

St Mary the Virgin Mortlake

Mission Action Plan 2015

The Diocese has encouraged all its churches to produce a Mission Action Plan setting out its strategy for growth in numbers and spiritual depth. St Mary's MAP is underpinned by our conviction that the God we worship is a God who is always reaching out in love towards his world and who wants all people to know that love and welcome.

We encounter that love revealed in history through the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and in our own lives through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit present in the church and in the world.

In our MAP we seek to identify areas where the Spirit of God is at work and to join in with God's mission in our local community.

Stage1: Review

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| <p>Our Strengths "Isn't it good that..."</p> | <p>Warm, welcoming, inclusive church with accessible liturgy. Stable core and growing number of young families with children who clearly enjoy church – and older people who love having the children around. No significant divide between those who attend 'normal' Sundays and our All Age Service. Attractive, flexible building with welcoming spaces (family corner), St Mary's Room.</p> |
| <p>Our Weaknesses "Isn't it a pity that..."</p> | <p>We have very few teenagers. The high turnover of families priced out of Mortlake and East Sheen means we have to 'run on the spot to keep still' in terms of numbers. Lack of visibility, especially from High Street end. High cost of maintaining historic building. Some people struggle to relate Sunday morning faith to the rest of their lives.</p> |
| <p>Our Opportunities "Wouldn't it be good if ..."</p> | <p>Lots of young families living locally. It would be good to increase the crossover between Tiddlywinks (our drop in group for parents and pre-school children) and the 10 am service. We have a new school in the area (Thomson House). An opportunity to build stronger relationships perhaps being involved in their summer fayre etc. We are already known as a very welcoming church. It would be great to build on so that new people begin to belong, feel that St Mary's is 'their church'.</p> |
| <p>Our Mission Values What influences and motivates us ...</p> | <p>A desire to share the love of God. We want St Mary's to be the church for the community, a place of genuine, inclusive welcome where people encounter the love of God. We want to be a church with 'fuzzy edges' drawing the community in and playing our part in community life.</p> |
| <p>Last MAP actions completed</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5 new families as regulars as a result of our work with young families, including our toddler group 'Tiddlywinks', our links with Thomson House, running a parenting course and work with baptism families 3. Building on the excellent work done by our Welcome Team to help newcomers really feel part of St Mary's. 4. Find ways of helping people relate Sunday faith to the rest of the week - ongoing. 5. Improve our visibility – ongoing. |

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| Last MAP Actions not completed | <p>2. Half an Hour in the Tower (our group for teenagers and 'rising teens') firmly established on a monthly basis.</p> <p>4. Find ways of helping people relate Sunday faith to the rest of the week - ongoing.</p> <p>5. Improve our visibility - ongoing.</p> |
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Stage 2: Choose

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| Our Mission Statement Our purpose/reason to be here. | Open Doors, Open hearts, Open minds |
| Our Vision Statement How we want to be described 5 years from now. | A growing, lively 'buzzing' community, attractive to newcomers, where the love of God is expressed in tangible ways and overflows into our local area. Where our neighbours increasingly see St Mary's as 'their church', the people who are there for them, even if they are not regular churchgoers. |
| Our Priority Goals A maximum of 5 for this next year | <p>1. 5 new families as regulars as a result of our work with young families, including our toddler group 'Tiddlywinks', our links with Thomson House, running a parenting course and work with baptism families</p> <p>2. Half an Hour in the Tower (our group for teenagers and 'rising teens') firmly established on a monthly basis.</p> <p>3. Building on the excellent work done by our Welcome Team to help newcomers really feel part of St Mary's.</p> <p>4. Find ways of helping people relate Sunday faith to the rest of the week.</p> <p>5. Improve our visibility.</p> |

Stage 3: Plan

| Actions | | | Who | When |
|---------|---|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 | a | Christingle/Knitivity Launch Party to draw in Tiddlywinks and Thomson House families. | AN with Kat | By December 2015 |
| | b | Use Harvest, Crib Service, Mothering Sunday, Easter as particular times to invite new or fringe families. | AN | Throughout year |
| | c | Rota for meals for families with new baby | Molly N | As needed |
| | d | Occasional Curry night for Dads | Ed Coke | Throughout year |
| 2 | a | Work on regular emails (asking for rsvp). Including food in the session. | AN, and Tower Team | By end 2016 |

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| | b | Identify more children who could be invited. | AN, Tower team | Ongoing |
| 3 | a | Encouraging CG and others to supplement work of the Welcome Team | | Regularly repeated |
| | b | Regular review of newcomers | Pastoral Group | Ongoing |
| | c | Make porch more welcoming with poster cabinets, improved lighting, clear out of junk. | AN, Anita, Kat | By end 2016 |
| 4 | a | TTT (This Time Tomorrow) beginning 2 nd Sunday in December. | | Ongoing |
| | b | Quiet Day during 2016 | AN to liaise with Mel | By Dec 2016 |
| 5 | a | Produce large poster/banner showing St Mary's congregation to hang outside. | AN, Kat | By December 2016 |
| | b | Regular attractive posters advertising services and events. Regular updating of website and use of social media. | AN | Ongoing |
| | c | Another 'Church Open' flag for front of church? | Consultative Group to discuss further | |
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When will your MAP be reviewed? September 2016