

ST CROSS MISSION ACTION PLAN

As part of the diocese “fit for mission” programme, Mission Action Planning (MAP) was the process that has enabled our church to develop a clear strategy for progressing God’s plan. This process is now completed, and we have our final MAP.

THE PROCESS TIMELINE

27TH September 2017:

The PCC agreed to function as the MAP Leadership Team. A section was created on the website which contained an explanation of each phase of planning. The various surveys were uploaded so that people had the option to fill them out online.

14th October 2017:

A group of people met to think about change and what this means in the context of St Cross. A number of action points emerged from this session that were then taken forward and discussed again at a later stage.

Last Week of October 2017:

During this time the contextual data about our parish, collated by the diocese and contained within the parish spotlight profile, was analysed. Several key findings emerged from this analysis which formed a picture of our community, its needs and concerns.

Week Beginning 13th November 2017:

Several Key Person Interviews were carried out. The findings from these highlighted drugs, unemployment, lack of things to do in the area and anti-social behaviour among the youth as the most concerning aspects of life in Clayton. All the residents and businesses interviewed noted provision for the youth and the elderly as a priority.

Week Beginning 20th November 2017:

The possibility of growing mission to the wider community, and the benefits of collaboration within our parish was considered. St Cross took the first steps towards forming a consortium with key agencies with a view to taking on the lease of Barrington Street Community Centre. These included The Wells Centre, St Willibrord's, The Methodist Church, One Manchester and HMHC (Healthy Minds Healthy Communities). The vision the consortium has for BSCC is that it becomes a vibrant, inclusive, welcoming, sustainable, community-led enterprise at the heart of Clayton which aims to meet the needs of individuals, groups, and local businesses in providing a safe space for recreation, arts and culture, education, healthy living and wellbeing, heritage, events, worship, conferences, and private functions.

26th November 2017:

The congregation were asked to complete a Skills and Talents questionnaire in which worshippers identified their skills and talents. This has been used to share out church roles more widely and to plan rotas effectively and will continue to be used to provide more opportunities for worshippers to serve Christ in the context of the church.

December 10th 2017:

A Service Audit was distributed to over 40 people during the Sunday Service. Overall our worship was appraised very positively although several points for action emerged and some of these have been included in the finalised plan.

January 13th 2018:

A comprehensive church health check was carried out. This allowed those who attended to consider the life, worship and mission of St Cross around a number of areas including: Are we energised by faith? Do we have an outward-looking focus? Do we operate as a community? Do we make room for all? What do we do well? The discussion and answers that arose from this session helped to form the goals and vision of St Cross.

MISSION ACTION PLAN 2018 -2021

Diocesan Goal 1:

Growing new disciples in missionary church communities which are younger, more diverse, active, and spiritually engaged;

St Cross Goal 1:

To ensure that all people are motivated and energised by the worship and sacramental life of our church

Task/ objective	Person Assigned	Steps needed to achieve task	Resources	Timeline (expected start and completion dates)
Incorporate periods of silence into the liturgy at designated times (before worship begins, before the penitential act, after calling upon the people to pray the collect, after the sermon, after receiving communion) to enable worshippers to prepare to worship God by listening.	Fr Chris Janet Towell	Add to pew sheet: <i>Silence or stillness is an integral element of the worship at St Cross. Therefore, we ask that you observe a sacred silence at the following designated times: before worship begins, before the penitential act, after the priest calls upon the people to pray the collect, after the sermon, after receiving communion. Silence may be used to recollect yourself, to meditate on what you have heard or to praise and pray to God in your heart.</i>	None required	February 14 th 2018 Ongoing
With permission, celebrate the reality and goodness of God in people's lives through thanksgiving prayers which specifically mention members of the church Medium Priority	Fr Chris Joanne Little Stars	Ask the children to make a prayer board/tree during their Little Stars sessions. Ask members of the congregation to agree on the best place for the prayer board/tree to go. Install the prayer request board with a note at the top stating that prayers will be offered during the Intercessions at either the weekday or Principal Service. Board will be blessed on March 25th	Materials to be decided by Joanne and Little Stars	Start: March 2018 Complete by March 25 th
Build in opportunities to engage in the pain and brokenness of the world, again through prayer and suggested action. High Priority	Fr Chris Mark Carol F Vincent Le Blanc Janet Cheetham Joanne O	Produce Short Guide to Preparing and Leading the Intercessions which includes prayers for the world which are current and up-to-date. Run a training session for intercessors	Booklets to be produced and emailed.	Training session to be held on Sat February 17th
Provide education around the meaning and importance of receiving communion. High Priority	Fr Chris or Mark	Purchase <i>The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Anglican Tradition (What happens at Holy Communion?)</i> Booklet to be produced and circulated to the congregation Offer a six week course based on The Eucharist (Book 6). The course explores in greater depth how Christians know and worship God.	Book to be purchased and read Booklets to be researched, written up and printed. Course compiled, advertised and delivered.	Offer booklet and course in June/July. Offer the course to St Willibrord's, Methodist church and the deanery. Advertise the course from the beginning of June. The course could also serve as adult confirmation preparation. This will mean applying for a Team/deanery Confirmation

<p>Actively encourage fellowship after the service High Priority</p> <p>Promote the envelope scheme</p>	<p>Fr Chris Janet Towell</p>	<p>Ensure that an invitation is issued during every service.</p> <p>Add an invitation to the pew sheet:</p> <p><i>'You are very welcome to St Cross this morning for this sung Eucharist (Holy Communion). A special welcome to _____, who is being baptised today, his family and friends. Children are very welcome here and, if they want to, they can take part Little Stars Sunday School which starts at 10.30am in the church centre. Children return for the Communion. If you would require a gluten-free wafer, or would like us to bring communion to you, please speak to our Welcomers at the door of the church. We would be delighted if you would join us for refreshment in the church centre after the service.'</i></p> <p>Janet to add some words to the pew sheet about the envelope gift scheme and setting up a standing order.: <i>'If you have been given a pack of stewardship envelopes, please ensure that these are used for your giving each time you attend worship here as this allows us to claim tax back on the GADS scheme. If you wish to gift aid, please ask the Church Wardens for a form.'</i></p>		<p>February 14th 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Choir, succession planning for New Choir Director, forge links with the Royal Northern. High Priority</p>	<p>Saul</p>	<p>Once the St. Cross Youth Choir are up and running, Fr Chris and Saul should begin advertising for Saul's replacement. Saul to write a brief of his duties and responsibilities .</p>		<p>From March onwards</p>
<p>Incorporate Taize chants and instruments into worship. High Priority</p>	<p>Fr Chris, Mark and Saul</p>	<p>Hold three Eucharist/Prayer services per year in the style and spirit of the Taizé Community, possibly in the evenings. Choir to be involved.</p>	<p>Taize Prayer Service Booklets</p>	<p>April August November</p>
<p>Reflect African culture through music. High Priority</p>	<p>David, Saul, Janet and Mark to form a committee to plan hymns which incorporate hymn requests and hymns form the African Hymnal into the hymn cycle</p>	<p>Order a copy of African American Heritage Hymnal: 575 Hymns, Spirituals, and Gospel.</p> <p>Ask the children to create a hymn suggestion box to be blessed in church.</p> <p>Saul to use time after the notices to teach a new song from the African Hymnal on the piano.</p>	<p>African American Heritage Hymnal</p>	<p>From March onward</p> <p>Begin on April 8th . To be blessed in church on April 22nd</p>
<p>Introduce an all age service. High Priority</p>	<p>Invite members of the congregation to join a steering committee for designing an all age service</p> <p>Fr Chris, Mark and Joanne to sit on the committee</p>	<p>Little Stars could design the front or back cover of the all age service booklet</p> <p>Bring the draft service to the PCC for approval/modification</p> <p>Go to print</p> <p>Slot into worship cycle</p>	<p>Printing of All Age worship booklets</p>	<p>Trial for the first time at the Mothering Sunday Service (March 11th)</p>

Diocesan Goal 2:

Nurturing increasing vocations, nurturing new and existing disciples, increasing financial giving;

St Cross Goal 2:

To engaging with Scripture in new and creative ways which connect with the life of worshippers and to provide more opportunities for worshippers to serve Christ in the context of the church.

Task/ objective	Person Assigned	Steps needed to achieve task	Resources	Timeline (expected start and completion dates)
<p>To use the skills audit to extend the following rotas: Welcomers, Sidespersons, Readers, Intercessors, Servers, Foodbank Helpers, Worship Planning Committee.</p> <p>To ensure that there is a handbook which contains the duties of each role.</p>	Janet	<p>Janet plan welcomer, sidespersons and readers rota. Fr Chris to plan intercessor, Foodbank rotas.</p> <p>Rotas should be continually reviewed and opportunities created intermittently for rotas to be expanded</p> <p>Janet to make explicit to the welcome team that their remit involves getting to know newcomers</p>		February 2018 Ongoing
<p>Enable worshippers to be doers and not just hearers.</p> <p>Preachers should endeavor to relate scripture to modern day life, and risk being interactive. Low Priority</p> <p>Install an anonymous slot box for worshippers to mention issues which affect them. Low Priority</p> <p>Introduce a weekly bible study group and/or make copies of the sermon available at the back of church. Low Priority</p>	Fr Chris Mark Joanne	<p>Agree to do this at least once a month, and for Mark, every other sermon</p> <p>Joanne to provide box</p> <p>Copies of sermons can be made to anyone who wants them. Ask via a sign-up sheet.</p>		Chris to begin 11 th Feb and Mark to begin on 18 th Feb. This is a good time as it is Lent.
<p>Creating opportunities for people to develop their prayer lives by saying morning and evening prayer in church.</p> <p>9.00 MP 6.00 EP.</p>	Fr Chris and other keyholders			Begin from Monday 12 th Feb
<p>Initiate a series of articles either/both in which members of the church tell their story of how their faith is nourished and how they meet God or if for newcomers then a simple 'getting to know you' page would suffice.</p> <p>Medium Priority</p>	As yet person unknown	<p>Recruit someone in the church who would like to do this.</p> <p>Maybe start by profiling 5 individuals.</p> <p>Print and distribute.</p>		Lent 2019
<p>Create a borrowing library in church of Christian books. Medium Priority</p>	Joanne O	<p>Source funding for this.</p> <p>Buy books and bookshelf.</p> <p>Create area in the church for this.</p>		January 2019

To create a digital Bible experience for children to encounter Jesus which could be used during a Youth for Christ Club	Fr Chris Joanne O	Source funding to purchase a number of tablets. Purchase tablets and download Guardians of Ancora. Buy supporting resources. Buy Youth for Christ resources. Recruit a team of volunteers to staff a Guardians of Ancora club/Youth for Christ club. Run the session midweek as an after-school club.	Tablets Guardians of Ancora materials Team of volunteers	September 2019
Encourage, resource and skill parents to instill faith at home	Fr Chris Joanne O	Meet parents of Little Stars on a semi-regular basis. Use these meetings to resource and equip parents with ideas to be used at home, these ideas should also be included in baptism packs, for example: Kitchen Table Project leaflets. Run a Parentalk course (Inspire) which is a ready-to-run course for parents of children under 12	Kitchen Table materials Parentalk DVD resource pack	September 2018
Start a family dinner and movie night in church	Fr Chris	Purchase a range of faith-based DVDs. Titles to include: The Shack The Case for Christ Wordlaw War Room God's Not Dead God's Not Dead 2 Do You Believe? Risen Hillsong The Movie Miracles for Heaven Heaven is for Real Hacksaw Ridge Left Behind Trilogy Faith Like Potatoes	CC availability DVDs Food each week	May 2018
Create opportunities for intergeneration contact and nurture	Members of St Cross	Set up a team of readers (longstanding members of St Cross) who will visit Ravensbury regularly to read to/with a group of children. After building up trust with our local schools and after recruiting volunteers to become coaches and work on a one to one basis with children, introduce the mentors to the schools as part of the early Intervention programmes. Arrange for an intergenerational group from St Cross to visit other places of worship on a rolling programme.	Suitable children's bible material	May 2018 May 2019 Begin June 2018
Celebrate key moments in the life of the children liturgically to create new peak experiences. Involve the children in the preparation of All-age worship and the life of the church	Fr Chris St Cross Team	During All Age Worship involve the children in choosing hymns, preparing the Holy Table, giving out Service Booklets, serving, reading and intercessions.		May 2018

Diocesan Goal 3:

Serving present for all, speaking and acting prophetically for justice, supporting pastorally; especially the vulnerable, deprived, and excluded.

St Cross Goal 3:

To become an inclusive community with an outward-looking 'whole-life' focus.

Task/ objective	Person Assigned	Steps needed to achieve task	Resources	Timeline (expected start and completion dates)
Devise a team who will follow up baptisms and funerals	Hazel to advise	<p>The Baptism/Funeral team will contact the baptism family and send them a Baptism pack. Pack will contain: A letter from the rector with a warm welcome and an invitation to return the following week. A brief outline of St Cross's vision. An overview of the different ministries at church and opportunities to serve. Flyers of upcoming events. Contact details for church, website address, Facebook Page. Maybe include a quick survey for first time visitors. This would be valuable feedback. A brochure that explains more about baptism and the role of parents/godparents simply and clearly. A connect card: the visitor can complete his contact details/prayer request and drop it back to church.</p> <p>They will contact them sometime after the baptism if the family attended church and they will invite them to the special service for those baptized that year.</p> <p>Similarly the team will contact the family of the deceased shortly after the funeral and they will invite them to the All Soul's service.</p>	Baptism pack	March 2018
Ensure that people are happy in their work. This means that people should only be asked/expected to do the things which give them joy in serving God. This might involve having many conversations and checking in with post holders and possibly redistributing duties High priority	Fr Chris to phone and speak personally to all post holders every six months			July 2018 January 2019 July 2019 January 2020 July 2020 January 2021
Produce a welcome pack which is sent to newcomers/or available to be picked up if wanted.	Fr Chris	<p>Pack will contain: A letter from the rector with a warm welcome and an invitation to return the following week. A brief outline of St Cross's vision. An overview of the different ministries at church and opportunities to serve. Flyers of upcoming events. Contact details for church, website address, Facebook Page. Maybe include a quick survey for first time visitors. This would be valuable feedback. A brochure that explains more about baptism and the role of parents/godparents simply and clearly. A connect card: the visitor can complete his contact details/prayer request and drop it back to church.</p>		April 2018

<p>Help children and young people to belong, contribute to worship and be nurtured in their faith. High Priority</p>	<p>Joanne Janet Saul</p>	<p>Little Stars:</p> <p>Children to lead one or more sections of the All age worship</p> <p>Janet to rota the children to join the welcome team on Sundays when they are not in Little Stars.</p> <p>Organize local outreaches with the young people. For example, the choir could visit a nursing home.</p> <p>Create 'quiet bags' for very young children.</p> <p>Find a better way of sending out and bringing back Little Stars back into the service. For example: <i>'After the opening hymn and welcome the president says, "Children, you will now go to hear God's word, to praise God in song, and to reflect on the wonderful things God has done for us. We will await your return so that together we may celebrate the eucharist.'</i></p> <p>Invite members of the congregation to go into Little Stars to give talks.</p>		<p>March 11th onwards</p> <p>January/February 2018</p> <p>June 2018</p> <p>Asap</p> <p>March 2018</p>
<p>Offer an enquirer's course such as The Pilgrim course regularly, at least once a year.</p>	<p>Mark</p>	<p>Personally invite people onto the course and keep a list of people to invite including pastoral contacts and people from baptisms, weddings and funerals.</p> <p>Offer a six week course based on Book 1 of the Pilgrim Course or another suitable enquirers course. The course explores in greater depth how Christians know and worship God.</p>		<p>Every June/July</p>
<p>Food Bank</p>	<p>Fr Chris Joanne</p>	<p>Speak to the Community Officer at Asda and other Supermarkets.</p> <p>Source and design a large donation bin with appropriate signage.</p> <p>Install bins.</p>		
<p>Work as a consortium with HMCH and One Manchester to reopen Barrington Street Community Centre to offer provision for single-parents around poverty, housing and childcare; schemes to help the unemployed back into work; KS 4 and 5 educational provision</p>	<p>Consortium led by Fr Chris</p>	<p>Submit the expression of interest (summary proposal)</p> <p>Submit the business plan</p> <p>Plans reviewed by panel</p> <p>Recommendation made</p> <p>Agreed by the Council</p> <p>Handover of asset to community group</p> <p>Transfer will be subject to review, generally annually, to measure success. It will review the sustainability of the transfer and check if the terms of the transfer, including the service level agreement (where agreed as part of the transfer) is being fulfilled.</p>		<p>Three year project beginning Oct 2017</p>