



St John's
NOTTING HILL

Mission Action Plan

2007

Vicar's Foreword

I am pleased to introduce this 2007 revision of the 2003 Mission Action Plan for the Parish of St John, Notting Hill

A Mission Action Plan is a living document, constantly evolving. It will be formally reviewed every year by the PCC, which has the responsibility of keeping this plan up to date. Input is invited and welcome.

This Mission Action Plan seeks to express our vision as a growing parish at this stage of our life, and for the next few years. It is visionary and realistic in equal measure

I warmly commend it to the Parish, in the hope that it contributes to the enthusiasm expressed by the words of Jesus in the Revelation to John, our Patron:

'Behold, I make all things new'

William Taylor

July 2007

St John's, Notting Hill

Mission Action Plan

Drawing on biblical and early church material, and on earlier St John's statements and documents, we wish to identify ourselves as being on a journey and part of God's pilgrim people. Specifically, we identify pilgrimage with three elements:

- Companionship with God
- Companionship with each other
- Companionship with those we meet along the way

This moving and changing imagery of journeying and pilgrimage is important to us. God's people and the building of the church are not static. This is the framework in which we identify three areas of our work in *worship and prayer*, *the fabric of our buildings and grounds*, and *outreach* at St John's, Notting Hill

Daily Services at St John's

Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Sung Eucharist

(once a month, All Age)

12.30 pm Tagalog Mass

5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Monday-Friday

8.45 am Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday

12.30 pm Holy Communion

Thursday

6.30 pm Prayer Group

A healing service, with anointing with oil and the laying on of hands, is held regularly.

Companionship with God – Worship and Prayer

We value:

Worship which is daily, inclusive, varied, and well prepared, using all the resources of the Christian tradition, with a strong focus on the Eucharist

A church which is open and welcoming. In the pastoral offices (baptism, marriage, and funerals), an open policy is especially important

The full inclusion of children in the Parish Eucharist, with a monthly all age service, and admission of children to Communion before Confirmation, from the age of 7, following appropriate preparation

The engagement of the intellect in sermons, courses, house groups, biblical study and reading

The Anglican balance of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason

Involvement with the churches in our neighbourhood - the Notting Hill Group, and Churches Together in Notting Hill

Music which is carefully and imaginatively prepared and delivered

Space for silence, retreats and contemplation

The use of our Church buildings by other Christian Churches

The parish as a place of training for ministry lay and ordained

The Filipino Chaplaincy based at St John's

We wish to develop:

The newly formed children's working party into a cohesive group to progress our children's work – Drop In, Junior Church, Communion Training and Confirmation

A wider range of liturgical music and a greater variety of services involving more people especially children, led by the Director of Music

Restoration of the church's historic organ is a critical part of the revival of music at St John's

Imaginative use of space both inside and outside St John's

Greater integration of church and undercroft

Our pastoral visiting team, so that the whole congregation is aware of its availability

The regular use of visiting preachers and speakers

A higher profile for the parish church in the life of the local community

An equipped and trained people of God that regards training, study, and development as the norm

An efficient and comprehensive database of contacts, including e-mail addresses

Awareness of the opportunities for public prayer in order to increase numbers at small services, as well as at the important weekday festivals.

An awareness of the opportunity for creation and environmental concerns to be included in the liturgical calendar and prayer life of St John's (e.g. through Harvest Festival, Creation /Environment Sunday, St Francis tide, One World Week)

Companionship with each other – Fabric and Grounds

We value:

A welcoming, well-maintained building for worship to form the hub of parish life

A flexible space which can be used for music and other events

A building which can be used by a wide range of groups from within the church community and the local area

The use of the Church for art exhibitions in the Sacred Space Gallery

The use of the grounds for exhibitions by local sculptors

We wish to develop:

Outside

Clear messages inviting people to worship and pray through:

- ◆ Signage from Ladbroke Grove
- ◆ More attractive landscaping

Clearer signage for the church and Undercroft entrances

A paved area increased at the front of this main entrance

Glass doors at the entrance

Inside

Reordering of the interior, to include the parish office, sacristy, hospitality area, meeting facilities for parish use and income generation

A space for silence and prayer

Defined well-designed welcoming area including:

- Display boards
- Literature

Lighting and sound systems with a priority on the Chancel

An upgraded kitchen in Church

Better disabled access throughout the building

More effective use of the building, including lettable space

We aim to:

To measure and reduce the environmental footprint of St John's through an audit of the present activities including energy consumption and the development of an environmental policy and action plan. The environmental impact of all future proposals for restoration and alteration of the building and grounds will be considered.

In order for all this to be achieved, the PCC should delegate and give responsibility to individuals and working groups to take projects forward

Companionship with those we meet along the way - Outreach

We value:

The role of St John's as the Parish Church of the neighbourhood

A physically open, welcoming, and supportive church

The ministry of prayer and personal contact

Knowledge of our faith, and promoting that knowledge and understanding with others

Working with children

The working relationship within the Notting Hill Group of St John's and St Peter's

Being part of the universal church both in giving and receiving, through the Deanery, Diocese and Anglican Communion

Working not only with other Christian organisations but also with other faith communities

Giving of time and resources as an expression of our Christian faith, especially through Christian stewardship.

Mission giving of 10% of unrestricted giving to local, national, and worldwide organisations

We value the use and promotion of the monthly Fair Trade and Palestinian goods

The St John's Festival as part of the outreach programme

An attractive, well-produced magazine which engages with the neighbourhood

We wish to develop:

A more consistent welcome to worshippers, both before and after the services

Improved ongoing support through prayer ministry, social functions, and involvement of newcomers in the life of the church

Better congregational communication through a variety of methods- informal talks, email, website, and so on

A greater understanding of the Christian faith for seekers, young people, and ourselves - through work with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and similar courses, seekers' events, house groups, and retreats

Better identification of areas and groups of need and response to those needs through:

Greater involvement with the local community through successful events such as the May Fair, carol services, All Souls service, and St John's Festival

Greater opportunities for open debate and discussion on areas of topical or common concern perhaps incorporating this into Sunday evensong once a month

A greater use of the church by local organisations

Involvement in the life of the Deanery and Diocese

Greater co-operation with local churches and inter-faith dialogue through visits, exchanges and social contact

Greater personal involvement and closer links with the charitable projects we support

Closer links with our partner churches and organisations overseas, in particular through ALMA, the Mathieson School, the Philippines, and the Holy Land, in a spirit of giving and receiving

The possibility of exchange visits to make these links more active, including a visit to our ALMA and Mathieson links

An annual, realistic and challenging stewardship campaign

To consider the mission aspects of an environmental policy and the opportunities that it may give to establish links with other groups and individuals with environmental concerns in the local and wider community

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