

Our Mission Action Plan

Parish: Seven Saints Team

Deanery: Bolton

Period covered by this plan: 2017 - 2019

Our Vision/Values

Being Jesus – in how we live our lives.

Enjoying Jesus – as we worship and share fellowship together.

Sharing Jesus – by our words and actions.

Through Jesus – we recognise we can do nothing without Jesus in our lives.

... the **B.E.S.T.** that we can be.

This Vision will be the focus of all we do – it will inform how we plan our services and other events, how we use our resources (time, buildings, money), how we pray both collectively and individually, and how we engage with our neighbourhood and the wider world.

Stage 1 - Review

Where we are starting from - a realistic summary of our context and our present situation.

We are a large parish with over 31,000 people. The parish is among the 5% most deprived in England but there is significant variety across the parish – with one ward at our southern end being ranked 1,357 out of 32,844 wards in England (1=most deprived) at the other end of the parish are ranked 7,713. Two wards at the northern end of the parish have 30% and 41% Muslim population, while at the southern end of the parish the average figure is 2%.

We currently have 4 worship centres – a Victorian church, a church converted from a Victorian school, a church new-built in 2000' and we also worship as a church-in-school. We are in the middle of significant repair work on our 2 older buildings – St Michael's has completed total roof repairs and the installation of toilets (with just work to the drive and steps now remaining), St George's has repaired one roof, the central heating and replaced the lighting and electrics (though the main roof still needs replacing).

We are currently struggling financially – after having paid parish share in full for several years, we paid only 57% in 2015, but our commitment to improve this is shown by the fact this rose to 71% in 2016. We are going through significant changes in our stipendiary staff team – the Team Rector left in December 2016 and the Curate is due to leave in 2017.

Numbers on the electoral roll and in our individual "church communities" are steady or increasing slightly. Weekly attendance in some churches is dropping slightly, while in others we are experiencing growth. Thursday Night and Messy Church are significant strengths and attract many

people who are coming to church for the first time, though we would like to see more people “stick” in these transient congregations. The seasonal services at St Michael’s are well delivered traditional services which are, on the whole, increasingly well attended. The demand for weddings is increasing and there is an exceptional demand for baptisms at two churches.

We have good social events at most of our churches but need to build on parish wide activities. We have strong links with our 4 church schools through governors and involvement in worship, RE and as volunteer class helpers. Two of our buildings are well used by a variety of community groups and uniformed organisations and we would like to build on these links both as a means of serving the community and spreading the gospel.

We have strong links into our local communities through: regular involvement with numerous local care homes; helping set up and volunteering at Farnworth Foodbank; worshipping and doing outreach with Farnworth Churches Together; and through enabling local groups to continue to run by using our church halls at nominal charges. St Catherine’s is an LEP so we also work and worship as part of the local Methodist Circuit. Our churches are also home to ADIG (and African prayer group), the Light House Chapel, and Filipino and Sudanese speaking congregations.

Our congregations are varied – Sunday mornings are a mix of older people and a slowly increasing number of young families – the majority of whom have made commitments to faith. By contrast Thursday Night (by far our largest congregation) and Messy Church are almost entirely young families who are just starting to explore faith.

Where we are going - a description of where we would like to be in five years’ time

A lot of what we currently do well and/or in abundance involves us with our local communities, either as that community comes into our buildings or as we go out to serve in the community. Whilst we are committed to continuing that engagement we also strongly feel the need to grow spiritually at the moment; and, as such, we want to spend some time focusing on our own spiritual maturity and growth and on discipling those who are new to faith and still exploring. We are choosing to focus on this for a short time to enable us to then review our outreach from a position of a grounded and shared solid faith. In the short term our focus is -

- We want to grow in faith and deepen our relationship with God, both individually and as a parish, so that we have a solid foundation for our ongoing involvement in the community.
- We want to be able to pay our parish share and other bills. We want well maintained and warm buildings that can continue to be widely used by the community.
- We want to see our children and young people continue to come to church as they grow older; and we want to support their parents to grow in faith. We want those whom we engage with in baptisms, funerals and weddings to see church as a place they would like to come to on other occasions.

- We want to offer a variety of high quality worship, using language that people understand. We want people who come to our churches to feel welcome and to want to come again.

We will commit to reviewing these targets within the next 2 years with the hope that we can then revise our focus to reaching out into our community to those who don't feel able to come onto church premises for any reason.

Stage 2 - Prioritise

How we will get there - a description of the priority actions if we are to 'get there'.

Priority 1 - **We will enhance the attractiveness of our worship communities** – offering a range of distinctive congregations and communities (including traditional, modern and family friendly). We will welcome baptism, funeral and wedding families into our church families; and we will ensure that our welcome and activities genuinely show that “no-one is excluded”

Priority 2 - **We seek to deepen the prayer and spiritual life of the parish, and ourselves.** We will do this through our collective worship, through being involved in small groups and through our private prayer and study

Priority 3 - **We will maintain and build on our work with children, young people, and young adults.** We will resource Messy Church through the staffing transition and beyond. We will ensure that children are welcomed and included at all services, but at the same time we will have good quality alternative worship provision that focuses on children (while welcoming and including adults).

Priority 4 **We will improve the future viability of the parish through improving our finances and completing repairs and improvements to our buildings.**

Future Priorities – when we have completed some of the above we will be better placed to move on with our additional priorities and focus more outwardly, and so...

- We will seek to develop youth groups or a youth service out of our current children's work and services.
- We will further develop our work with other locally churches both within the CofE and ecumenically.
- We will seek to become more involved in community projects

Stage 3 – Current activity plan.

What do we need to do and by when? Precise, time-based and measurable actions that help us achieve our priorities. It is assumed that this page will be updated regularly as the outworking of the plan develops and progresses.

Task / objective	Ideas for starting	Lead Person Assigned	Resources & budget available/required	Timeline (expected start and completion dates)	Review method and timing
1a. Identify the style of worship of each congregation and deliver that style as best we can.	Need to understand why we do what we do as a start.	Rev Jane & congregations	Clergy, lay leaders, consultation with congregations Experience of new TR when appointed	S: August 2017	Discussion with new TR once appointed
1b. Follow-up contact with baptism, funeral and wedding families.	Pastoral team to scope ideas for approval by PCC – identify resources needed	Pastoral Team	Committed team of pastoral visitors	S: July 2017	Review by staff team
1c. Develop a policy and practice of “no-one excluded” across all churches		Rev Sarah	To be discussed once policy is drafted	S: February 2017 (policy) S: Sept 2017 (implementation)	Draft policy to Mission Team June 2017
2a. Deliver a range of short courses and grow them into ongoing bible study groups		Mission Team	Range of materials in place locally. Will need to source more up to date material. Need new/additional leaders	S: 2018	Monitor take up of courses – especially which are most popular/effective.
2b. Develop resources to enhance collective prayer and support personal prayer.		Pastoral Team	Using TKC as launch	S: May 2017 Follow-up: autumn 2017	

2c. Establish a men's group.	Rev Jane to speak to potential leader			Identify leader & helpers by April 2017	
3a. Grow new leaders for Messy Church, provide adequate funding and other resources.	NB: succession planning for Rev Sarah leaving. Identify further grant sources	Rev Sarah	PCC to review existing budget for Messy Church Team & materials re in place	Leaders in place Spring 2017	
3b. Expand current child/family focussed services	Start with establishing Families@Four service	Rev Sarah & Rev Jane	Venue available. Materials already developed for services. Need to sort advertisement	Service started: April 2017	Staff and Mission Teams to review viability of service autumn 2017
3c. Ensure that all services and worship styles engage and are accessible to children and young people.	Worship materials to be reviewed and shared. Involve children in planning.	Staff Team	PCC permissions in place for children to be involved in assisting with worship.	ONGOING	To be reviewed by new team rector (fresh set of eyes)
4a. Review our approach to stewardship, finances and giving.	Contact James Emerson Stewardship Services	Stewardship Team		S: June 2017	% of Parish Share paid annually increasing to 100% within 3years
4b. Complete major repairs to St George's (roof) and St Michael's (driveway, paths and steps).	Plans and tenders for St George's roof Plans for drive & steps Funding bids for roof and drive	Rev Jane and Wardens	Funding in place and approved by PCC for tender stage for St G's roof	S: tender autumn 2017 S: fundraising – when new Team Rector in post	Update to each Stewardship meeting

<p>4c. We will declutter and keep all our buildings tidy, clean, well maintained and welcoming.</p>		<p>Wardens</p>	<p>Church cleaning teams, and other volunteers</p>	<p>S: June 2017 ONGOING</p>	<p>Clergy to oversee and encourage wardens</p>
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Our partners – what other people do we need to involve/consult – e.g Mission unit/deanery; local authority; other churches; other organisations?

- Diocesan Stewardship Officer
- Church Architects
- Farnworth Churches Together
- Farnworth and Worsely Methodist Circuit
- Our Lord the Redeemer Church (Filipino Congregation); ADIG (African Prayer Group); Sudanese Congregation; and Light House Chapel.
- Community users of our buildings
- Local church schools, and other schools where we have links.

Parish and Deanery - How our plan connects with and enhances the mission of the deanery as expressed in the current Deanery Plan?

Our mission action plan shows how we will play our part as a local church in the Diocesan vision of

**A worshipping, growing, and transforming Christian presence
at the heart of every community.**

This mission action plan was approved by the PCC on (Date) ...10 April 2017.....

Signed :  Post/office...Associate Rector.....

Date : ...10 April 2017.....

Please send your plan, along with any supporting documentation to the MAP team – map@manchester.anglican.org. The MAP team will then review it and send it to your Archdeacon