

## St Mary's, Westham, Mission Action Plan 2023-24

Drawing on the Diocesan's Mission Plan, our PCC have agreed that our aims for the coming eighteen months are:



### **MORE OPEN and MORE CONVERTED TO CHRIST**

1. Some families who attended pre-pandemic have started to return – we will work at re-establishing relationships and responding to their hopes and spiritual needs.
2. To reach out to adults in their 40s/50s. We have identified this as a specific age group that was underrepresented in 'usual' times. Growth in the 50s group is beginning to happen and we will work at 'tricking' this down to the 40s group.
3. To further strengthen the links with the school and, in particular to strengthen worship links between Sundays and the school (Christmas 22 saw a significant number of school families attend).
4. We recognise that we must offer children on Sunday mornings content other than 'all age services.'
5. We recognise there is a need for additional work, too, in supporting older members of the community, yet we also recognise that, presently, our resources are limited.
6. To use 'Alpha' as a discovery course.

### **MORE GENEROUS**

7. We fulfilled our 'parish share' for the past year, indeed, have repaid 50% of the previous year's shortfall. We recognise that fulfilling our diocesan commitments is integral to our longer term stability.

### **MORE ENGAGED**

8. To strengthen homegroup structure.
9. To develop links with a small selection of mission groups: Tearfund; Foodbank; People Matter; FSW.
10. To further develop lay participation and leadership.

### **Additional Plans to Enable Further Development**

- We have reviewed our 'space' and have a plan of action, when funding is obtained, to reorder the church. The plan begins with an updated kitchen.
- To develop the church as a concert venue: great aesthetics and acoustics.
- To make use of the second church field for community activities.

Since this document was prepared we have held a wider conversation using the material 'Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood' from which we have drawn-up a complimentary document that we have termed a 'road-map.' The road-map includes details that are shaping our theology and spirituality alongside hopes to re-order aspects of the church's physical plant. This document, agreed at our PCC in November 2023 is seen below:



## **'Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood' – Roadmap Forward Agreed PCC 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 23**

- PCC to draw-up a set of words which shows clarity of direction together with a tag line (e.g. We are a Parish Church with an open-evangelical stance, providing a welcome to all with a heart to draw the parish into its worship: *Loving God, Being his people, Loving His creation*).
- Work out what 'quick fixes' can be implemented straight away (i.e. noticeboards, prayer ministry)
- To emphasise 'Prayer for Growth,' and activities such as parish prayer walks.
- Review worship structure and plans for next three years.  
(Suggestion, 8am remains as present. 9.45am Week 1, All Age no communion; Week 2 Communion; Week 3 Communion with all age content or all age; Week 4 Communion; Week 5 Communion. Evening services, 6.30pm Evensong BCP and a Contemporary Café Style service, evenings to be decided). Trial extra 'all age' for six months from January.
- Respond to need for childrens work and young peoples work: (possibly seek funding for worker in due course?) Childrens work has more importance than young peoples' work, especially with connections to primary school. From the survey two newer people have offered to help with childrens work on a Sunday with a rota. If we could find a further two we may be able to begin something, especially if we were to have two family centred services per month.
- Agree overall direction of travel (see below re building works – the kitchen and hospitality is seen as a crucial link in this).
- Work through issues of corporate image and internal noticeboards.
- Create banners for decoration.
- Work out what 'areas of engagement' should be focused on.
- Once agreed by PCC, contact Archdeacon to explain plans; apply for faculty for pews already taken out (faculty needed for longer term work which can then be applied for over the coming twelve months).
- Draw up plans to see kitchen and meeting rooms renewed ready for fundraising.
- Draw up schedule of works in response to Quinquennial issues ready for fundraising including redecoration of walls and lighting aware of long-term plans.
- Draw up plans for reordering of area before Rood Screen ready for fundraising.
- Draw up plans for reordering of main area of church without pews for fundraising.
- Draw up plans for reordering of Preisthawes Chapel ready for fundraising.  
(Whilst it makes sense to draw-up these plans in one go, the proposed order provides stages which can be completed as finances become available).