

Mission Action Planning

Our previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, described mission as

“finding out what God is doing and joining in.”

How to get involved

Mission Action Planning should involve the whole church family and we hope that every member will take an active part in shaping the vision and direction of your church over the coming years.

Please pray for your church and its leadership team and ask your vicar how you can best support the process.

A Mission Action Planning Prayer

As we listen and learn, choose and plan, let us bow before the Father, whose heart we seek to share:

We pray that, according to the riches of his glory, we may be strengthened in our inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love.

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Where is God calling you?

An aid to the mission journey

Mission Action Planning

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"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT).

We are called to progress God's plan for our church, but are we clear what His plan is and do we have a strategy for progressing it? In Scripture, a plan often involved a journey from one place to another.

As part of the diocesan Fit for Mission programme, Mission Action Planning is a process to help churches make this journey. Bishop's Council considers this a priority, and Bishop David is urging all parishes to develop a Mission Action Plan (MAP).

Mission Action Planning enables us to discern our vision for the future. It then helps us to prioritise to do a few things well, planning activities over months and years that allow us to achieve our vision.

A number of our parishes are already some way down the road with developing a MAP; others have yet to make a start and will need some help.

It is expected that all parishes and deaneries will have a viable mission plan in place by 2017.



The process is shown in the diagram above or can be described simply as **"Working out what God is doing and joining in"**.

Or you could ask four apparently simple questions:

Where are we starting from? (Review)

Where do we want to get to? (Prioritise)

What's the best way to get there? (Plan)

What do we need to do now? (Do)

At the heart of Mission Action Planning should be prayer and passion, a desire to see God's Kingdom come, God's people set free, and God's church grow.

"At St Andrew's we have seen God at work through the MAP process in a very exciting way. Do consider it if your church is looking for an exciting roller coaster ride as it joins in with God's mission to your community. But be prepared to take some unexpected turns down unanticipated and sometimes frightening paths! In all of this God hasn't let us down and He took our breath away!"

Revd Steve Openshaw,
Ramsbottom & Edenfield Team

Help along the way

Think of your own preference on a long car journey. You may want a map or clear instructions; others may prefer a guide, be that the Satnav voice, or even someone sitting alongside!

Steps on the journey

1

Review your understanding of your church and your community, your sense of vision and your values.

2

Prioritise what you should be focusing on

3

Plan how you will respond to God's call and achieve what is agreed

4

Do it!

The diocese will provide resources to help and, most importantly, guides: people at Church House and in the deaneries who can support you through this process.