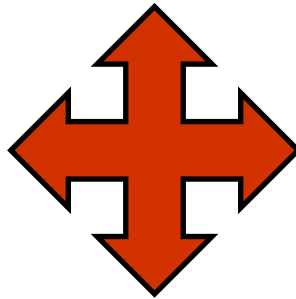




St Martin's Church
London Road
in the Worcester South East Team



Mission
Action
Plan 2018

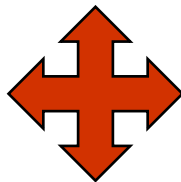
To the People of St Martin's

From the Rector, the Reverend Rob Farmer, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Following your reflections and responses about the on-going mission objectives in this Parish, the PCC have prioritised three stages of action to be focused on during the next three to five years. We recognised that some aspects of the plan may come on stream sooner than anticipated and others later - this is meant to be a fluid and flexible document.

In all areas we acknowledge that certain actions are common to each part of the vision:

- ◆ that we must actively enquire and listen to the needs of the community
- ◆ that we must continue to pray about our mission strategy and to discern God's will for the life of the Church in this Parish and in the wider Team



The following priorities for mission were ratified by the PCC at a meeting in July 2018.

- ✚ **Short Term Aims** *page 3*
- ✚ **Medium Term Aims** *page 6*
- ✚ **Long Term Aims** *page 9*

✦ **Short Term Aims** (*approximate time scale within 1 year*)

- **Review Family Worship and make existing worship more accessible**

Where we are now

Currently we have a very successful Messy Church once a month and a Second Sunday communion service which is designated as a Family service. The Second Sunday service has not attracted any new families and there is little crossover from Messy Church.

How do we want this area to develop?

A new relaxed style family service once a month (Eucharistic or non-Eucharistic - to be decided) using more accessible liturgy and music that all can enjoy but that will encourage younger families and children and those on the fringe of church life.

A re-think of how we make our other existing services more accessible, eg announcing hymn/page numbers, review of existing liturgy, reduction of the number of pieces of paper required.

Resources required

Maybe convening a worship group as in former years and involving the Younger Generations Committee.

Consider responses from a family worship survey held at Messy Church earlier in the year.

- **Develop pastoral care and community links**

Where are we now:

We already have an excellent pastoral care group (Community Care Committee) which undertakes a large amount of pastoral visiting and care within our community, including the distribution of the reserved sacrament. Amongst many other things, members of the group run the weekly Poplins coffee morning, organise flowers and cards for different occasions, and run a community lunch once a year.

How do we want this area to develop?

Increase the number of volunteers who visit people in the community and maybe introduce a more regular drop-in lunch session, building on Poplins.

Investigate, and where possible partner with, other community groups/agencies to see where the church can help to alleviate loneliness and isolation in our parish.

Maybe develop a link-line service where people receive regular telephone contact.

Resources needed:

Community survey/situation analysis.

Liaise with Community Care Committee about development.

- **Carousel or similar for rear of church**

Where are we now:

Currently a lot of literature is scattered across two tables at the rear of church. It looks untidy and it is difficult to see what is actually there.

How do we want this area to develop?

Introduce a carousel or tiered display stand to house literature and information. One suggestion is to introduce a low cupboard in place of the tables to increase storage area with the tiered stands on top.

The content of the literature needs to be developed to include more information about the Christian journey, how to pray, bible teaching resources, spirituality and specific leaflets covering Baptism, Marriage and Funerals in church.

Resources:

New display stand. New cupboard. Range of leaflets covering topics above. Some can be sourced from Christian organisations, eg Parish Resources, and some can be produced in-house.

- **Prayer Corner**

Where are we now:

We have a lovely church that is open most of the day and is well used by passers-by who come in for a quiet time of prayer.

How do we want this area to develop?

To create a designated area for personal prayer (maybe the Peter and Paul Chapel) with a wide range of resources to help people into prayer.

Maybe items can be introduced that will stimulate the senses, eg something to see, hear, smell and touch.

Resources:

Make the area more obviously a place for private prayer.

Obtain resources for prayer.

Advertising.

✦ **Medium Terms Aims** (*approximate time scale 2-3 years*)

- **Enquirers Group**

Where we are now:

An informal group has been run on the odd occasion for those wanting to learn more about the Christian faith.

How do we want this area to develop?

Run a short course (maybe 4-6 weeks duration) for those on the fringe of church life to explore the Christian faith. With the arrival of JAM Club, Messy Church, and hopefully a new Sunday Family service, we need a safe place where people can begin to explore Christianity at a basic level.

Resources:

Suitable material (maybe use some already prepared resources).

A catchy name.

- **Upgrade kitchen, toilets and storage in the church**

Where are we now:

The church has two toilets in the Nave area (one disabled). There is a kitchen area in the Lower Vestry but with limited facilities. Storage in the main church area is at a premium. More activities need more storage.

How do we want this area to develop?

The kitchen area in the Lower Vestry needs upgrading, certainly with some sort of cooker and a dishwasher, and new crockery etc. Messy Church often has an element of cooked food which has to be couriered in from different houses; cooking facilities would alleviate the need for this.

A proposed drop-in lunch, and events for younger families which might involve food, would benefit from this.

The toilets are approximately 30 years old and need updating. The second toilet next to the disabled is very small. Baby changing facilities need to be improved.

With the increase of activities in church, secure storage is a problem. New storage (maybe in the redeveloped toilet area) is required.

Resources:

Finance (a grant may be available from St Martin's United Charities for the kitchen).

Help has been offered for the planning stage.

- **Investigate links with other stakeholders in the community**

Where we are now:

St Martin's has been part of this community for over a century and is well known and loved as a Parish Church. There are numerous links with other agencies and stakeholders.

How do we want this area to develop?

We recognise that community and society change rapidly. We need to engage constantly with our community so we can best see how we can help to transform the lives of the people in our care and how the church can be best placed to support the community with its diverse range of faiths and cultures. We would like to enter into an on-going dialogue with local councillors, health professionals, social workers, police and education officials, to name a few, who can help us to understand our community better.

Resources:

Community/situation analysis as noted in short term aims.

Maybe use material from Hereford Diocese who have a useful research tool available on their website.

- **Develop musical abilities with children**

Where we are now:

St Martin's has a strong and well known musical tradition. There are various members of our church with excellent musical skills in terms of singing and playing instruments. We have excellent links with the Elgar School of Music as well as Red Hill C of E Primary School who currently have some good singers.

How do we want this area to develop?

We would like to encourage younger people to join the Choir and maybe develop a youth choir to sing at family and other services.

Using the links we have with local schools, we would like to encourage children to engage in the musical life of the church and to use our musical resources.

Resources:

People with musical skills to be involved in liaising with schools.

Time in the curriculum or time outside of school?

Safeguarding for all involved in place.

✦ **Long Term Aims** (*approximate time scale 3-5 years*)

- **Update Parish Centre facilities**

Where are we now:

St Martin's Parish Centre in Victoria Avenue is already well used by the community. It is a useful space but little used by the church at present.

The building is on three levels and access from the street is either by going up steps or going down steps.

How do we want this area to develop?

This could be a strategic space for increased community use and involvement. However, the difficult access restricts its use. The first thing we need to consider is how we improve disabled access to the building both externally and internally.

One suggestion is (if access could be improved) that the stage area on the upper level could be developed into a useful kitchen area.

Redecoration would be needed.

Consideration must be given to existing users to ensure their needs are still met.

Resources:

Finance. Some funding might be available if we can show we are trying to improve disabled access and make a facility available for community use.

A business plan exploring possible uses - how St Martin's and the wider community can use the Centre more effectively.

Planning (Emily Kippen has offered to help).

- **Help with the homeless problem in Worcester**

Where we are now:

The Church has a duty to care for all in the community. At St Martin's we boldly say on our church doors "I was a stranger and you welcomed me". We are here to live out what we believe and say.

How do we want this area to develop?

Our city has an on-going problem with homeless people. During the recent very cold winter numerous people at St Martin's were moved to try and do something that could alleviate the suffering of homeless people more effectively in the future. It is recognised that this is an area where we have little expertise whilst others in the community (Maggs, St Paul's, etc) do, and we would propose to try and partner with other experts and try to help in some way. In particular a cold weather emergency plan might be put in place.

Resources:

People to learn alongside other groups and to investigate how we can be best placed to help.

A venue for homeless - maybe an updated parish centre ...

Funding/ finance.

✚ Review

This document will be reviewed and updated annually and ratified by the PCC at Pentecost, in an effort to

- ◆ evaluate the success and effectiveness of these initiatives
- ◆ identify new initiatives
- ◆ decide if the on-going vision is still valid

✦ Questions to ask ourselves

Is there anything here that we do not feel is achievable?

No - not if we take a measured approach and work within sensible time-scales.

How will we measure each area's success?

By regular review by the PCC each year, and as each initiative is introduced.

If something does not work, will we be prepared to let it go, even after a lot of hard work?

Yes, we will evaluate, plan, do, check and amend where necessary. We hope to compromise to effect a change where required and stop when we know something is not sustainable. However a reasonable amount of time must be given to each initiative to measure its success. For example, a new act of worship may take a year or more to show any measurable results, good or bad.

Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.
Help us to see more clearly the way we ought to take;
to know more fully the truth we ought to know;
to go out and live more faithfully the life we ought to live.
This we ask for your love's sake.
Amen.*

