Vision for St. Mary's under four headings: Nurture, Serve, Engage and Welcome. These headings are mapped broadly on to the District's priorities below. Our Living Faith priorities in addition to those for the Parish are as follows:

Sustaining the Sacred Centre – NURTURE

ENCOURAGE more to use Daily Study Notes

PROVIDE teaching on individual and corporate prayer

Shaping Confident Collaborative Leadership – SERVE

DEVELOP & resource leadership for work with children & young people

ENCOURAGE our young people to take on roles within the church

Creating Vibrant Christian Communities – WELCOME

CONTINUE to focus on the welcome we offer by noticing newcomers, inviting them to social events and encouraging them to play a full part in the life of the congregation

CONTINUE to respond flexibly to the changing nature of the congregation

CONSIDER setting up a support group for those bereaved and grieving

EXPLORE ways to engage with men in and around the congregation

Making Disciples – ENGAGE

CONTINUE to make full use of opportunities to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to those attending occasional services and special celebrations

EXPLORE ways of following up on these opportunities

Making a Difference in the World – ENGAGE

CONTINUE to connect with the community through the use of St. Mary's Church and Centre, and St. Mary's Churchyard

CONSIDER ways to extend this, e.g. through concerts or organ recitals

Mission Action Plan 2015: *Christ the Worker District*

The location of Christ the Worker in one of the most diverse areas within the Parish gives it special opportunities and challenges for mission. The Living Faith priorities for our District, additional to and distinct from the Parish priorities, are as follows:

Sustaining the Sacred Centre

CONTINUE to nurture personal discipleship through bible study and prayer, both individually and in groups, for all ages

CONTINUE to develop corporate prayer life e.g. by Prayer meetings

PROVIDE a room for prayer ministry by converting existing kitchen

Shaping Confident Collaborative Leadership

CONTINUE to develop lay leadership through training and practical support

CONTINUE to encourage individuals to exercise leadership in new ways and identify others who might be called to leadership roles

Creating Vibrant Christian Communities

SEEK OUT a music leader to help provide vibrant Christian praise and worship, with a view to establishing a Gospel Choir

CONTINUE to engage with Christians of other denominations and especially the independent church group that uses CTW for services

CONTINUE to engage with Parish-based teaching, preaching, and study courses, including on stewardship

Making Disciples

CONTINUE to develop outreach through various social events and activities.

CONTINUE to support mission beyond the parish through prayer, raising money and supporting parish-wide initiatives

EXPLORE setting up a music club for Christian witness and outreach

PROVIDE welcome packs for those interested in worshipping at CtW

Making a Difference in the World

PROVIDE support and help organise the Harvest Celebration in Langley Memorial Park, Sept 2015.

Mission Action Plan 2015: *St Francis District*

St Francis is a small congregation of mainly older people meeting in a multi-purpose building. The building is hired out to a range of organisations and relationships are built with these groups. An Asian Baptist church worships at St Francis every week. The congregation value their social times together e.g. at post-service coffee, shared lunches, work days, and social events. Our priorities in addition to those for the Parish are as follows:

Sustaining the Sacred Centre

CONTINUE to develop our corporate prayer life by attendance at Monday prayer meetings and Tuesday to Saturday morning prayer times

Shaping Confident Collaborative Leadership

CONTINUE to support those on Deanery training courses from St Francis
SEEK to identify others who might be called to leadership roles

Creating Vibrant Christian Communities

CONTINUE building relationships within the congregation, through social events and activities, such as annual Christian Aid and Harvest lunches

EXTEND social activities to annual Songs of Praise lunches

CONTINUE to encourage Parish-wide participation in our monthly walks

ENGAGE with other Christians, especially groups that meet in St Francis

ENGAGE with Parish-based training courses, including on stewardship

REDEVELOP the area of the men's toilets to include new toilets and a storage area in 2015

PLAN redevelopment and refurbishment of the building and grounds

Making Disciples

CONTINUE to develop outreach through Refresh, Mums and Tots, Not Home Alone lunches and occasional events

PROVIDE workshops on topics (e.g. safeguarding) for the wider church

Making a Difference in the World

EXPLORE new partnerships, e.g. using the building as a homeless shelter, Credit Union Office and Post-Natal and Stroke Support Groups

CONTINUE to provide a meeting place for local groups