

# MAPs and DVE

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Mission Action Plans (MAPs) are an effective road map for churches and fresh expressions, encouraging intentionality and reflection on the journey, not only of the life of the church, but wider engagement with the local community. The diocesan priorities of discipleship, vocation and evangelism (DVE) are central to the direction of travel for the diocese and we therefore recommend using DVE as a pattern for MAPs, not as a means to make more for work but as a lens through which to evaluate the life of the church and plan for the future. Under each priority:

- a. Celebrate what you are doing.
- b. Dream of what you could do:
  - i. In the short term (this year)
  - ii. In the longer term (3-5 years)

There are two examples of churches using DVE [here](#).

There are some useful questions to help with your evaluation and planning [here](#).

MAPs are living documents and best practice is as follows:

- a. Make MAPs an agenda item in every PCC to monitor progress in some or all areas.
- b. Annually refresh your MAP, present it at the AGM and hand it in at your Archdeacon's Visitation (with an electronic version sent to the Director of Mission who can suggest resources, and to the Archdeacon's PA for storage). Suggested questions to look at for the annual refreshing are:
  - i. The things we said we would do and have done - Celebrate!
  - ii. The things we have said we would do and have not done, and are never likely to do.
  - iii. The things we said we would do and have not done but would still like to do.
  - iv. New things that were not on the plan but we would now like to include. This could involve taking an area of work you currently do and applying the DVE lens to it this year to see how you can be more effective. It may involve asking what changes have taken place in your community and what opportunities there are to respond to this and possibly partner with others.(Things in 'i' and 'ii' are then removed so that the MAP does not become unwieldy).
- c. Every three to five years renew your MAP with a vision day/morning in which the key question is: 'Where do you want the church to be in three to five years' time?'

For 'b' and 'c' some churches find it useful to use an outside facilitator from the deanery, the Mission Team and other departments, or Area Staff.

For Frequently Asked Questions containing further guidance on MAPs, look [here](#)

For help and advice please contact the Revd George Fisher, Director of Mission, on 01922 650063 or 07814 166951 or at [george.fisher@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:george.fisher@lichfield.anglican.org)