

A learning cycle

We need to keep listening to God. This means that MAP is designed to work as a cycle that enables us to review, assess, learn and fine-tune as we go along. Once we've set an initial vision, it's good if a regular annual pattern of review takes place to check on progress.

Resources for the journey

If Mission Action Planning seems a daunting prospect, don't worry! Staff at Church House are there to help you identify people who can support and help you develop your MAP. This may include people from your own deanery or archdeaconry who are further along the journey. A Guide and Toolkit are also available to help you put each step into action.

Undergirded by prayer

It's essential that MAP is undergirded by prayer that seeks to identify God's will for a church, its people and local community. MAP aims to help our churches be places where God's Kingdom of love and justice is found. It seeks to help grow the spiritual lives of churches and our service of local communities. MAP aims to help us see what God is already doing in the world around us and to join in. Growth in church numbers often follows as a result of all these things.

Punctuated by worship and celebration

It is vital that a church celebrates who it is and what it is doing. Praise and worship remind us that we are seeking to do the will of a gracious and loving God. Marking key points and events with shared celebration lifts spirits and reminds us of our common calling. A joyful, thankful approach is also much more likely to attract others to join in.

Find out more

For further information, visit
www.manchester.anglican.org/MAP
or call 0161 828 1400 or
map@manchester.anglican.org

Mission Action Planning

A Guide for the PCC

What is Mission Action Planning?

Mission Action Planning (MAP) is a process designed to help our churches grow in depth, impact and numbers – in other words, to live out our calling to grow congregations and to be a sustaining presence in the communities we serve.

Each parish, mission partnership and deanery in the diocese will need to find its own way of growing and serving in the specific contexts of their communities.

MAP enables us to discern our vision for the future. It then helps us to choose to do a few things well, planning activities over months and years that allow us to achieve our vision. Plans developed through MAP are not set in stone, but subject to ongoing review, refinement and development as we journey from one place to another.

The MAP Process

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)



1 Where are we starting from? (Review)

The first step of MAP is to assess our current situation and context, and find ways of building on our strengths. This includes understanding both our internal situation and also our external environment. It's important that we try to look at ourselves and our local community with fresh eyes, putting aside any assumptions and listening to what is actually being said within and around us.

MAP invites us to identify our vision, priorities and goals. What is our vision for our church and our community? What are our core values? What would we really like to see happening in and through our church? Finding or reaffirming our vision and our core values is crucial if we want to have the energy and commitment to do new things.

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

Once we know where we want to go, the next stage of MAP is to plan how to put our priorities into action. This involves deciding:

- How will we meet our goals? How can we break them down into achievable steps?
- What do we need to do and when?
- How will we communicate this – so that everyone can find out about it, pray for it, encourage it and get behind it?
- What do we need in the way of people, time and money?

It's important that our plans reflect closely the needs of our local contexts.

2 Where do we want to get to? (Prioritise)

Drawing on the understanding that has come out of the review stage, we ask "What would God want our church to be like in five years' time?" For most churches, it is a considerable challenge to work out how to do a few things well. Having a clearly owned vision helps us decide what our priorities should be, and what we can let go. It's helpful to think in both the short and long term.

4 What do we need to do now? (Do)

The final stage of the MAP cycle is to

- Act – to turn our plans into activity
- Check – how are things going and what needs to be adjusted?
- Celebrate – give thanks when we achieve our goals and thank those who made that happen.

