

Ferryhill Parish Church Action Plan

This action plan identifies specific areas of action with lead person(s)/group and timescale identified following the meeting of the Kirk Session in May 2017. This took into account a congregational gathering in February 2017 and reports from each of the congregation's Ministry Teams.

New Vision Statement:

Who are we?

We are a worshipping community of faith,
inviting and encouraging all,
seeking to learn and live the way of Jesus,
developing our experience of faithful living
and humbly offering our service to God's world.

What do we offer?

We offer a community which is open to all,
valuing and welcoming diversity,
celebrating each person's uniqueness,
recognising the uncertainty of life's journey
and offering a safe place
in which questions can be expressed.

What are we doing?

We are striving to be a loving and gracious community,
working together to build relationships
of inclusion and acceptance,
of care and concern,
of friendship and support,
and participating in God's mission
in Ferryhill and across God's world.

Specific target	Actions Required	Lead person / group	Timescale
Theme 1: Vision			
Revised/new vision statement for congregation	Finalise form (simple confession style Q&A, draft to be presented to Kirk Session in May 2017) Promote new vision statement through worship and Parish News	PETER JOHNSTON/LORNA GLEN and Kirk Session PETER JOHNSTON and Worship Team; SHELAGH BAIN	May - Summer 2017 (completed – see above) September-October 2017 (and ongoing)
Engage congregation and groups to reflect on new vision statement	Creation of materials to facilitate discussion or provide facilitators to visit groups for this purpose	PETER JOHNSTON/LORNA GLEN and Coordinating Group	October-December 2017 (and into 2018)
Identify larger-scale project for completion in 2024 (150 th Anniversary of the church building)	Start consultation process	Group to be determined by Kirk Session	February-May 2018
Theme 2: Worship			
Encourage more instrumentalists to lead worship	Discovery of who plays what, arrangement of rehearsal times and future service plan to include 'band' Participation in occasional services	KEVIN HAGGART/PETER JOHNSTON and Worship Team KEVIN / ALAN HAGGART Band members	To establish and develop during 2017/18, ongoing thereafter
Training in public speaking	Lead session of refreshment and training for those leading readings/prayers in worship	GWEN HAGGART/PETER JOHNSTON and Worship Team	Session completed in Oct 2017 and further sessions planned in 2018
Strengthen the AV Team	Need to expand the numbers of people trained to use new Audio-Visual equipment (particularly targeting younger members)	PETER JOHNSTON, SHELAGH BAIN and Worship Team	Training commenced Sept 2017 and ongoing thereafter into 2018
Explore other ways to utilise current AV system	Encourage young people to think how they could use the AV equipment for new purposes	The Cosy House	Autumn 2017 onwards

Specific target	Actions Required	Lead person / group	Timescale
Expand online presence	Build on the current facilities to livestream services and events, engagement with wider community	PETER JOHNSTON and Worship Team	Ongoing
Evening Service	Review format/style of monthly evening service	Worship Team	Ongoing and throughout autumn/winter 2017-18
Café Connect	Review format/content of monthly discussion evening	Worship Team	Ongoing and throughout autumn/winter 2017-18
	Promote these opportunities better	Worship Team	Ongoing and throughout autumn/winter 2017-18
Retreat/Journey	Organise a congregational worship focussed retreat or journey, possibly Iona Abbey, Oberammergau, or to the Holy Land	Worship Team	Iona (2018/19) Oberammergau (2020)
Reordering of Sanctuary	Continuing the long tradition at Ferryhill of developing the Sanctuary plan for adoption of flexible seating, more modern and efficient heating, and new lighting	Worship Team, Stewardship Team, Kirk Session (and/or group to be determined under Vision for larger scale project)	To be considered as next larger project after manse loan payments completed in September 2018
Theme 3: Friendship			
Establishing folder of information containing emergency contacts/ details of organisations to support those requiring assistance in difficult circumstances – to be available in the atrium	Updating and maintaining information already to hand from previous groups and liaising in particular with organisations providing aid in the Ferryhill area	RITA KING - Group to be formed from Friendship Team	2017-18 ongoing thereafter
Progress the establishment of Living Well Café	As other churches become involved in this initiative, build up relationships with them	Friendship Team in cooperation with Living Well Café Local Coordinator	Ongoing
Build Coffee Shop sustainability	Increasing pool of volunteers, monitor volunteer availability and requirements (e.g. opening hours) and consider how to balance this in the future	Friendship Team in consultation with Coffee Shop volunteers – RITA KING, SHONA MATTHEWS, MARY FRASER, EDNA SAINSBURY, IDA SCOTT to lead	Spring 2018

Specific target	Actions Required	Lead person / group	Timescale
Encourage all age activities	Look into ways of including all ages in various events and social/recreational activities and investigate "days away" together, link this to other groups using church buildings (such as Kids@Ferryhill and Girl Guides), liaise with other churches for ideas	Friendship Team RITA KING to instigate and delegate networking	To develop during 2017-18, ongoing thereafter
Area Care Team review	Development of online communication systems (for members living at a distance from the Parish), so that members are more easily aware of contacts for the area in which they live and to enable more regular contact	Group within Friendship Team – RITA KING, LYNNE GOWANS, ALISON NICOL, SESSION CLERK	November/December 2017 and review thereafter during 2018
Mission to Older People	Liaise with Discipleship Team on how to progress this in Ferryhill Church	Friendship Team – CARE HOME ACTION TEAM MEMBERS to lead	To develop in 2017/18, ongoing thereafter
Theme 4: Discipleship			
Path to Renewal	Consider possibility of congregation joining the Church of Scotland Path to Renewal initiative	PETER JOHNSTON and Discipleship Team	Begin consideration Spring 2018
Follow through on previous Church Membership or Inquirers' course	Help and support minister in planning and leading discussion groups	PETER JOHNSTON and Discipleship Team	Feb/Mar 2018 and annually thereafter
Expand and develop resource library	Review use and layout and establish an easier way of recording if necessary to encourage use	CECILIA YOUNG with assistance from Discipleship Team with advice from JACQUELINE ADAM	Ongoing
Produce Daily Devotional Diary, potentially twice a year	Gathering prayers from members of the congregation.	PETER JOHNSTON/MARY NOTMAN	Lent and Advent (although insufficient resources preclude Advent 2017)
Theme 5: Stewardship			
Increase numbers on Stewardship Team with particular ref to Property Convenership	Identify potential team members, approach directly, with particular awareness of legal requirements to maintain Property Register and Manse Condition Schedule	All members of Stewardship Team AILEEN SWARBRICK to lead with assistance from JIM WEMYSS and SESSION CLERK	Current and ongoing

Specific target	Actions Required	Lead person / group	Timescale
Conduct stewardship programme, focus on finance	Decide on how to do this. Need to approach in a different way from previous programmes	AILEEN SWARBRICK with assistance from Stewardship Team, Kirk Session and Church of Scotland Stewardship Consultant	Spring 2019
Create list of tried and trusted tradesmen to carry out maintenance/repairs	Consult with other churches on who they use	AILEEN SWARBRICK / JACQUELINE ADAM	Creation of list by end 2017, maintain ongoing
Maintain level of fundraising after payback of Manse Fund loan	Ensure that fundraising continues (although not allowed to be used for day to day running costs). Decide where fundraising monies to be directed after loan repaid	Fundraising Team with input from Stewardship team led by VAL HUTTON (Treasurer)	Ongoing after final loan repayment Sep 2018
Continue to adhere to Eco-Congregation principles	Ensure congregation are aware of their responsibilities in respect of Eco-Congregation. Re-instate membership if funds allow	ANN RALPH, Stewardship Team	Ongoing
Increase income from use of buildings	Decide how to facilitate this. If funds allow, consider changes of layout in various halls and/or sanctuary	AILEEN SWARBRICK, Stewardship Team and KEVIN HAGGART (Hall Letting Officer)	Ongoing
Theme 6: Community/Partnerships			
School Chaplaincy	Chaplaincy at Harlaw Academy needs re-engagement with Senior Management Team Continue to develop strong links with Ferryhill Primary School. Consider partnership with South Holburn in joint events such as "Bubblegum and Fluff"	PETER JOHNSTON with Chaplaincy Team and Discipleship Team PETER JOHNSTON with input from Discipleship Team PETERJOHNSTON with support from Summer/Sunday Club team members	Autumn/Winter 2017 and ongoing Ongoing November 2017 and ongoing thereafter

Specific target	Actions Required	Lead person / group	Timescale
Partnership Working	Develop and explore ways in which we can work together with neighbouring congregations, particularly South Holburn (see above) Investigate models open to us to assist in this target	Kirk Session Session Clerk, PETER JOHNSTON, Kirk Session	Ongoing Spring 2018
Church Website	Update design and review content for church website	PETER JOHNSTON, Church Administrator, Ministry Teams	Spring 2019
Parish Communications	Continue to develop the use of Parish News to engage with the community in Ferryhill	SHELAGH BAIN, PETER JOHNSTON and Ministry Teams	Ongoing
Theme 7: General			
Communication	Continue to improve communication between teams, building users and administration (for instance over bookings)	Church Administrator, all conveners and members of Ministry Teams, Hall Booking Officer, and organisations/users	Ongoing
Improve methods of communication	Review and utilise where applicable suitable forms of communication	Church Administrator, Session Clerk, PETER JOHNSTON	May/June
Induction of new Administrator	A new post-holder will be in post and a team approach will be taken to ensuring that transition is as smooth as possible.	PETER JOHNSTON, SESSION CLERK, TEAM LEADERS and others eg Caretaker	Mid January 2018
Ongoing review of progress and impact			
Undertake an annual review of progress and impact of changes and development	Build in evaluation of activities as ongoing and annual summary for Kirk Session Gather reports from the different Ministry Teams re developments Review reports to identify next steps for further development Amend action plan as required	Session Clerk and Coordinating Group Session Clerk and Convenors of Ministry Teams Session Clerk to summarise revision of action plan for implementation in September	Annually May / June May 2018 (annually thereafter) June to August 2018 (annually thereafter)