

St Mary's, Westham, Mission Action Plan 2021-22

Drawing on the Diocesan's Mission Plan, our PCC have agreed that our aims for the coming eighteen months are:

MORE OPEN and MORE CONVERTED TO CHRIST

1. To re-establish families with younger children back into the community post-pandemic.
2. To reach out to adults in their 40s/50s. We have identified this as a specific age group that is underrepresented in 'usual' times.
3. To develop the links with the school and, in particular, to strengthen worship links between Sundays and the school.
4. To re-establish and then strengthen our work with children through greater provision on a Sunday morning of teaching/activities (We presently do not have enough resources to establish projects such as Messy Church on a Sunday afternoon or for a regular weekly Sunday school). Developing leadership of these activities is a specific need.
5. Establishing a pastoral care network amongst the community.
6. We recognise there is a need for additional work, too, in supporting older members of the community, yet we also recognise that, presently, our resources are limited.
7. To re-establish 8am/9.45am worship pattern yet also seek to keep the added value gained from worshipping together as a community through the pandemic.

MORE GENEROUS

8. To address financial fragility through explaining diocesan position while strongly explaining our own mission plan alongside how it needs resourcing.

MORE ENGAGED

9. To strengthen homegroup structure.
10. To develop links with a small selection of mission groups: Tearfund; Foodbank; People Matter; FSW.
11. To further develop lay participation and leadership.

Additional Plans to Enable Further Development

- Establish church office as an office space/pastoral conversation space, as well as a meeting space. This is an opportunity for both external lets and developing children's work.
- Renew kitchen area (grant funding should be available) to help with own catering arrangements but also in letting out to wider community.
- To re-establish the church as a concert venue: great aesthetics and acoustics.
- To make use of the second church field for community activities.

SMART Objectives to enact above:

To fulfil 1, 3, 4 and 7.

Our worship pattern will be:

1st Sunday

8am BCP; 9.45am 'All Age Worship' yet with a particular emphasis of encouraging primary age children and their families. To include 'bacon/brioche' and real coffee. We see hospitality central to welcoming back families and for strengthening relationships with parents of the school. It will be mostly without communion. We will not have a 11am service, rather encourage those who valued that to attend 8am, so strengthening the links between 8am and 9.45am.

2nd to 5th Sunday, 8am and 9.45am. 9.45am will include Sunday School where possible or make use of worksheets in the pews. We will also have a regular 'kids slot' with action song before 1st reading.

3rd Sunday, once a term (i.e. 6 times a year), 8am to begin at 8:30am followed by 'mug and muffin' to which 9.45am-ers come earlier for. This is a way to strengthen the links between 8am and 9.45. The 9.45am service would be 'all age' in style but we would work with the school to invite parents and children to take active part in co-leading. When this is not communion, then 1st Sunday will be.

6.30pm BCP even song.

Alongside the worship provision, we seek other ways to develop links with the school. For example, A weekly drop in café around pick-up time. In the future, that could be an opportunity to offer support such as foodbank, Peoplematter drop ins, other signposting for community help.

We will aim to be 'up and running' for September and will focus on a harvest weekend as a 'relaunch' point which will include a flower festival (September 25th and 26th).

To fulfil 2

Re-establish links with The Heron for quarterly weekend breakfast events.

Re-establish churchyard morning but run on same morning as coffee and cake for the wider community.

To encourage this age group to either 8am or 9.45am.

We know we are under-represented in this age group. Families with younger children have come but have 'flown the nest' as they have got older. We need opportunities to strengthen relationships in general, yet also to explore spirituality in ways that are not simply a talk in a service or a regular house group, such as through Spirituality and film.

To fulfil 5 & 6.

Through re-establishing social events and using the natural network of MU, we would see some provision for care of older members of community.

To establish a pastoral care network so that members do not fall through the net. This can be as simple as six or seven members keeping an eye out for others and feeding back concerns as appropriate.

To fulfil 8

To once more be financially self-sufficient in diocesan eyes (with 50% stipend) within two years: we will promote our mission action plan and strongly explain its rationale.

To fulfil 9 & 11.

We will give homegroups an 'autumn push,' yet is there a need for additional groups?

To advertise the diocesan ALM course and to provide more opportunity for people to let their gifts shine.