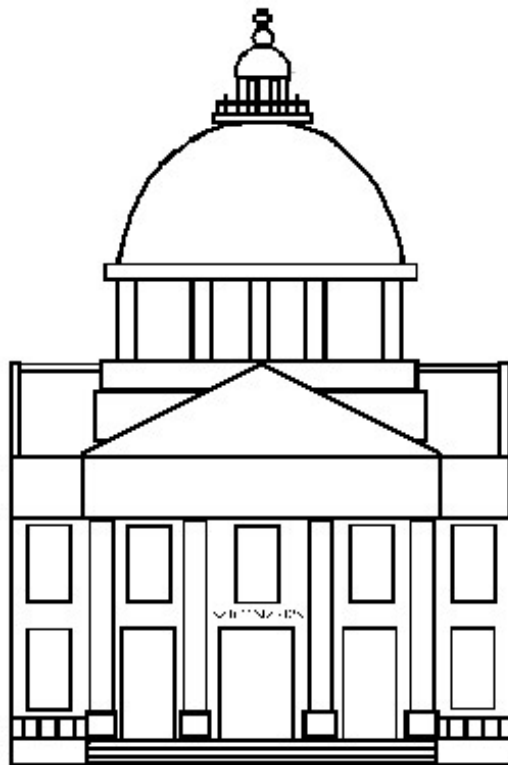


ABERDEEN ST MARK'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CONGREGATION No. 311878

CHARITY No. SC015451

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN



ST MARK'S, SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN THE CITY CENTRE

JULY 2016

ST MARK'S FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN BUILT ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT.

2016 - Our One Word for this year is HOSPITALITY.

It should be noted that this is a Five-Year Plan and that start dates for work on each Area of Focus (A – D) are estimated. This is because we recognize that natural slippage needs to be built into the various start and completion dates.

All areas will be reviewed by the Church Leadership during 2021.

AREA OF FOCUS A. - PRAYER

REASONS - The crucial foundation for growth in Faith, Ministry, Mission and the life of any Church is prayer.

PC = Prayer coordinator. PT = Prayer Team M= Minister

1) Raise the profile of the PC and the PT.

FIRST STEP- Introduce PC to the Church on 2/3 Sundays.

Who? Minister.

When? By the end of April 2016.

Completed - end of September 2016.

2) Develop an active PT around the PC.

FIRST STEP Ask people to be on the team.

Who? PC in consultation with M

When? started by end of April 2016

Completed - End of December 2016.

3) Raise awareness of ways to pray.

FIRST STEP - Introduce - 'Try praying.'

Who? PT & PC

When? From end September 2016

Completed - End of September 2017

IN RELATION TO SUNDAY SERVICES.

1) Introduce new ways of praying

FIRST STEP- Research different ways of praying.

Who? PT&PC&M

When? From September 2016

Completed - Ongoing (when we Introduce one way at least once per month.)

2) Create ways to encourage more people to lead in prayer.

FIRST STEP- Discuss ways to do so and approach people

Who? PT&PC&M

When? From June 2016

Completed - Ongoing: when we have at least one person leading prayer each week.

3) Develop new ways for people to suggest prayer topics.

FIRST STEP - Plan and experiment by introducing new ways.

Who? PT&PC&M

When? From June 2016

Completed - when a way is actively used by at least 30 people per month. This will be an ongoing and changing process of encouraging people.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS BY THE CONGREGATION.

Handouts on prayer.

Reminders to pray,

Prayers to take home,

Try praying scheme,

Through the magazine,

Happy positive thankful prayers,

Recognition of diversity,

Prayer table,

Sunday Service: Explore more responsive prayers.

Noted from the response sheets.

Most were happy with the prayer in the services.

AREA OF FOCUS B. - RAISING OUR PROFILE AND REVIEWING

COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE CHURCH AND ABERDEEN.

REASONS - To fulfil our purpose as God's Children.

To say we are here and you will be most welcome here.

GAPS - What do we want to communicate?

What do we hope to achieve?

Who are we targeting?

Key T = Team; M = Minister; SC = Session Clerks

1) Create a Team.

Who? M & SC

When? September 2016.

Complete - October 2016.

2) Review how, what and to whom we communicate within the Church. Identify gaps and suggest ways to fill those gaps.

FIRST STEP - Outline what we do already.

Who? T

When? Starting October 2016.

Completed - When presented to the Kirk Session in January 2017.

3) Review how and what we say/ want to say to the extended Church family.

What do we want to communicate to them?

How do we communicate at the moment and do we need to look at other ways of communicating with them?

FIRST STEP - Suggest who are the extended Church family.

Who? T

When? Starting January 2018

Completed - When presented to the Kirk Session in May 2018.

Final Completion: When we are satisfied that we are communicating as best we can with the extended Church family.

4) Ensure we raise our profile in the local Community.

FIRST STEP - Explore and evaluate what we do at the moment.

Who? T

When? Starting June 2017.

Completed - When presented to the Kirk Session in November 2017

OTHER SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE CONGREGATION: - More frequent newsletters, target certain groups advertise more, encourage our hall lets to feel they belong and are appreciated etc.

AREA OF FOCUS C. - SERVICE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

REASON - GOD HAS CALLED US TO SERVE AND SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE AND GOOD NEWS WITH THE LOCAL AND WORLD COMMUNITY.

GAPS - Confusion about who is our local community.

KEY: T- Team M= Minister SC = Session Clerks

1) Create a team.

FIRST STEP - Choose a small team and leader.

Who? M & SC

When? From end of January 2017

Complete - when small team in place by end of February 2017.

2) Define who is our local Community.

Seek the approval of the Leadership.

FIRST STEP - Decide - who is our local community.

Who? T

When? June 2017 onwards

Complete - when Leadership has agreed.

3) Listen to, identify and review the likes and needs of the local community.

FIRST STEP - Decide how we can get to know the local Community and what ways we can serve them.

Who? T

When? Once approved by the Leadership (see 2. above)

Complete - Within six months of the Leadership giving approval.

4) Provide ways to develop friendships, share the love and good news of Jesus with Our local community.

FIRST STEP - consider one way of reaching out to our Local community e.g. by providing an opportunity for people to meet the local NGO's and services by an event to be held in our hall (free)

Who? T

When? From January 2018

Complete - When we offer 2 different opportunities in the year for our local community (above what we do now)

5) Provide opportunities to celebrate what we do already to provide, "Hospitality"

e.g. a social gathering to say 'thank you' to all hall lets and organizations.

FIRST STEP - Consider an appropriate event.

Suggest it to the Leadership.

Who? T

When? From June 2017.

Completed - When we have at least 1 opportunity to celebrate per year.

CONGREGATIONAL SUGGESTIONS. Reach out to lonely people, vulnerable people needing help, youth and mothers too.

AREA OF FOCUS D - MINISTRY WITH AND FOR SENIORS

REASONS - To say /show they are valued, have a role in the Church, can be active and contribute too.

GAPS - What age do we consider Senior?

Please note.

We have 4 streams of Pastoral Care which influence all or a specific age group.

- a) Elders' District Visits - coordinators Session Clerks (long term visiting.)
- b) Telephone calls by Elders - coordinator David Yacamini (twice a year.)
- c) Circle of Care - Coordinator Helen McKenzie (longer term visiting of Senior people over a certain stated age, plus Holy Communion Afternoons.)
- d) Minister's Pastoral visiting team - Coordinator Jillian Carol (maximum 4 visits on behalf of the Minister.)

1. **Raise the profile of the Circle of Care, their Coordinator and Pastoral team.**

FIRST STEP - Minister introduces and involves the coordinator in at least 2/3 services and afternoon services too.

Who? Minister.

When? From Easter 2016.

Complete - End of 2016

2) **Create a team by bringing the coordinators of the 4 different of streams of Pastoral Care together into a small group with the Minister and one of the Session Clerks. This team could be called the 'Pastoral Care Oversight Team.'**

FIRST STEP - The team is gathered together.

Who? Minister.

When? From August 2016.

Complete - ongoing.

3) **Review our ministry to Seniors.**

Gather information on what we do at present for Seniors.

FIRST STEP - Define the term, 'Senior.'

Who? Leadership.

When? By the end of September 2016.

Complete - when the definition of 'Senior' is accepted by the Leadership and becomes known and used in future planning etc.

4) Consider if the Pastoral Care already in place for Seniors is sufficient.

FIRST STEP Consider the nature of the requirements of senior people and their families in different circumstances.

Who? T & M

When? When the Leadership has defined the term Senior.

Complete - 6 months from the date the leadership agree the term Senior.

MINISTRY BY SENIORS

Many Seniors enjoy being involved in the life of St Mark's. More may wish to be involved or have more of a say in a way that is suitable for their abilities and circumstances.

Explore ways to make it easier and attractive for Seniors to become involved in the life of St Mark's. (e.g. Could seniors be visitor to seniors or involved in prayer or write positive items of interest for the magazine from a seniors' point of view?)

FIRST STEP. Gather together a team of interested 'Seniors'

Who? M & SC

When? January 2017

Complete - When we have a small group of 6 seniors (possible name 'Senior Ministry team' or 'Ministry by Seniors Team') gathering together to talk about how Seniors can be more involved in the life and Ministry of St Mark's.

Develop opportunities for Seniors, including people who are housebound, to be involved in Ministry and Church life.

FIRST STEP: - Gather information on what we do at present.

Discern any gaps.

Address the question, 'How can these gaps be filled?'

Who? Ministry by Seniors team.

When? Start September 2017

Complete - When 4 new ways have been introduced by 2021.