

# Mission Action Plans

Assessing your contribution to the  
Mission, Ministry, Witness, & Outreach  
in your Church and Community



*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.'*  
(Luke 4:18)



## **Our response to Mission Action Planning**

It is our Christian responsibility to promote the Gospel, be alert to the opportunities for mission, and to nurture the spirituality of the faithful. It is also our responsibility to exercise care for those in our communities with love, respect and humility, ensuring that they are nurtured and sustained through constant prayer and in practical ways where appropriate.

The Church as a corporate body is well placed to model this, but it is dependant on each one of us playing our full part, both in personal terms as well as collaboratively.

Each person's response can focus on areas of activity where they have particular knowledge, possess particular skills or have a vocation and desire to respond.

The corporate response involves bringing together individual gifts, skills and vocations to create a Mission Action Plan that uniquely serves the local parish and the wider church.

Working in this way helps us to maintain that essential message of 'sharing all things in common'. Only through such collaboration can a parish effectively go about Mission Action Planning because everyone has a sense of involvement and the opportunity for personal as well as community growth.

It is not the work of one individual, but of the synthesis of a family sharing and working together.

Certainly, the incumbent should be guiding the process. But it is the parish council and the whole congregation who have the skills and understanding will enable Mission Action Planning to uncover new vital and dynamic ways of revealing the presence of Christ within their community and within this city.



## Mission Action Planning

A Mission Action Plan helps us maintain the presence of Christ in our city.

A **MAP** is valuable because it helps us:

- Think about our aims and objectives
- Clarify our decisions
- Utilise the precious resources we have available to us

A **Mission Action Plan (MAP)** helps us to discern key needs – together. It can help us harness and use our resources so that our shared aims are realised. It gives pointers to what we should seek to address, and shows us what we have achieved. Most precious of all, a **MAP** gives us something measurable so we can give thanks to God for making such things possible.



## How the life of the parish benefits.

A **Mission Action Plan (MAP)** for every parish is crucial for a number of reasons:

A **MAP** is also invaluable for *building up parish life*. It enables the review and reflection on mission priorities, the resources available, and any training needs required to ensure that the spiritual, pastoral and social needs of the people and the parish are in place and operative.

**MAPs** help the Bishops with their strategic thinking and consequently, allow realistic approaches to be taken towards planning and making sure that mission and pastoral needs are consistent for all, with sufficient resources allocated.

Evidence that **Mission Action Plans** are constantly being reviewed by the PCC also benefits the parish if they need to seek assistance from the Diocesan or Area Departments regarding ministerial reviews, property matters, building works or financial issues.

Some parishes have undertaken this exercise, keeping the Bishop of Edmonton, the Archdeacon of Hampstead and Parish Ministry Development Adviser informed. The value to everyone clearly shows. Given these results, every parish is now expected to prepare a formal **MAP** and update them regularly. (Appendix D offers an example – we do emphasise that is only an example – and Appendix E gives a brief history of how the **MAP** has evolved since 1993.)



## How the Parish should respond.

*The London Challenge* is clearly the initiative underpinning current Diocesan Mission and Ministry strategy. It is therefore recommended that **Mission Action Plans** be prepared after consideration is given to the challenges and commitments set out in the documentation for this initiative. (The Bishop Of Edmonton's Ad Clerum – Ascensiontide 2002 and the London Challenge Planning Pack).

Many parishes will be familiar with the **MAP** process. More recently, the majority of parishes have been engaged in the process using the *London Challenge* initiative as their key tool. This happened by discussing the challenges and commitments outlined amongst PCCs and lay people, then deciding on their response to the challenges set, and sharing these with their London Visitor, as well as on the *London Challenge* Response Cards when the events were held.

### The next stage

Is encouraging parishes to incorporate the responses into workable plans, by getting together with members of your Church Council and congregations, and evaluating the best method of ensuring that these responses are:

1. **Documented**
2. **Owned**
3. **Followed up**
4. **Target dates set so that progress of the work can be easily monitored.**



<b>STEP ONE - PREPARATION:</b>	
<p><b>Documentation:</b></p> <p>The Mission Action Plan will need to be expressed in writing, sent to the Bishop of Edmonton, the Parish Ministry Development Adviser, and copied to the Archdeacon of Hampstead.</p>	<p>It should clearly state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the vision of the parish</li> <li>▪ the tasks required to achieve the vision(measurable) which the parish sets after discussion and consideration</li> <li>▪ the tasks should a mixture of with goals set for immediate, medium term and long-term effect, (from seven days up to a period of five years).</li> <li>▪ It should indicate who has responsibility for ensuring each expectation is progressed.</li> <li>▪ Be realistic about any targets set.</li> <li>▪ It should include an Action Sheet. Under each heading should be a named person responsible for overseeing it, with a progress grid showing the expected completion date, and including periodical review check dates. A completion and comments column would also be useful.</li> </ul>
<b>HELP:</b>	
<p>Ask for help from the Diocese or Area or elsewhere if and when required. Gifts/skills available should be identified, and people consulted about taking on additional responsibilities. It is fair that the responsibilities should be shared by the laity, and not left solely to the incumbent.</p>	
<b>FROM SMALL SUCCESSES TO GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS:</b>	
<p>It is affirming and encouraging when a result is seen from a short-term activity; the motivation is then in place to work at longer-term projects. Be cautious though about over stretching, this would have an adverse effect.</p>	



**PUT THE MAP ON YOUR PCC AGENDA:**

The Mission Action Plan should have a place on the PCC's agenda. The purpose of this is to review your goals and ensure that they are on track. Discuss each specific aspect of your MAP and take action as necessary.

**STEP TWO – PREPARING YOUR MAP**

<p>To prepare an effective Mission Action Plan (MAP), we need to focus on a number of realistic indicators</p>	<p>Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who we are and who we represent</li> <li>• How we would like to be portrayed</li> <li>• Where we are currently</li> <li>• Where we would wish to see ourselves in the future</li> <li>• How we hope to achieve this</li> </ul>
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**PRACTICAL ADVICE BASED ON EXPERIENCE:**

Be realistic when setting goals and targets. It is more beneficial to be practical about what it is possible than to dream the impossible and never get started, so make sure your goals follow the '**SMART**' rule. (See Appendix A ii.)

The discussions should be clear, well thought out, and include meaningful proposals to benefit the life of the parish, local community, and neighbouring parishes who could also be considered as a resource for helping you or benefit from collaborating and sharing your plans. Everyone should have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion so that a common shared purpose emerges.

The document should be easy to read, long enough to outline the plans behind your vision clearly, but not too long or daunting to make progressing the actions an impossible task. A few ideas and suggestions are given in the following appendices to help you with the process, but please add anything relevant which is appropriate to your parish.

CF Herbert  
July 2003



**Example of:**

**Mission Action Plan**



# MISSION ACTION PLAN

The Parish of

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2003 TO 2008

The contents of the document should include:

**Introduction**

Who participated in the discussion, how it will be shared with the whole parish and followed up.

**Summary of Parish Profile**

Its location; its place in the community; population, ethnic mix, tradition; neighbouring parishes and ecumenical partners.

**Mission Statement**

Its vision for its members, visitors and community.

**Action and Priorities (*short/medium/long term*)**

Commitment to worship, development of faith and the on-going nurturing, pastoral care, welcoming, etc.

**Future Plans**

Hopes and Dreams

**Resources required**

In the parish or area or diocese and training requirements, where appropriate. Specific help with decision-making – possibly about use of buildings, community care, nurture

**Budget**

Help from the Finance officers on

**Action Sheet**

Summarising what is to be done, by whom and estimated date for completion.

Compiled:  
First Review on  
Second Review

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By:  
By:  
By:



# ANNUAL REVIEW SHEET

For the year ending: 200\_\_

## Milestones:

What changes or developments have taken place? How have these had a measurable effect on the parish and within the community or wider Anglican Church?

## Revisions to MAP:

What goals and ambitions need changing? Proposed changes and dates for achieving them.

## New opportunities

Emerging opportunities through local changes or affiliations with other communities, parishes, and organisations.

What action is needed and when by:

Area of activity	Issues	Milestones	Emerging opportunities
<b>1<sup>st</sup> review date:</b>			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> review</b>			



## Activity advocate and team

Activities taken from the previous summary page

Area of activity	Advocate	Members of Parish



## APPENDICES

The following information may be helpful in getting you started or overcoming a particular issue as you develop your **Mission Action Plan (MAP)**. It is not intended as a formula to be followed but an aid for ensuring that the presence of Christ remains visible and effective in your parish and the communities you service.

If you need additional advice or wish to consult someone, please contact:

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The following APPENDICES provide:

Appendix	A(i)	Ideas to assist the approach and thinking about MAPs
Appendix	A(ii)	Using SMART Goals
Appendix	B	Seven Marks of a Healthy Church
Appendix	C	The London Challenge Commitments & Suggested Questions For reflection
Appendix	D	How MAPs have evolved



**Mission Action Planning help**

**Appendix A (i)**

<p><b>Think carefully about:</b></p> <p><b>Our understanding of 'Church'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it the buildings and their surroundings, or are we interpreting 'church' as being every Christian person, and the gifts they bring to the building and the community it serves?</li> <li>• What does our church say to us?</li> <li>• What would we like it to say to newcomers and visitors to our community?</li> <li>• What would we like to contribute to this?</li> <li>• If the church building was not in its present location, would the community lose out?</li> <li>• Are the church halls in close proximity to the church?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Think carefully about:</b></p> <p><b>Our understanding of 'Church and its purpose'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the church serving itself?</li> <li>• What is currently happening? Who is doing this and how might others be encouraged to own these projects and participate in them?</li> <li>• What are the plans for the future?</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: These should be <i>specific, measurable, achievable</i> and in a <i>time frame with accountability</i> by people other than the clergy and PCC who is overall responsible anyway.</p>
<p><b>Think carefully about:</b></p> <p><b>Our understanding of 'Church serving its community'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the church serving its community (outside the congregational boundary) currently? How does the church speak to, and encourage its community?</li> <li>• How is it engaging with this community to meet future needs?</li> <li>• Is the church realistically aware of community needs?</li> <li>• Are there any discussions with the community taking place to ascertain needs, or are assumptions being made?</li> </ul>
<p><b>AN APPROACH</b></p>	
<p>A clear vision comes from simple strategies that everyone can be a part of. It should be discussed and clarified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your corporate goal?</li> <li>• How are you planning to achieve it?</li> <li>• Who will do it?</li> <li>• Who will take responsibility and be held</li> </ul>



The agreement comes from seeing it at work and realizing Christ is at the centre of it all.	accountable?
<b>THE REALITY OF MAKING THIS SUCCEED</b>	
When are you expecting to complete your MAP?	Date:
How will your plans be reviewed?	People, Committees, local communities, other parishes.
What is available now?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse what is currently happening and working well.</li> <li>• What happening that is not working well?</li> <li>• What should be happening?</li> <li>• What are the barriers?</li> </ul>
What are you trying to achieve?	<p>Based on past and current experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are you <i>celebrating and giving thanks</i> for what was good, and praying for a clear vision on how to proceed in the future?</li> <li>• Undertaking what is possible and what you have the resources for?</li> <li>• Using the full resource of the whole congregation, not just those who feel they can't say 'no' or shout the loudest?</li> <li>• Is the parish engaged in prayer (individually and corporately) about future hopes and fears? Prayerful meditation helps think through apparent barriers and allows the Holy Spirit to do some of the work.</li> </ul>
Accountability and responsibility	<p>If your <b>MAP</b> is constantly reviewed, 'accountability' and 'responsibility' are not about failure or apportioning blame. They are about monitoring, refining, developing, growing and succeeding by small significant steps. (Many of Paul's letters contain these elements and make a good template.)</p> <p>So who will take on that Pauline role? Perhaps a few people?</p>
Risk taking	Will there be enough courage to review the plans, set aside what is not appropriate or achievable at present, but remember to return to it when the time is right?



<p>Areas for consideration (Using some or all of the categories below)</p>	<p>Consider the goals and objectives to help assess what is achievable and what involves too much risk. You might use these in the context of parish and wider church, at a personal, corporate, and community level.</p>
<p>Worship</p>	<p>Worship involves everyone. It is always valuable to check whether it is still meeting the needs of children, young people, young families, and older members?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it relate the Gospel of Jesus and his message to us at all stages of our lives?</li> <li>• Does it speak to us about our faith and the Church to which we belong?</li> </ul>
<p>Spirituality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What provision is made for people to explore the work of the spirit in their lives?</li> <li>• Does the church give them the confidence to demonstrate this to others by how they live their lives rather than 'preaching'?</li> </ul>
<p>Teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there learning opportunities for people to explore and learn more about their faith?</li> <li>• Are there opportunities for those who having been baptised (and decided to remain loyal) to grow in faith and discover the many different ministries that can use their personal gifts?</li> <li>• Are we nurturing, mentoring and encouraging those who have recently been baptised and/or confirmed?</li> </ul>
<p>Liturgy</p>	<p>Are we encouraging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Servers</li> <li>• Readers</li> <li>• Sacramental ministers</li> <li>• Fellowship in service</li> <li>• Prayer and bible groups</li> <li>• Debate on issues challenging our faith</li> <li>• Spiritual mentoring and guidance</li> <li>• A positive giving of skills and personal gifts</li> <li>• Other vocations</li> </ul>
<p>Stewardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a good and relevant balance between time, money and resources?</li> <li>• Are people giving because they feel the desire to give or are we simply asking for more?</li> </ul>



Pastoral care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ministry of welcome to those who are regular active members</li> <li>• Those who come on certain occasions</li> <li>• The local community who see the building and find it reassuring</li> </ul>
Mission and Ministry (Outreach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there any thought given to the mission of the wider church?</li> <li>• To the Deanery, Area, Synod, National and worldwide Anglican community?</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will this work be paid for?</li> <li>• How can we build on small successes to fund future or more ambitious plans?</li> <li>• How can we build the bridge between the two?</li> </ul>



<p>Using our two most valuable resources:          People          Buildings</p>	<p><b>People:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is our policy for welcoming and encouraging newcomers?</li> <li>• How do we encourage a sense of belonging because we are all one body in Christ?</li> <li>• How do we identify the gifts and skills in our parish and community?</li> <li>• How do we encourage use of these skills and gifts?</li> <li>• What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats we face?</li> <li>• If we have any fears what are they?</li> <li>• If we are fearful that our strengths and opportunities might not materialise, why is this?</li> </ul> <p><b>Buildings:</b></p> <p>Are we using them to their full potential?          What is the current state of repair?          Are these fit for their purpose now and in the foreseeable future?          Are they used regularly or can we open the doors for more activities and more people?          How accessible are the buildings by public transport? Do we have parking facilities? Have we made provision for disabled use?          How friendly and usable are the facilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilets facilities for all-age access – children, parents and toddlers</li> <li>• Wheelchair access</li> <li>• Glare-free lighting</li> <li>• Sound systems that work for everyone</li> <li>• Quiet areas for reading, praying and reflecting, private talks and privacy</li> <li>• Electric plugs, kitchen facilities and devotional resources for all ages, including games</li> <li>• Storage facilities for people visiting</li> </ul>
<p>Re-ordering, renovating, new building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it necessary?</li> <li>• What will we achieve?</li> <li>• Have we got a short, medium and long-term plan to cover the costs and encourage wider use of the new facilities?</li> <li>• Is it something we can share with another parish or community?</li> </ul>



Other issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Furniture and furnishings (pews, chairs, etc.)</li><li>• Are there conservation issues?</li><li>• Are their legal constraints or implications?</li><li>• Security</li><li>• How do we open our doors or are they to remain shut to passers-by?</li></ul>
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**Mission Action Planning help**

**Appendix A (ii)**

**USING 'SMART' GOALS**

SMART is a useful acronym for inspired thinking that is grounded in reality. The five stages will help you assess your Mission Action Plan goals and decide which are immediately achievable, what should be viewed as longer term, and what is 'blue skies' thinking but might happen one day.

<b>SMART thinking</b>		
<b>S</b>	<b>Specific</b>	A goal should be specific in its aim and objectives. Work spent on producing the best wording will pay dividends in the long-term.
<b>M</b>	<b>Measurable</b>	It is good to be able to see results and to measure them. Something vague like 'it would be good to see more people in church' is likely to result in disappointment. Give an indication and revise it if necessary.
<b>A</b>	<b>Achievable</b>	Be realistic. Ambitious intentions often lead to guilt and anger if goals are unachievable and unrealistic.
<b>R</b>	<b>Relevant</b>	Make sure the goal or goals are relevant to your situation. A well thought out goal or ambition is often unique to a set of particular parish circumstances. And a good indicator is when many people can see the relevance with little explanation or persuasion.
<b>T</b>	<b>Time boundary</b>	Put a timetable to your goals. Use milestones along the way to keep them on track and if necessary, revise the timetable and make everyone aware of these changes. It often results in renewed energy rather than disappointments. Every family wants to succeed!



## Mission Action Planning help

## Appendix B

### HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR CHURCH?

Use these **SEVEN MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH** to give your local church a health check! ( From: *Springboard resource Paper 2, 'Growing Healthy Churches'*.)

**1. Energized by faith** rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive depends on:

- *worship and sacramental life* that moves people to experience God's love
- *motivation* that results in the energy that comes from a desire to serve God and one another
- *engaging with scripture* in creative ways connect with real life
- *nurturing faith in Christ* to help people to grow in Christ-centered life, and share their faith with certainty.

**2. Outward-looking focus** with a 'whole life' rather than a 'church life' concern depends on being:

- *deeply rooted* in the local community, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks (not forgetting local Anglican churches, and deaneries)
- passionate and prophetic about *justice and peace*, locally and globally
- connecting between *faith and daily living*
- responsive to human need by *loving service*

**3. Seeks to find out what God wants** rather than letting our own preferences set the church agenda:

- *vocation*: Open to the Spirit's leading about what we should be and do
- *vision*: Developing and communicating a shared sense of where we are going
- *mission priorities*: Consciously setting both immediate and long-term goals



- *make sacrifices*: Personal and Corporate to bring about the above and live out the faith.

**4. Faces the cost of change and growth** rather than resisting change and avoiding failure:

- While embracing the past, daring to take on *new ways* of doing things
- *taking risks* and admitting when things are not working, and learning from the experience. (How many times did the disciples get it wrong?)
- *crises*: responding creatively to challenges that face the church and community
- *positive experiences of change*, however small, are affirmations of living and growing. They are to be embraced and built on.

**5. Builds community** rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation

- *relationships* are nurtured so people know they are a part of a community of faith (often through small groups) with opportunities for service.
- *leadership*: lay and ordained working as a team to develop appropriate expressions for others to willingly and lovingly embrace.
- *lay ministry*: the different gifts, experiences and faith-journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church

**6. Makes room for others** being inclusive rather than exclusive.

- *welcome* is the most important first meeting that can include or exclude newcomers into the life of the church.
- *children and young people* are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith
- *enquirers* are encouraged to explore and experience faith in Christ
- *diversities*: come from a rich mix of social and ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities and age differences. It is seen as strength and sought after.

**7. Do a few things -and do them well** Focused rather than frenetic activities.

- *doing the basics well*: especially public worship, pastoral care, stewardship and administration
- *occasional offices*: make sense of life and communicate faith
- *being good news* as a church in our attitudes and ways of working



- *enjoying what we do* and being relaxed about what is not being done

A copy of 'Growing Healthy Churches -expressing the life of Christ through the local church' -Springboard resource Paper 2 is included with the Video 'Restoring hope in our church' which has recently been sent to all clergy. If you require an additional resource pack (for use with the Restoring Hope Video), prepared by the Revd Tim Sledge, Diocesan Missioner for Peterborough Diocese please contact: Caulene Herbert.



## **Mission Action Planning help**

## **Appendix C**

The London Challenge outlines five crucial Commitments. On the following pages are some suggested questions (extracted from the London Challenge pack) that might assist with your own preparation for discussing objectives to be included in the Mission Action Plan. Please note any additional questions that arise because your **MAP** will reflect the unique nature of your parish, its role, work and vision for the future.



## **Commitment 1**

### **Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in 21st century London**

- ◆ How obvious is it to newcomers that we express God's love for all by our ministry of welcome?
- ◆ How do we encourage new people to feel integrated into our worship community?
- ◆ What is the 'good news' for people in your parish?
- ◆ How do you invite people in your parish to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ What opportunities are there for people to find faith in your church? Do you make best use of them?
- ◆ What are the opportunities for all age groups to learn about the Christian faith?
- ◆ What is there in your church to help people to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ?

**Your Notes:**



## **Commitment 2**

### **Equipping servants of Jesus Christ**

- ◆ Share with one another how, individually and together, you try to express God's love in the places where you live, work and worship. How do you help people to relate their faith and work?
- ◆ Could members of your congregation be encouraged to pray and learn together? Could Bible study and discussion groups be a way forward? Who could be encouraged to assist in leading these?
- ◆ Are young people involved in the prayer life of your parish? How can they be encouraged to grow in prayer?
- ◆ Could you think of someone with the potential to be a Reader, Parish Evangelist, Pastoral Worker or Ordinand? Have you discussed this aspect of ministry with them, suggesting they speak to your incumbent? Do you encourage vocations to these and other ministries?

**Your Notes:**



### **Commitment 3**

#### **Telling the story of Jesus Christ 'afresh' for this generation, especially for the young**

- ◆ Review your work with children and young people. How is this work resourced, and is it adequate? How can links be encouraged with local schools? How, and when, is your church building made available to them?
- ◆ How could a holiday activity form part of your outreach to children in the parish? What resources do you have? / Need?
- ◆ Could you start a new style service for youth/young adults, maybe on a Sunday evening?

**Your Notes:**



## **Commitment 4**

### **Serving London and all its people**

- ◆ Could more members of your congregation be encouraged to care for each other, and pray for them daily? Perhaps using a number of streets from your parish boundary, and sections of the electoral roll? It is possible to develop a pastoral care team, or review its work, if one already exists?
- ◆ Think about the area where your church is located. What do you think are the most important issues that face people in your area? How can your church respond to these issues?
- ◆ Imagine you are attending your church for the first time. What would your first impressions be? How do the buildings, worship and the people reflect the love of God to the newcomer?
- ◆ In what ways does your church express its commitment to the poor and disadvantaged?
- ◆ Can you suggest ways of providing a church presence in your parish?

**Your Notes:**



## **Commitment 5**

### **Serving God's love in a world city**

- ◆ What links does your church have with other parts of the world church? How can these links be strengthened?
- ◆ What other faith communities are there in your local area? How could you learn about them?
- ◆ For what would you like your present congregation to be remembered in the future? What is your legacy to future generations?
- ◆ Has your church considered mission priorities, and how might you get involved? Have you considered inviting representatives for ALMA, Christian Aid, Tear Fund etc., to discuss these and similar world development issues with you?

**Your Notes:**



## Mission Action Planning Background

## Appendix E

### How MAPs have evolved

Since 1993 clergy and laity together, have been asked to review our response to mission and ministry. Under the document, *Agenda for Action*, we were all asked to reflect on our commitment to communicate the Gospel where we live and work. *Agenda for Action* highlighted three specific priorities under the headings:

- Worship and Prayer
- Teaching and Nurturing
- Care and Service

Some mission action plans were reviewed during 1998 under the *London Bridges* headings of:

- Recruiting New Believers (*Worship and Prayer*)
- Renewing the Household of faith' (*Teaching and Nurture*)
- Rebuilding a Broken World' (*Care of Service*)



## **Where we are now:**

In January 2002, the Bishop of London and his staff team introduced *The London Challenge*, reaffirming their commitment as leaders in mission. There were five commitments:

- 1. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in 21st century London**
- 2. Equipping servants of Jesus Christ**
- 3. Telling the story of Jesus Christ 'afresh' for this generation and especially for the young**
- 4. Serving London and all its people**
- 5. Serving God's love in a world city**

One particular quote from Bishop Richard in the *London Challenge* document clarifies the outcome behind these five intentions:

***"The way in which we respond and the decisions we make are going to have a great impact on the London of the future and the future of Jesus Christ in this great world city"***



<b>You may find the following subtext useful for reflecting on your submissions and how we respond:</b>	
<b>Recruiting New Believers (Worship and Prayer)</b>	<p><b><i>Proclaiming the Gospel in worship through the Word, Sacrament and Service.</i></b></p> <p><i>This involves private and corporate prayer, welcome and hospitality, participation in worship, accessibility for enquirers attending special services and occasional offices.</i></p>
<b>Renewing the Household of Faith (Teaching and Nurture)</b>	<p><b><i>Teaching, nurturing and growing in Christian faith and living.</i></b></p> <p><i>This includes on-going teaching through bible study and discussion, the Christian view regarding ethical and moral issues, and basic catechesis catering for all ages.</i></p>
<b>Rebuilding a Broken World (Care and Service)</b>	<p><b><i>Care and service to the Church and within the Community – pastoral service.</i></b></p> <p><i>This final area includes welcoming, hospitality and follow-up. It has a particular emphasis on those encountered through the occasional offices in the first instance. Being the Church in Community, schools and the workplace.</i></p>