

Detailed Action Plan for Aberdeen: St Columba's Church

1. Worship & Prayer

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Prayer Chain	Minister and church administrator	To create a prayer chain of people from the congregation who are willing to be informed, by email and/or telephone, about pressing prayer needs.	May 2014	Increased numbers of people involved in intercessory prayer; greater interest in the ministry of prayer; more answers to prayer	Each KS mtg
Prayer News	Minister and church administrator	The minister will write a monthly prayer letter, available electronically and hard copy, offering the congregation prayer news and requests	First of each month	Used by small groups; used by prayer partnerships; used in individual prayer	Each KS mtg
Worship leaders	Minister and church staff	To train as worship leaders those with suitable gifts and abilities, and to look	Ongoing	To share the worship-leading and preaching	Ongoing

Use of IT	Fabric Committee	<p>for those who might be able to preach or to give all age addresses</p> <p>To update and upgrade, if possible, the projectors and screens; to update the church PC and worship resource software; to modernize the induction loop cabling</p>	End of 2014	<p>ministry with the minister; possibly to sense a call to the ministry of word and sacrament</p> <p>An enhanced and more enjoyable experience of having been in a worshipful environment</p>	Each Cong Bd mtg
Bible and Hymn Book or PowerPoint?	Kirk Session & Congregational Board	To hold a consultation with the congregation about continuing with the present use of PowerPoint for hymn and bible reading projection, or to purchase hymn books and bibles for the congregation	October 2014	Clarity about the pros and cons of our present use of IT, and a decision about what best helps the worship and discipleship of the congregation	None

Evening Service	Kirk Session & Minister	Continue to develop the café style evening service and the discussional format	Ongoing	Increased attendances	Each KS mtg
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2. Evangelism & Community Involvement

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Ministry to older people	Senior Citizens' Ministry Group reporting to the Kirk Session	To continue our present ministry to older people (services, concerts, outings, teas), in sheltered housing complexes and in adjacent bungalows, and to seek to develop it where possible	Ongoing	Increased attendances at activities; easing of the burden of loneliness; involvement of younger people in caring for older folk and in befriending them	Each KS Mtg
Encourage adults who are involved in church-led activities e.g. Messy Church, Under 5s Group,	Minister and elders	To encourage those on the church periphery to consider Christ and join the	Ongoing	To prayerfully hope for 12 new professions of faith each year for the next five years	Ongoing

<p>BBs to engage in other church led social and sports activities.</p>		<p>worshipping community, either on Sundays or during the midweek, in the small group structure, which will be our principal means of evangelism, pastoral care, social outreach and discipleship.</p>			
<p>Small Groups Ministry</p>	<p>Minister and elders initially</p>	<p>To build on existing small groups and to encourage them, as micro-churches, to take responsibility for their own growth, discipleship and mission</p>	<p>6 new small groups by Jan 2015</p>	<p>New groups, creating their own new groups; better pastoral care; more immediate social impact in streets and roads of the community; development of new leaders</p>	<p>Ongoing. Major reviews bi-annually in Spring and Autumn</p>
<p>Further develop relationships with community</p>	<p>Kirk Session, Church Administrator, School chaplaincy team</p>	<p>Use church and community websites and FB pages; more</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Build on and deepen links between church and community; identify community and</p>	<p>Monthly at KS mtgs</p>

(schools, community events, other churches)		community events hosted on the church site (Strawberry teas, Commonwealth Games party etc)		address them within the resources of the church	
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3. Pastoral Care

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Review of pastoral care with a view to reviving the pastoral care team	Kirk Session - Project group to be formed	The project will be to create a visiting team that will visit the congregation on a regular basis, the regularity of which is to be decided by the elders	October 2014	Better and more frequent pastoral care; greater unity; a better sense of being in touch with the whole church; ability to keep the minister and session clerk better informed	Each KS mtg

4. Communication and Unity

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
To hold congregational meetings three	Kirk Session	To provide an opportunity for the elders to remind the congregation of the	January, May, October	The congregation will understand the vision of the church and the elders will	At the next KS Mtg following each congregational meeting

times a year – once a term		vision of the church, to brief on developments, and to seek feedback from the congregation		become aware of the congregation's response to issues and events within the life of the church; to continue to demonstrate the importance of unity at a time of theological tension;	
Publicity – to consider how best to communicate to all members and adherents of the congregation	Kirk Session and project group	To create a church contact list; to establish a means of communicating with those members and adherents not receiving email; to communicate essential church info monthly	First of each month	To foster a sense of unity and belonging; to maximize the passage of essential information, including prayer points and requests; to offer leadership and spiritual direction on a frequent and regular basis	At each KS mtg
Internet	Not yet decided, but KS in the interim	To recruit a volunteer from the congregation to develop our internet presence and to maximize the	July 2014	Continued freshness of the website and FB pages; greater visitor traffic; heightened profile	At each KS mtg

		church website and Facebook page as means of sharing the Gospel, advertising events, testimonies, videos, bible study notes, prayer letters		within the congregation	
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5. Development & Discipleship

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Messy Church	Messy Church Team	Develop the Messy Church event, introducing and training new leaders, encouraging parents and children to come to faith, seeking appropriate ways to integrate them into the life of the congregation and develop in Christian maturity	Ongoing	New converts; new leaders; children added to the Rise & Shine Club and other youth activities and children's organisations	At each KS mtg

6. Children & Younger People

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Bring, through active engagement and training, young people into greater leadership	Youth Ministry Leader, Minister, Session Clk	Give opportunities for YP to lead services and preach; invite two YP reps to attend Kirk Session mtgs to offer a young person's perspective on church life	June 2014	Greater understanding of how young people feel about the life and witness of the congregation; development in the spiritual gifts of our young people	Annually in October

7. Older People

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Sheltered Housing	Senior Citizens' Ministry team	To monitor the range of activities and services we provide for older people and to develop these within our resources, with emphasis on pastoral care and addressing the issue of elderly isolation and loneliness	Ongoing	Inter-generational friendships; alleviation of loneliness; new converts amongst the elderly	Each KS mtg

8. Church Planting

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
To prayerfully seek God concerning the planting of a new congregation	Minister and KS	To begin the process of planting a new congregation in a suitable location, taking into account the new housing proposed for Br of Don and Danestone, in consultation with our ecumenical neighbours	First steps and conclusions by June 2014, then ongoing	To establish a new and viable congregation, self-supporting and self-reliant within 5-7 years, building on our existing small groups as the seed that will grow into the tree	Each KS mtg

9. Ecumenical

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Ministry to older people	Local church leaders	To work in collaboration with Aberdeen Social Work Department on a joint project to recruit volunteers from the local churches who will visit and ease social loneliness amongst	To have the first 'friends' partnered with elderly neighbours by June 2014	'Friends' will visit regularly; take older people on outings; assist with shopping; bring the elderly to services and other activities for the elderly; link older people with suitable existing	Each KS Mtg

School Chaplaincy	Local church leaders and church youth leaders	the isolated elderly in this community To continue to meet with school HTs in order to discuss how school chaplains might best support the curriculum needs of the schools	At the start of each term	activities and social groups To discuss and agree the term's programme for school assemblies (P4-7) and bible storytime sessions (P1-3), and any other issues	Weekly by church staff; at each fortnightly meeting of local church leaders
	Local church leaders and church youth leaders	To continue to meet with school HTs in order to discuss and plan the biennial visit of BibleWorld and Bible Week	At the start of each school year, and then as necessary	To plan and agree on available resources (e.g. finance) for the visit of the Scottish Bible Society's mobile exhibit	Termly and more frequently, as needed; at each fortnightly meeting of local church leaders
Shared Services	Local church leaders and Kirk Session	Holy Week Services & March of the Cross	Local church leaders meeting in Feb	To offer an ecumenical act of witness to the community at Easter, to facilitate ecumenical worship, and to celebrate unity through the Gospel	KS at the next mtg following Holy Week

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10. Financial & Stewardship

Activity	Project Lead	Basic Outline	Deadline	Expected Outcomes	Review?
Focus urgently on dealing with financial challenge	Finance Committee	Regular appeals to the congregation to review Christian giving; Gift Day once, perhaps twice each year	Ongoing. Gift Day(s) in Spring and Autumn	Increased Christian liberality and financial resources for mission in the community and continued generous support for missionary partners.	Ongoing
Improve and develop church property	Fabric Committee	To continuously review the buildings we have, measured against our requirements, and to explore ways in which we might add to our buildings or use existing, other buildings for our mission needs	Monthly	Keep the congregation aware of the financial implications of mission; educate the congregation about innovative ways of utilising other, existing buildings to fulfill the vision statement of the church	Ongoing