



Mission Action Plan

1: Worship

Aim	Actions <i>(Sub-points are to achieve the overall aim and are not linked to the individual items listed in the previous column)</i>	Evaluation
<p>Our worship will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Celebrate and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ 2) Be centred on the Eucharist and sacraments 3) Nurture spiritual growth within the congregation 4) Maintain high standards in liturgy and music 5) Be flexible – develop a “Worship Team” 6) Be welcoming 7) Encourage the growth of the congregation 8) Acknowledge and celebrate diversity 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regular preaching and teaching at the Eucharist b) Continue ‘special’ services (e.g. pet service, Songs of Praise, Christingle, Crib Service etc.) c) Support and encourage the introduction of Messy Church d) Encourage the use of silence before services and during communion e) Nurture the St James’ Singers f) Focus on baptism, funerals and other “occasional offices” as mission opportunities g) Consider creative ways of using the space the church provides, including the possibility of reordering the interior h) Investigate the use of presentation aids as opportunities arise 	

Revised December 2013

2: Spiritual Growth

Aim	Actions <i>(Sub-points are to achieve the overall aim and are not linked to the individual items listed in the previous column)</i>	Evaluation
<p>Our spiritual growth will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Encourage discipleship and spiritual growth for individuals and for the Church community as a whole through worship, teaching and opportunities for retreat and refreshment 2) Encourage and nurture lay ministry – discovering and exercising the gifts and abilities of all 3) Foster loving relationships with each other and with God 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Look for innovative enquirers' courses and identify a co-ordinator b) Look for, encourage and nurture vocations of all kinds c) Support and develop house groups and other focused groups and encourage the development of prayer groups d) Encourage and increase the use of retreats, quiet days and pilgrimages e) Guide Church members to particular books/resources for personal development/study 	

Revised December 2013

3: Pastoral Care

Aim	Actions <i>(Sub-points are to achieve the overall aim and are not linked to the individual items listed in the previous column)</i>	Evaluation
<p>Our pastoral care will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Value, nurture and support each Church member 2) Make all Church members feel valued 3) Encourage the congregation to care for one another and the wider community 4) Be outward-looking towards the wider community 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintain and support a pastoral care team and publicise its existence b) Provide update and refresher training c) Encourage support for the pastoral care team from the wider congregation d) Maintain and develop existing groups and activities (e.g. Fellowship, Men's Breakfast) and affiliates (Luncheon Club, Outreach, uniformed and dance groups) e) Revisit groups that have ceased to operate f) Provide routes for affiliates to recognise/deepen their faith journeys (e.g. occasional worship in the hall/church with uniformed groups, toddler groups and Luncheon Club) g) Identify ways of demystifying St James' h) Identify ways of discerning what people want i) Promote use of car lifts to the less able j) Provide follow up for rites of passage (e.g. weddings, funerals, baptisms) k) Focus on newcomers and waverers l) Encourage more volunteers to offer home communion to those unable to get to the church m) Use initiatives such as Messy Church to embrace all comers n) Establish a walking group 	

Revised June 2014

4: Being Outward-Looking

Aim	Actions <i>(Sub-points are to achieve the overall aim and are not linked to the individual items listed in the previous column)</i>	Evaluation
<p>Being more outward-looking means that we will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Be a living witness within the community to the love of God 2) Make St James' better known in our local community 3) Maximise the use of our facilities by groups and individuals in the community 4) Encounter Jesus with all those who live or work in and around our parish, particularly seeking to serve those in need and be alert to the work of the Holy Spirit outside the boundaries of church 5) Work closely with neighbouring parishes and other Christian communities 6) Be more visible in the community 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regularly review and promote the website and Facebook usage b) Connect to other faiths and make the most of available university links c) Seek training on being outward-looking d) Participate actively in Christians Together and ecumenical initiatives, explore links with the Orthodox community and Sidwell Street Methodists and develop understanding of other faith communities e) Continue regular publication of the Contact magazine and distribute it throughout the parish f) Give at least 5% of church regular income to domestic and international mission agencies g) Maintain accessibility initiatives: e.g. ramps, hearing loop, large-print documents h) Continue taking communion to homes within the parish i) Identify newcomers to the parish and provide them with material about the Church j) Maintain contact with the Express and Echo and advise it of anything newsworthy k) Maintain strong community usage of the hall through the press and publicity l) Whenever possible, bid for funds to improve the hall m) Actively support and attend Celebrate Together n) Actively promote Vulnerable Adult work in Church and as outreach o) Make effective use of notice boards p) Maintain the fabric of the church and grounds to a high standard 	

Revised July 2014

5: Children and Young People

Aim	Actions <i>(Sub-points are to achieve the overall aim and are not linked to the individual items listed in the previous column)</i>	Evaluation
<p>Our work with children and young people will aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Be responsive to the needs of children and young people 2) Strengthen our existing work with children, young people and their families 3) Explore other ways of meeting those needs through joint working with other churches 4) Encourage the use of our facilities by youth groups and uniformed organisations 5) Ensure high standards of safeguarding and protection are maintained and regularly reviewed 6) Welcome and value babies and young children within our worship. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Re-establish a children's and young people's steering group (CYPSG) to take forward our mission strategy. This will involve parents, pastoral care team, youth leaders, young people, and pre-school representatives and ensure that youngsters are informed of the work of the group b) Ensure full and proper use of the Child Protection Officer and the role of the Children's Advocate as well as ensuring a clear and up-to-date policy on safeguarding c) Liaise with other Church groups to ensure children are actively represented d) Increase liaison with the youth groups to demystify the Church e) Continue JAM (Jesus and Me young people's group) and 11-Ups groups, confirmation preparation and holiday clubs (considering the possibility of a weekly slot rather than a single run of days for the holiday clubs) f) Maintain and develop links with Stoke Hill schools (e.g. visits to church) and St Peter's (e.g. students helping at Luncheon Club) g) Hold regular events aimed at families (e.g. fêtes, bazaars, cream teas) h) Provide a dedicated children's corner at the back of the church with toys, and a quiet space in the vestry into which the music is piped 	

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