

Ottery St Mary Parish Church Mission Action Plan

May 2012

to know God better and to make God better known

In general, the first three areas relate to our knowing God, the last three to making him better known; the first three being essential if the last three are to be effective!

	Mission Areas and Vision (agreed by Mission Community staff)	Existing Opportunities	Future Action
1	<p>PRAYER</p> <p>We recognise that everything needs to be rooted in the discipline of prayer</p>	<p>Morning prayer said in church; monthly Call to Prayer; prayer diary; Julian group; prayer for healing at services monthly;</p> <p>monthly Explore prayer</p> <p>(Taken out evening prayer and ecumenical group)</p>	<p>Our aim is to develop a culture where prayer is central: to encourage take-up of existing opportunities and build confidence with less formal types of prayer</p> <p>short term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * to offer further Ignatian prayer days * to set up a board in church for prayer requests * where possible to have written copies of 9.30 intercessions * to share results of prayer in services, Contact, Ottery Matters <p>medium to long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * to have teaching/sermon series on different types of prayer * to encourage small group'/triplets' prayer with suitable resources * to offer prayer ministry after all main services
2	<p>WORSHIP (SERVICES)</p> <p>We recognise that, as God is great beyond our understanding, so there are many ways in which we can worship Him</p>	<p>Range of services including Parish Communion, Evensong, BCP Communion, monthly all-age service, Play and Praise, Explore, ecumenical services, special celebration services</p>	<p>Our aim is to value and provide for a wide range of ages / traditions, bearing in mind our growing contacts with young families</p> <p>short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * to review thoroughly the all-age service, looking at lessons for all * to continue to develop lay/all age involvement in planning, leading and participating in worship <p>medium to long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to do a wider review of worship: resources/priorities ● to explore the place of the Holy Spirit in our life and worship

3	DISCIPLESHIP	We recognise that Jesus' command was to "make disciples" – that is, those whose lives continue to be transformed as we know him better.	Nurturing for children at Explore, confirmation and receiving communion before confirmation preparation; three home groups, ecumenical Lent meetings, Bible study notes provided, library (coming back soon!), Lyfe group (Taken out choir children's teaching and youth group)	<p>Our aim is to develop and encourage take-up of opportunities for Christians to grow, at all stages of life and faith</p> <p>short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sermon series on 'Being the body of Christ' April/May 2012 ● Awayday with Bishop Bob June 2012 ● Lee Abbey weekend for Mission Community April 2013 ● to re-establish/publicise the church library ● urgent prayer re provision for young people ! ● to provide more in-depth discussion of ethical/other issues: Exploring Christianity on deanery/MC basis? <p>medium to long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to encourage more small /home groups: article/comments in Ottery Matters
4	TRAINING	We recognise that each of us is called to exercise our particular gifts for the benefit of all – it's "every member ministry"	Has included Acorn listening course, pastoral visitors' training, leading intercessions, reading in church, giving a talk, being a welcomer, working with children and vulnerable adults, first aid, presentation skills, leading a service, Wings for Worship	<p>Our aim is to identify, enable, release and encourage everyone's gifts (across the Mission Community)</p> <p>short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * to continue with current provision as needed * to offer training on: Audio-visual 'stuff'; Being alongside those who are suffering, dying, bereaved * to publicise/target outside/diocesan opportunities ● to provide supportive supervision of lay leadership <p>medium to long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to invite 'leaders' to meet regularly to encourage and affirm them, and to help them mentor the ministries of others

5	COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	We recognise that we are called to be salt and light in our communities	Individually, could be anything! As a church – hospital and Priory Residential Home visiting and communion, community market, uniformed organisations, schools, Heritage society, offer church as community resource <i>Taken out good neighbour scheme, Contact Centre</i>	<p>Our aim is to understand why God has called us to be part of this community at this time, and to respond appropriately...</p> <p>short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● using the Marketing Report, to explore how to make the best use of our building as a means of sharing our good news ● to work with CTIO and other local groups to identify and respond to needs/opportunities, eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food bank: with CTIO / Honiton King's Centre Dying Matters ?? Elderly / those living alone <p>medium to long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore with Rev Cate Edmonds how to develop our links with local schools <p>* Consider appointment of Parish Nurse (Sue Spencer)</p>
6	MISSION/ EVANGELISM	We recognise the need not just to welcome those who come to us, but to “go out” to those for whom church seems irrelevant.	Opportunities relating to baptisms, weddings, funerals and festival services, clergy helping with school corporate worship, Men's breakfast, stewards in church, <i>Messy church and cafe church monthly, craft workshops in holidays</i>	<p>Our aim is to develop our vision and confidence in this area, and to offer regular opportunities to find out about the Christian faith.</p> <p>short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to provide appropriate resources in church and on our website for those wanting to find out more about the Christian faith, baptism, weddings, living with illness / bereavement etc. ● information re church available at Jubilee Fair <p>medium to long-term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● with CTIO, to appoint and support a community youth worker: with prayer, finance and personal involvement ● ongoing offer of 'Just looking' or a Basic Christianity course

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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| 1 | WIDER WORLD | Both by prayer and by practical support we aim to continue our commitment to respond to the needs of the wider world (eg Green Apostle, charitable giving, Melanesia, emergency appeals). |
| 2 | PASTORAL CARE | Through the Link group, and however else it may be appropriate, to continue to provide care and support for those in need in our congregation |
| 3 | NEED FOR CO-ORDINATORS ? | A useful step in implementing the above could be to appoint a co-ordinator for each - or at least some - of the Mission Areas |