

# Parish of Langley Marish Mission Action Plan 2019



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## Mission Action Plan 2019



**Called to be Christ-like**  
CONTEMPLATIVE • COMPASSIONATE • COURAGEOUS

The vision of the Diocese of Oxford is that we are 'Called to be Christ-like, for the sake of God's world'. Over the last two years our Parish has engaged with this vision, through resources such as studies of the Beatitudes and of the Raising of Lazarus. Our new Mission Action Plan (MAP) is framed around these ideas.

The 'call to be Christ-like' is deeply rooted in scripture. In the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19, Jesus instructs his followers to continue his work, of teaching the faith and making disciples. In John 14:12 Jesus says that 'whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing ... and even greater things than these'.

This imitation of Christ's words and deeds is to be matched by an imitation of his character. Jesus calls his disciples to 'deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him; to lose their life in order to find it' (e.g. Mark 8:34-35). Paul says we are to have 'the same mindset as Christ Jesus' (Phil 2:5), and sets before us the goal of becoming 'mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ' (Ephesians 4:13). We are to become 'the body of Christ' (1 Corinthians 12) together in every possible way.

In the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) Jesus places before us eight qualities that he calls 'blessed', for in exercising these attributes we enter into a right place with God.

These are above all beautiful qualities of Jesus himself, evident throughout his ministry; and he invites us to pursue them both individually and together.

Bishop Steven has condensed these eight into the **Three Cs**: that we are to be **Contemplative**, **Compassionate** and **Courageous**, but we always keep in mind the broader call to be Christ-like in its fullest sense.

As qualities, these are ways of being, and not things to do, but there is a two-way flow between them and our activities: First, everything we do should be *informed* by these qualities; contemplation, compassion and courage should shape the way we do things. Second, we should seek out ways to *express* these qualities, when considering what activities to engage in, or indeed to cease from doing.

The Three Cs therefore act both as a check on what we are doing, and a driver for what we should do. We seek both to do the right things, and to do things the right way.

Many of the elements of our MAP of 2015 are visible in this new structure. But unlike previous versions, we are not aiming to write down *everything* we do, only those areas that we feel God is calling us to *focus on* and *develop*.

These areas are grouped roughly under the headings of **Contemplative**, **Compassionate**, and **Courageous**, as we see each one as the main quality we seek to express here. But we also recognise that all three qualities should inform every activity, and that each activity has the potential to express all of them.

At an Away Day in April 2018 we settled on phrases to express what we felt we were being called to aim at under each of these three qualities. These appear in the heading of each section.

These are just some of the ways that we aim to embody these qualities, in the activities of the Parish. Each District will also have its own focus, and each individual likewise.

# Our Parish Priorities

**CONTEMPLATIVE: 'prayer focused, in and out'**

**Our Priorities include:**

- To grow in our discipleship and prayer life, individually and together
- To set aside times of prayer for the whole Parish
- To encourage membership of small groups for study & prayer
- To develop prayer opportunities in and around our buildings & community - e.g. prayer benches, prayer walks, quiet spaces

**COMPASSIONATE: 'making time to ask and listen'**

**Our Priorities include:**

- To engage with our community and its needs
  - e.g. Coffee Shop, Night Shelter, Foodbank, *Around Langley* and other 'non-church' activities: LNF, NAG, Blind Club, Scouts
- To engage with mission agencies through information, giving and prayer
- To improve connections with, and follow-up and pastoral care for those attending baptisms, wedding and funerals
  - e.g. welcomers at services, bereavement course & groups
- To encourage fellowship and mutual support within and between congregations

**COURAGEOUS: 'recognise, face and overcome fears'**

**Our Priorities include:**

- To make Christ known in word and deed
  - e.g. Alpha Course, Harvest Celebration, Lighthouse
- To welcome the community through the activities of the church
  - e.g. invitations to social events, special services, or opportunities for discussion and learning ...

- To develop lay leadership through training opportunities
- To develop ministry in schools
  - e.g. assemblies, church visits, Open the Book, iSingPop
- To encourage and train church members to have confidence in sharing their faith with those they encounter
- To campaign for peace, justice and the well-being of creation
  - e.g. reducing plastic use, energy audit, solar panels, fair trade
- To have the courage to stop activities or change the way we do them
  - e.g. social events that engage those outside the church

## **Christ the Worker District – Our Priorities**

**CONTEMPLATIVE: ‘prayer focused, in and out’**

**Our Priorities include:**

- Stop and pray every time we hear a siren in church or outside church
- Place a poster of one of the 3Cs on the Lectern every Sunday to remind us of what we are about, and for us to be quiet before service begins and to pray
- Intercessors to continue to include the 3Cs vision in their prayers
- Attendance at Morning Prayer and other times of corporate prayer
- Individual use of resources such as ‘Beatitudes’ booklet and other helpful booklets
- Join in prayer events in the parish using our ‘Prayer Tree’ to encourage both church members or community to write their own prayers as they offer them to God
- Led-light Cross on the roof of CTW church
- ‘Quiet Place’ or ‘Prayer Garden’ at the side front of church for people to sit and reflect

## **COMPASSIONATE: 'making time to ask and listen'**

### **Our Priorities include:**

- Make time to ask members their opinion on important matters – such as service time on Christmas Day
- Ask people to serve as Welcomers at different services and events at CTW
- Be involved in parish and community events and support each other
- Engage with Bereavement Journey course and follow-up
- Listen to each other's concerns and pray with and for each other and give support
- Attend Welcome Party and other events to develop relationships in the congregations
- Initiate Prayer Group and Pastoral Care Group

## **COURAGEOUS: 'recognise, face and overcome fears'**

### **Our Priorities include:**

- Children led Service on Morning Worship Sundays
- Engage members in service to respond to faith questions during sermons to build up confidence
- Extend invitation of social events to include those on the fringes of church, e.g Valentine Evening, Agape Meal, Coach trips etc.
- Engage with community e.g. through school & college, Slough Men-cap, Good Grub Club etc.
- Initiate Worship Group and Social Committee Group
- Encourage members to be more proactive by being volunteers to help in new ways, e.g. Lighthouse, Night Shelter, Good Grub Club etc.

# St Francis District – Our Priorities

**CONTEMPLATIVE: ‘prayer focused, in and out’**

**Our Priorities include:**

- Attendance at daily Morning Prayer at St Francis and other times of corporate prayer
- Individual use of resources available to the parish
- Join in prayer events in the parish whenever possible

**COMPASSIONATE: ‘making time to ask and listen’**

**Our Priorities include:**

- Continue to offer a place of welcome and love
- Attend Welcome Party, after church lunches and other events to develop relationships in the congregations

**COURAGEOUS: ‘recognise, face and overcome fears’**

**Our Priorities include:**

- Attend ‘sharing faith’ course later this year to build up confidence
- An annual event open to all in the community around St Francis
- Invitations to those attending ‘Mums and Tots’ and ‘Refresh’ to attend events at St Francis
- Continue ‘Holiday at Home’ and other events that reach into the community
- Continue to emphasise to all using the building that this is a place of worship by various means e.g. sanctuary curtains open, notices on the door, invitations visible to church services and events

# St Mary's District – Our Priorities

## **CONTEMPLATIVE: ‘prayer focused, in and out’**

### **Our Priorities include:**

- Prayer walks for churchyard and inside church made available to visitors
- Attendance at Morning Prayer and other times of corporate prayer
- Individual use of resources such as ‘Beatitudes’ booklet
- Join in prayer events such as the ‘Beating The Bounds’ walk in May

## **COMPASSIONATE: ‘making time to ask and listen’**

### **Our Priorities include:**

- Ask people to serve as Welcomers at Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals; make Welcomers badges
- Engage with Bereavement Journey course and follow-up
- Offer invitation for conversation / prayer after the service
- Attend Welcome Party and other events to develop relationships in the congregations
- Recruit more members for the Pastoral Group
- Initiate ‘fellowship’ evenings, with prayer, worship and food

## **COURAGEOUS: ‘recognise, face and overcome fears’**

### **Our Priorities include:**

- Attend ‘sharing faith’ course later this year to build up confidence
- Extend invitation and appeal of social events to include those on the fringes of church
- Engage with community e.g. through interest in churchyard, tree-planting etc.
- Volunteer to help in new ways, e.g. Lighthouse, Shelter, Blind Club etc.
- Be more public about our faith, e.g. offering prayer cards while ‘Beating the Bounds’