

**Loving everyone we come across as we love ourselves**  
(Welcome and Service; Youth; Worship)

To help others progress through the circles of commitment towards a closer relationship with God, we will:

1. offer **welcome** to all who come to St John's. This will mean looking seriously at how we can follow up the accessibility audit; also seeking to improve the sound and lighting systems in church. We will also establish a welcome ministry of volunteers to greet newcomers;
2. consider with the PCC and the parish as a whole how we can take forward our responsibilities for our **youth**;
3. encourage exploration and development of **individuals' talents and gifts**, and use them in the church;
4. ensure St John's ongoing capacity for mission by establishing **financial stability**;
5. continue in our efforts to recruit **musical direction** for our communal **worship**;
6. hope to live the **joy** of God's grace in fellowship;
7. consider whether we can keep the **church open** more;
8. continue to build on the contacts made through **occasional offices** (weddings, baptisms and funerals) to spread God's word and love; and
9. recognise our obligations to our wider community by making connections between life and faith, specifically on **justice** and **environmental** issues.

**We recognise that this will be a challenge; we will only meet it with God's help and the support and commitment of all at St John's. For further details on how these plans will be implemented, please see the full Mission Action Plan, or talk to any member of the PCC.**

**St John the Evangelist**  
**Great Stanmore**

**Mission Action Plan 2006-07**  
**Summary**



**Drawn together by Christ's love, we seek by his grace to live out his commandments to love the Lord our God with all of our being; and to love everyone we come across as we love ourselves.**

To put this Mission Statement into practice, we want to have a plan to help the whole congregation and community of St John's Stanmore to progress on their journey towards a fuller relationship with God.

We see the parish of St John's as a series of concentric circles:



Everyone in the congregation at St John's and in the wider community as a whole can find themselves somewhere in these circles; the priorities of our mission action plan are to help people at every stage of their journey to God progress to the next circle.

## Loving the Lord our God with all our being

For us as individuals to progress through the circles of commitment to a closer and more loving relationship with God, the essentials are Bible study and Prayer.

**Bible study:** we will

1. provide guidance as to what should be read when, aiming at some times to link Bible readings to the theme of the service;
2. provide opportunities for collective discussion and learning, for example in groups;
3. make sure everyone in the congregation has a Bible at home; and
4. give Bibles to those being married, baptised or confirmed at St John's.

**Prayer:** we will

1. offer a week of guided prayer;
2. provide guidance leaflets on different types of prayer and how to pray. Linked to sermons, and also to personal testimony on the pitfalls and rewards;
3. continue to support people developing their spiritual life through prayer triplets, Cursillo, Emmaus courses, monthly Julian prayer meetings, retreat days and open door retreats; and
4. foster smaller prayer groups, linked to the new Bible study groups. They will build on existing arrangements like Godly Gossip, Men Behaving Godly, men's (and other) Prayer Breakfasts and occasional groups like Lent housegroups.