



Church of Westoning, St Mary Magdalene « Mission Action Plan »

 stalbans.anglican.org/maps

[Print PDF](#) | [Search MAPs](#) | [MAPs Home](#)

Details

Website

<https://www.westoningchurch.org.uk/>

Church

Westoning, St Mary Magdalene

Parish

Westoning

Benefice

Harlington, Tingrith and Westoning

Deanery

Amphill and Shefford

Archdeaconry

Bedford

MAP Dates

This MAP was uploaded to the website on

1st March 2022

Our MAP will be reviewed next

1st January 2024

Progress

What progress are you celebrating since your previous MAP?

1. Children young people and families

* In the various lockdowns we delivered Church at Home bags to over 60 children on five different occasions. This ongoing contact with our families has resulted in a number of them now coming to our monthly Families Together Service and other activities and has enhanced the relationship with them.

* We restarted our Little Stars mums and toddler group in May 2021 and this is now held in the church rather than a room at the village school. The numbers joining us has been very encouraging and being held in the church means this has become a familiar place for mums and toddlers alike. There has also been a great overlap with our family services and our version of Messy Church called TWiG (Tea With God). In addition a number of the families are having their children baptised during the summer of 2022.

* TWiG restarted in September led by our Families and Outreach self employed Consultant. It has met once a month mainly in the village hall. As well as afternoon teas we held a light party at the end of October on a Saturday and it was great to have lots of dads with us as well. We have also held 2 breakfast meetings and it is so good to see many families from our mums and toddler group joining in with themed crafts and listening to a bible story as well.

* Picnics – two picnics were held in July 2021 in the church grounds one for families and one for those leaving Westoning Lower School. Both were very well attended and continued to reinforce our links with young people and families.

2. New Services

* In May 2020 we started an informal online Zoom service called the Upper Room which has continued to meet weekly mainly on a Sunday evening since this time. It has been wonderful to find that we can meet with God and his transforming love in this way and it is a place where people have been able to grow in their personal faith.

* Since October 2020 we have been meeting in church on the second Sunday of each month with a new Families Together Service. This was held on Zoom in February and March 2021. It is a short fun service with singing and lots of instruments, listening to a short bible story and then crafts and snacks and drinks. This is usually led by our Families and Outreach Consultant.

* We have started again to have a more informal service on the fourth Sunday of the month. The first one in February 2022 was a healing service where many came forward for anointing and prayer. The second was on Mothering Sunday and the church was full of people of all ages including many of our newer families.

* Cafe church services – Our Families Together December Service was held in the afternoon as a cafe church service and was led by our Families and Outreach Consultant. It was wonderful to see so many families coming together to listen to the Christmas story and also join in with lots of singing and craft activities as well as enjoying a delicious tea. We are planning to have more of these services.

3. Links with our community

* Westcaf – This is a free coffee morning which we provide to the village every Tuesday in the village hall for 2 hours. It has been running since October 2016 and provides a valuable link with the community and has been a means of developing relationships with both young and old alike. There are regularly between 25-40 people attending.

* Craft and Sewing Bee – This group also meets in Westoning Village Hall each week for two hours on a Tuesday afternoon and provides a space for folk to come together again from both the church and community. It is growing since it first started in 2019 and now regularly has about 20 people enjoying being together.

* Friday Fellowship – This group meets in Westoning Village Hall on a Friday afternoon and again is part of our outreach into the village. The group has either a speaker or an activity to enjoy or an occasional trip out. It provides a great link between the church and the community.

* Men's Breakfast – meets bimonthly in a local pub/restaurant for a hearty breakfast and a Christian speaker and is part of the wider outreach into the community.

* Westoning Cares – this group was formed between the Parish Council and the Church in April 2020 to provide support for those who needed to self isolate. This venture was administered by the Church with twice weekly online meetings when the need was greatest. Volunteers were organised to provide services such as shopping, the collection of prescriptions and lifts to appointments. There are still a few individuals who have continued to benefit from this service. It has been a very good way to serve our community with the Parish Council and many of the contacts made are now joining in with groups such as Westcaf and Friday Fellowship.

* Healing Rooms Flitwick – The church has continued to work with other local churches and with Healing Rooms UK. The weekly healing room is now on Zoom and we also provide an opportunity for prayer at a weekly indoor market.

4. Church groups and other outreach

* Two house groups have kept meeting on a fortnightly basis and these have been on Zoom since September 2020. They provide support prayer and teaching for their members.

* An online Alpha Course took place in September with the Holy Spirit Day taking place at the local cricket club. It provided a space for individuals to reflect on and grow in their faith and relationship with God.

* 24/7 Prayer Course 2 was used as an online Lent Course in 2022. There were between 12-16 regular attenders and it dealt with issues such as unanswered prayer. It provided an invaluable space for people to share and discuss.

How far did you meet your previous priorities?

(1 star = Not at all → 10 stars = Done)

7 stars

Where has there been less progress than hoped for?

1. Many of the planned events had to stop because of the pandemic, but new ways of building up the members of the congregation have been developed such as online services and home groups. Outreach has also continued and is flourishing through continued contact with our Mums and Toddler families our Messy Church families and other groups such as Westoning Cares.
2. We have yet to establish a weekly day time prayer meeting, our monthly prayer meeting continues to meet online.
3. Progress for the renovation of the back of the church is much slower than had been hoped for. There is now a focus group which meets regularly and plans have been received from the architect and presented to the PCC and the wider congregation. Costings have recently been provided and funds are available for the project to move forwards.

Vision

What is the vision for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

Westoning Church is a church for all the people in the community which, wants to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds, help people grow in their relationship with God and see God's Kingdom continue to be extended. All are welcome. It proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It's members desire to share the love of God, embody the love of God and grow in the love of God.

Values

What are the core values for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

1. To sustain support and equip the individual members of the congregation to continue to grow in their personal relationship with our God of love and help them to know Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To then respond to His transforming love by serving others.
2. To be a church that takes seriously the Great Commission to go and make disciples, in our communities, our families and our places of work and leisure. To reach out and welcome those unconnected to the church and to provide opportunities for them to explore the nature of faith. To be a church that nurtures and grows the faith of children and young people and their families.
3. To be a hospitable and welcoming church to all who come and to help each individual know they belong and are valued.

1st Priority

What is your 1st Priority to make your vision a reality?

To continue to build on what has already been established in outreach into the community, supporting and equipping our gathered family to be more actively involved, encouraging wider participation from the whole congregation to seek God's vision for the community we serve.

To continue to encourage integration of different age groups to come together in activities such as Westcaf and regular more informal services.

To provide a day time alpha for the Mums and other carers of the families who come to Little Stars TWiG and Families Together Service.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 1st Priority most focus on?

Transforming Communities

SMART Goal to achieve your 1st Priority

Involve the whole congregation in this priority through teaching and communication.
Continue to maintain current activities in the church and community.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 1st Priority

To underpin the vision with corporate prayer and introduce a weekly church prayer meeting in the day time.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 1st Priority

To work with our Families and Outreach Consultant to plan and deliver a day time Alpha starting in September 2022

2nd Priority

What 2nd Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

To renovate the church to include a multi purpose space at the back of the church, the removal of the choir stalls and the repair of the chancel.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 2nd Priority most focus on?

Going deeper into God

SMART Goal to achieve your 2nd Priority

The focus group to continue to meet regularly and put pressure on the architect to move the project forward.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 2nd Priority

To cover with regular corporate prayer.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 2nd Priority

To continue to keep the whole church involved by regularly communicating progress in the magazine and notices.

3rd Priority

What 3rd Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

To continue to maximise the resource of our Families and Outreach Consultant.

To continue to utilise their skills in particular with TWiG and Families Together Service and the more informal services.

To reestablish links with the local school with activities such as Open The Book and a monthly lunch time club.

To relaunch a youth club for 8-12 year olds by June 2022

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 3rd Priority most focus on?

Making New Disciples, Transforming Communities

SMART Goal to achieve your 3rd Priority

The wider congregation to support and work with support the Families and Outreach Consultant to ensure this priority is achieved. Have a monthly update meeting.

4th Priority

What 4th Priority are you working on to make your vision a reality?

To continue to love sustain support and equip the congregation feeding them with God's word, continuing a culture of prayer, worship and discipleship supporting and valuing each other.

Look at ways to recognise individual gifting and then utilise them.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 4th Priority most focus on?

Going deeper into God

SMART Goal to achieve your 4th Priority

Continue and develop the numerous activities which already take place within the church.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 4th Priority

Review and reflect on the effectiveness of the activities taking place at each PCC.

MAP published at www.stalbans.anglican.org/maps/?id=26781