

# Mission Action Plans

## Summaries from Cambridge South Deanery

February 2010

### CAMBRIDGE SOUTH

#### **Holy Trinity**

Our mission is to be a place where people

Come to Christ

Learn to Love and Love to Learn

This mission statement incorporates evangelism, discipleship and fellowship

At present our attention is focussed on:

- Reaching out to the unchurched of all ages, especially the student community
- Establishing children's and youth ministry
- Improving the facilities of the Church

#### **St Barnabas**

Sept 2009: Re-launched our evening service, with focus on reaching 20's and 30's, complete with pre- and post- service café

Oct 2009: Launched our Building for Ministry Giving Campaign (target, £1.3 million) to re-order our church premises:

#### **St Benedict**

Our objectives and response

1. To practice our contemplative charism by strengthening lay involvement in daily prayer – Good progress made here. Numbers have increased for the Daily Eucharist and Evening Prayer and these are now well resourced by clergy and lay people in a way which gives confidence to visitors. We increasingly believe that this commitment is at the heart of our mission, and that regular twice daily prayer is the particular service we are called to on behalf of the wider community

2. To promote St Bene't's as a unique historic site and place of continuing Christian worship

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Small but significant improvements to signage within church and visitors' information. The external church notice board needs attention and the architect is to design a new one when wording has been agreed. Changes to lighting have yet to be considered.

3. To review our communications and to improve the flow of information to our dispersed community -

We have redesigned the web site, improved the 'look' of our parish paper, and made adjustments to our term card. There is still work to be done in this area.

4. To review our welcome and outreach to visitors, newcomers and the business community. We have not yet produced the 'welcome pack' we hoped for, but we have produced a simple card of welcome as a first stage. We have conducted a thorough review of our business links and an updated prayer list of businesses and institutions in the parish. The crucial importance of welcome and hospitality was outlined by the Vicar at the APCM.

## **St Botolph**

Display Boards in position in Church

Organ estimates under consideration

## **St Edward**

St Edwards understands its mission as threefold:

- 1 Reaching out to spiritual seekers beyond the 'conventional' church
- 2 Engaging with the hidden spirituality in secular and academic life
- 3 Deepening the spiritual life of the gathered church

The first of these aims is being met by our fortnightly *Holistic Spirituality Group*, which draws in Christians, members of other faiths, and a number of 'new age' practitioners and therapists, to share experiences in our common spiritual quest and to look at forgotten or neglected aspects of Christian Faith, especially its mystical tradition. Also key to this is our regular weekly *Christian Meditation*, a group encounter with silence which both deepens our corporate spiritual life and also attracts those who may find creeds and sermons problematic. Part of this same outreach is the *Gothic Eucharist* connecting with a particular sub-culture, often shunned, but who are particularly open to the church's sacramental tradition and its engagement with the problems of suffering and evil.

The second aspect of our mission is met by our monthly '*Odyssey Service*' who aim is to 'link soul-life with the big issues of the Day'. This service has been very successful in drawing new people into the life of the church, with our speaker dealing with peace and justice issues, environmental crisis, body image and self-worth, the search for truth the imaginative arts, links between religion and psychology. Our experience is that there is a real demand for thought provoking, challenging and weighty teaching which challenges both the doubter and the believer. Also part of this aspect of our mission is our *Wednesday teaching Sessions* and our *Beta Course* which explore various aspects of arts, science and psychology in light of Christian Faith.

Our third aim of deepening the spiritual life of the gathered church is bound up with the other two but also met in our *Meditative Eucharist* which gives time for silence and also by a sermon series on saints and mystics whose teaching and example we feel are especially relevant to contemporary life and to St Edwards' own mission, these have included Julian of Norwich, Abbess Hilda of Whitby, Coleridge, Blake, FD Maurice and Dom. Bede Griffiths.

## **St James**

Our Objectives

1. To encourage new people, and especially those with children, to become part of the St James Community
  - Our Progress
    - we have a new notice-board
    - we have developed our links with the uniformed groups, who attend the All-Age service once a month
    - we offer children's workshop mornings before Easter and Christmas
    - we run a mid-week bible club in the local Primary School
2. Keep and involve the children we have within the church as they grow and mature
  - we prepares and admitted 8 children for Holy Communion
  - 8 young people and one adult were confirmed
  - we are running a monthly kids club for 7-10 year olds and for the teenagers.

3. Achieve a better understanding of people in our parish and bring in new forms of worship or introduce new elements into our worship that they would be able to relate to.

- we participate in the St Community Forum
- regular contact with the school through assemblies and mid-week club
- changes to All Age Worship to involve the young people more and to make it easier to follow the service

4. Strengthen our faith and build up our spiritual life

- Lent Groups
- Advent Book reading initiative

### **St Mark**

St Mark's, Newnham...nurtures thoughtful discipleship...offers hospitality...conducts mission through drama...develops its members talents.

- ✓ We have created a welcoming vestry
- ✓ We have expanded our car park
- ✓ We are mounting a drama season this autumn

### **St Martin**

St Martin's and St Thomas's Cambridge adopted their MAP in August and it was launched at special services in September. It has been well received by the congregations including the young people.

We had given ourselves three years to get the Sunday sermon on the web but one of the lads did it in a week!

The planned new meeting for conversation for international women had its first leaders meeting in October and 10 people showed an interest in leadership and supporting. This was very encouraging and bodes well.

The improvements to the kitchen were dedicated on 4<sup>th</sup> October and will be a great asset to our social life and hospitality.

### **St Mary the Less**

Lay Pastoral Team established January 2009

Planning permission received, and DAC support for extension to parish room fund. Raising begun...over a third of the way!

- To sustain and develop our Christian fellowship as a City Centre Church
- To extend our outreach within the local community
- To emphasise the important architectural and archaeological features of the Church and its surroundings including the distinctive wild garden

### **St Paul**

#### **St Philip**

A Fresh Expression begun – monthly – Monday evenings at 6pm

'Alongsiders' – café community for any who are on their own

Reviewed: Lunch Club and Coffee Morning – looking to be more creative in expressing faith and spirituality.

Buildings (Development) – continuing the long process of raising money and assessing plans.

### **Cherry Hinton St Andrew**

Welcome Pack Designed, completed and being handed out to those who are new. Already 24 handed out, with positive outcomes.

Visual Map completed and displayed in the church of all the involvement we have with the hundreds of children in the parish.

Building and Churchyard have rolling maintenance schemes, and a cost analysis has been carried out for the church centre, with a view to its development as a community centre.

### **Cherry Hinton St John the Evangelist**

St John the Evangelist is a parish church located south of Cambridge city centre and is just over 100 years old. A large part of our membership are fairly local, and we are blessed by having a wide age profile. This is reflected in our Mission Action Plan.

Mission Action Plan targets are in the areas of:

- Prayer, scripture and Christian education
- Accessibility and communication
- Youth work
- Presence in the community

Achievements so far include:

- Dedicated area for prayer and reflection created
- Welcoming area for children and young families established
- Youth group re-launched Autumn 2009
- Regular gatherings for the elderly taking place

### **Grantchester**

#### **1. ATTRACT ATTENTION FROM PASSERS-BY:**

Buy banner to hang outside the Church:

'Family Service this Sunday: 10.30

Mothering Sunday: This Sunday: 10.30

Easter Services this Week-End

Sunday Half-hour this week: 6.30

Harvest Festival this Sunday: 10.30

Grantchester Remembers: this Sunday: 10.30

Christmas Services'

#### **2. KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN EVERY DAY:**

Continue to keep the Church unlocked in daylight house everyday

#### **3. INCREASE THE CHURCH'S ITEMS OF INTEREST AND SPIRITUAL HELP:**

Buy a map of the world and stick pins in to show where visitors have come from under the heading: 'GRANTCHESTER: A CHURCH FOR THE WORLD'. Invite signatures in Visitor's Book. Make side-chapel into an area for private prayer. Put up a board for Intercession Requests and us in Sunday services. Stock leaflets, 'Have you lost a loved one?', 'Do you feel lonely?', 'Are you worried about family, friends, your health, your livelihood?'

#### **4. SHOW THE VILLAGE THE HUMAN FACE OF THE CHURCH:**

*Priest and Westcott Ordinand* to knock on every door in the village, introduce themselves, and invite to church.

#### **5. FRESHEN THE SERVICES BY BUYIN NEW HYMNBOOKS AND SINGING NEW HYMNS:**

An order has been placed for the latest Kevin Mayhew collection of *Hymns, Old and New*. Our new organist, a former organ scholar at Girton, is rebuilding the choir and setting up an occasional children's choir.

6. INTERESTING VISITORS KEEP CONGREGATIONS INTERESTED:

Continue the practice of inviting relevant visiting speakers. This year we have had Sister Gila Margolis, a Roman Catholic Jew, who founded the Little Sisters of Joy to build bridges between faiths. She not only spoke but sang in Hebrew. On Racial Justice Sunday, the Priest interviewed Dr Salah Al-Bander, from a Muslim home in Sudan, where he was imprisoned for political dissent and is now an International expert on Human Rights. On Remembrance Sunday Matthew Baker, ex-Trinity, Cambridge, a former army officer in Northern Ireland during the troubles spoke of his work in Afghanistan up until August 2008 with the Princess Diana Anti-land mine Trust. Services have also been taken by Bishop Peter Walker, Bishop Simon Barrington-Ward, Archdeacon John Beer, Canon Martin Seeley (Principal, Westcott House), James Buxton (Chaplain of Corpus Christi College), Margarita Roberts, Dr Rachel Nicholls. Two Westcott Ordinands in placement, Anne Howson and Trin Laing have brought an extra sparkle, especially to Family Services. Interesting Visitors from a variety of ages, genders and experiences will be sought.

7. MAINTAIN FAMILY SERVICES AND GODLY PLAY

Numbers have continued to grow for Family Services, especially when they were brought together with a Baptism. A Harvest Festival and Baptism brought 200 to Church in October. This is worth developing.

### **Trumpington**

In January 2009, Trumpington Parish Church identified the following Mission Objectives:

1. Encourage young families into church.
  - relaunch Junior Church and establish a Junior Choir
2. Outreach to the local community
  - re-establishing the role of the church in community life
3. Become more active in supporting people and communities less fortunate than ourselves
4. Build up church attendance at all services, encouraging the congregation to 'try' other services other than their usual

A Good Friday children's event with Newnham and Grantchester began the process of working in partnership to look to reach out to children and younger families. The church also organised social events geared towards engaging with the local community.

In September 2009, the Revd Andy Chrich began as the new Vicar of the parish.

The Church has recently held two successful All-Age Communion events at the beginning of October and November which have attracted families and children into church. It is planned to continue with these monthly All-Age Services. As part of the Ely 900 Celebrations we ran a children's club for three sessions in Fawcett County Primary School. The children were very enthusiastic about the club so in response to their demand we now run a fortnightly club after school on Tuesdays. 16 children attended the first session of the new club.

Junior Choir is now up and running and the children will sing publicly for the first time at the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. We have an enthusiastic group of 18 children which is very encouraging.

It is hoped to develop a regular Sunday Junior Church once the Old Bakehouse in the grounds of the Old Vicarage have been converted to create a meeting room and office next door to the Church. This very helpful extra space should make it easier to run a good lively Junior Church programme.

Over the last year, attendance at Sunday Worship has gradually increased, and average attendances are around 15% up on the same time last year.

The church has made good use of Social Activities to reach out to the community and the Harvest Open Day and Harvest Supper were particularly popular.

There is still much to be done but encouraging progress is being made towards meeting the Mission Objectives. We intend to revisit our Mission Action Plan in the New Year.