



My Mission Action Plans

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Mission Action Plan Church of Westoning, St Mary Magdalene

Plan Status: Submitted by Jane Steer (Volunteer)

Publish Status: Published

Church

Westoning, St Mary Magdalene

Parish

Westoning

Benefice

Harlington, Tingrith and Westoning

Deanery

Amphill and Shefford

Archdeaconry

Bedford

Website

<https://www.westoningchurch.org.uk/>

Dates

This Mission Action Plan was adopted by the PCC on

17 April 2024

This Mission Action Plan was uploaded to the website on

18 April 2024

The date when Mission Action Plan will be revised is

16 April 2025

Reflecting on your previous Mission Action Plan

Which SMART Goals have been completed since your last published Mission Action Plan?

All our SMART GOALS are still ongoing. We have been in an interregnum for the majority of this time but have achieved the following:

1st PRIORITY

* We have kept the congregation up to date and involved with a weekly bulletin which is sent out by email and is also provided each Sunday as a paper copy to those attending the service.

* Westcaf our weekly free coffee morning, held in the village hall, is going from strength to strength and most weeks has between 40-50 people joining both from the church congregation and many from the community. As well as older members of the community more families have been regularly joining us.

It has continued to cement links with the village and is so valued by the community that the Parish Council have made an annual donation towards the cost, the first of £750 and more recently £1000. We have introduced prayer request cards on each table and these have been well received.

*Sewing Bee is a group which also meets in the village hall. Again it provides a space for folks from the congregation and the community to come together for the social contact and also to do such things as knitting elephants to hold an Easter egg to raise money for CHUMS, or to support Baby Basics a local charity which provides baby clothing for families who need help. Many items of clothing have been donated. Bonding Squares have been donated to the local hospital neonatal unit.

* Friday Fellowship continues to flourish meeting weekly in the afternoon. It provides an opportunity to come together with the community for activities, speaker meetings and the occasional outing.

* Mens Breakfast meets bi-monthly in a local restaurant and is providing further links with the community.

* Little Stars our mums and toddler group meets weekly during term time and is meeting again in the village school which further enhances our relationship with the school and the families.

* We lead a local Healing Room affiliated to Healing Rooms UK with members of the congregation, along with volunteers from other local churches. We continue to offer

prayer for individuals twice a month by zoom and also have a weekly table in a local indoor market since September 2021 where folks are welcome to come and be prayed with, or to fill out prayer requests. This is being used more and more.

2nd PRIORITY

Meetings have taken place with the architect and specialist consultants. Progress has been made with looking at energy efficient heating systems.

3rd PRIORITY

* Youth Club has since the summer of 2022 been relaunched and extended to 8-13 year olds. This has proved to be very successful as young people join whilst still in the local lower school and have continued to come when they change schools. The Youth Club is now called Lighthouse and meets twice a month. It is run by our Families and Outreach Consultant, with the help of volunteers and as well as crafts, food and other activities there is a time for reflection on a bible story and prayer.

* Links with the local school have been very successfully re-established with our Families and Outreach Consultant taking an assembly once a fortnight, leading a weekly lunch time club which is growing, and going into school every Friday afternoon to read a story to two classes.

*TWiG Tea with God is our version of messy church and meets once a month, usually in the afternoon straight after school, but sometimes in the school holidays we have a TWiG breakfast. Craft activities are based on the theme of the bible story along with songs and then food. Again this is led by our Families and Outreach Consultant, the numbers attending can often be 25 children plus parents or grandparents and relationships with these families are continuing to be developed.

* All Age Service this takes place once a month and is led by our Families and Outreach Consultant who is now a Lay Leader of Worship.

4th PRIORITY

* We held a 12 hour prayer day on a Saturday in November starting at 07.00 am and folks came and went all day. Various reflective activities were available along with a large board on which to attach prayers, bible verses and other thoughts and this then remained in church. The day ended with a simple service. We are planning our next prayer day for a Saturday at the end of April.

* We have two home groups which both meet twice a month the daytime group still meets by zoom and the evening group meets face to face in someone's home. They provide an opportunity for more in depth bible study and prayer.

* More people are getting involved with activities such as doing the church flowers and are pleased to be contributing to the life of the church.

Which SMART Goals have not been completed since your last published Mission Action Plan?

1st PRIORITY

Smart Goal 2 A weekly daytime prayer meeting is yet to be introduced. Our monthly evening prayer meeting has continued and we have been meeting very regularly to pray

as a Benefice.

Smart Goal 3 A day time Alpha has not taken place. We are currently planning an evening Alpha to start in January 2025 when our new vicar has had time to settle in.

2nd PRIORITY

Less progress has been made than was expected or desired. More focus needs to take place to put pressure on our Architect to move the matter forward, supported by regular corporate prayer.

3rd PRIORITY

The wider congregation could still to be more actively involved with our families .

4th PRIORITY

It would be good to encourage more people to join a home group.

It will be so good to have a vicar to lead us again and develop and guide us all.

Visions and Values

What is the vision for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

Westoning Church is a church for all the people in the community which:

- * wants to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds
- * help people grow in their relationship with God
- * see God's Kingdom continue to be extended.

All are welcome. It proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It's members desire to share the love of God, embody the love of God and grow in the love of God.

Has this vision changed since your last published Mission Action Plan?

No.

What are the core values for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

1. To sustain support and equip the individual members of the congregation to continue to grow in their personal relationship with our God of love and help them to know Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To then offer opportunities for people to be involved and serve others.
2. To be a church that takes seriously the Great Commission to go and make disciples, in our community, our families and our places of work and leisure. To reach out and welcome those unconnected to the church and to provide opportunities for them to explore the nature of faith. To be a church that nurtures and grows the faith of children and young people and their families.
3. To be a hospitable and welcoming church to all who come and to help each individual know they belong and are valued.

Your 1st Priority

What is your 1st Priority to make your vision a reality?

To continue to build on what has already been established in outreach into the community, motivated by compassion. Supporting and encouraging our gathered family to be more actively involved by helping people recognise their own gifting, however simple. Encouraging wider participation from the whole congregation to seek God's vision for the community we serve.

To encourage more integration of different age groups to come together in activities such as Westcafé and regular more informal services.

To make better use of the website and social media.

To provide an evening Alpha Course starting in January 2025 encouraging the parents and carers of the children and young people to join.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 1st Priority most focus on?

- Transforming Communities

What is your 1st SMART Goal to achieve your 1st Priority?

Involve the whole congregation in this priority through regular sharing and communication.

Continue to maintain current activities in the community and church.

What is your 2nd SMART Goal to achieve your 1st Priority?

To underpin the vision with corporate prayer and as well as the monthly evening prayer meeting to introduce a monthly day time prayer meeting at the Chequers by September 2024.

What is your 3rd SMART Goal to achieve your 1st Priority?

To plan and deliver an evening Alpha starting in January 2025.

Are these 1st priority goals Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, and Timebound?

Yes

Your 2nd Priority

What 2nd Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

To continue to maximise the resource of our Families and Outreach Consultant.

To continue to utilise their skills within our Messy Church Group TWiG, our monthly All Age Service (since 2023 is a Lay Leader of Worship) and our more informal services.

To continue building upon the great links which have been established with Westoning

Lower School with such activities as leading Assemblies, a weekly lunch time club for the children and a weekly visit to read stories to some of the classes.

To keep developing our Youth Club for 8-13 year olds which now meets twice a month. To start a group for 5-8 year olds with a taster session to take place in June 2024.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 2nd Priority most focus on?

- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities

What is your 1st SMART Goal to achieve your 2nd Priority?

To involve more of the wider congregation with regular communication .

What is your 2nd SMART Goal to achieve your 2nd Priority?

Have a monthly update meeting with the Families and Outreach Consultant.

What is your 3rd SMART Goal to achieve your 2nd Priority?

Keep the PCC updated and informed. The Families and Outreach Consultant is joining the PCC at our APCM.

Are these 2nd priority goals Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, and Timebound?

Yes

Your 3rd Priority

What 3rd Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

To continue to love sustain and equip the congregation, feeding them with Gods Word, sustaining a culture of prayer, worship and discipleship. Supporting and valuing each other.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 3rd Priority most focus on?

- Going deeper into God

What is your 1st SMART Goal to achieve your 3rd Priority?

To relaunch our current home groups to the whole congregation by June 2024 and encourage folks to join one of the groups.

What is your 2nd SMART Goal to achieve your 3rd Priority?

To continue extended days of prayer. Next one planned for end of April 2024

Are these 3rd priority goals Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, and Timebound?

Yes

Your 4th Priority

What 4th Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

To continue with the plans to reorder the church to include a multi purpose space at the back of the church, the removal of the choir stalls and the repair of the chancel. To install a new energy efficient heating system as part of the project.

To develop and update our technology within the church.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 4th Priority most focus on?

- Going deeper into God

What is your 1st SMART Goal to achieve your 4th Priority?

To ensure regular meetings of the Focus Group to keep moving the project forwards.

What is your 2nd SMART Goal to achieve your 4th Priority?

To have at least bi monthly updates of the progress being made for the whole congregation.

What is your 3rd SMART Goal to achieve your 4th Priority?

To include this project in our regular prayer meetings.

Are these 4th priority goals Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, and Timebound?

Yes

Resourcing your Priorities and Goals

Not shown on published Plan

How will your priorities and goals be resourced?

We have financial resources in terms of legacies which have been left to the church in the last few years, but we will also need to apply for grants and carry out some fund raising. In terms of Human Resources we have the benefit of a self employed consultant, but the

number of people actively involved from the congregation is getting smaller putting more pressure on those who are involved.

Support from the Diocesan Office

Not shown on published Plan

We would love to support you in making your Mission Action Plan a reality. Please indicate what support you would welcome. A member of the Diocesan team will contact you.

- Buildings & Grants
- Growing Younger & More Diverse

Please tell us more about the support you would like

More support from the diocese in particular with the reordering project.
Continued support from the Flourishing Churches Team