

## WOODSIDE PARISH CHURCH ACTION PLAN

*“Values express our deepest convictions and passions, how we want to be known as a congregation and how we expect to behave. These values are the foundation for our vision. The values in our action plan will keep us focused but essentially they will give us motivation and drive.”*

*As a committee and Kirk Session we recognise that there are a number of challenges ahead of us as an elderly and shrinking congregation with limited resources e.g. finances. However through this process the values and actions below have been highlighted and developed by the committee, session and whole congregation therefore we prayerfully put them forward recognising that some of them may not happen within the timescale stated or at all. We commit to them wholeheartedly always with the grace of God.*

VALUES	What has as to be done?	How has it to be done?	Who has to do it?*	By when has it to be done?
<b><i>Experimenting with ways to understand &amp; experience God</i></b>	<b>WORSHIP</b> Continue to explore and try out different way of developing the worship within Woodside Parish Church services.	Hold regular informal services such as Messy church and Breakfast/Lunch church. Continue to develop Quiet Days. Include different speakers, mission talks, Take a Moment where different groups can highlight experiences within the service. More involvement from the congregation e.g. during Kid’s Talk, children and youth participation, interactive aspects to some services. Using AV equipment more effectively in services e.g. CD songs, short video clips etc., use of internet. Possible experimentation with times and locations of services.	1.groups leaders  2.minister  3. congregation  4. PPT team  5.worship team	<b>1. ongoing, review yearly</b>  <b>2. ongoing, review yearly</b>  <b>3. ongoing, review yearly</b>  <b>4. March 2018</b>  <b>5. March 2018-20</b>
<b><i>Sharing life, mutual support and growing faith.</i></b>	<b>DISCIPLESHIP</b> Developing the prayer life of the church.	Starting to develop prayer triplets – committee members first and rolling it out including creating a leaflet of meeting format advice. Also supporting individuals in finding a prayer partner/triplet and having established groups share their experiences in church. Formalise the prayer chapel and continue to encourage attendance at Sunday morning prayer session. Find other ways to incorporate regular prayer into the life of the church e.g. include prayer diary and general prayer requests in weekly Intimation sheet, prayer request bowl in prominent part of church, vary types of prayers said in services.	1.committee members and kirk session  2.committee and kirk session  3.office team with support	<b>1. March 2018 and review yearly</b>  <b>2. March 2018 and review yearly</b>  <b>3. March 2018</b>
	2. Use established groups to develop and nurture prayer and	Find ways of sharing encouraging stories to support one another’s growth in faith – through - newsletter, open mic in more informal church services, Guild and Bible	Group and organisation leaders	<b>March 2018 and review yearly</b>

	discipleship within the congregation.	Study groups, Quiet Days, interviewing individuals and dedicating groups.		
<b>Affirming and empowering relationships</b>	<p><b>COMMUNITY /FELLOWSHIP</b></p> <p>1. Explore and experiment with different ways of supporting and extending fellowship within our existing congregation.</p>	<p>Examples may be:-</p> <p>developing support for those with mental health conditions within the church Kirk session meals together, congregational retreat day or event ways of sharing talents and skills to support one another practically (e.g. a skill directory), congregational biog. board. Also see 1 below.</p>	<p>a. leadership and congregation</p> <p>b. Kirk Session</p> <p>c.congregation with support from appropriate group</p> <p>d. Kirk Session</p>	<p>a. March 2019-22</p> <p>b. March 2019-22</p> <p>c. March 2019-22</p> <p>d. March 2018-20</p>
	2. Making changes to the Kirk Session.	<p>Look at the whole area of visitation –e.g. changing who is visited, by whom and when. Supporting those who are house bound or not regularly to be found in church. Nurture regular church attenders and elders in other ways so that visitation does not become a burden to elders. Explore the setting up of Unitary Constitution including the possibility of creating small groups to support pastoral, worship, fabric and finance areas and deploying elders/members into groups that best fit their skills.</p>	<p>1.kirk session</p> <p>2.kirk session</p>	<p>1. March 2018 and review yearly</p> <p>2. March 2018 and review yearly</p>
<b>Sharing the gospel through action and words</b>	<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p>1. Improve contact with families and children through the witness of the church through a variety of measures.</p>	<p>Improve use of media – get new Website up and running; use Facebook to publicise events; use SHMU, Donside Christian Partnership and Woodside FreePress Magazine etc. as well as exploring other ways to promote the church children, youth and family activities. (canavas photo boards.) Explore ways of developing and improving links with parents within existing church and affiliated organisations e.g. offering coffee and a chat during or towards end of groups like Tuesday After School Club. Find ways to follow up with families who attend big events such as Messy Church, concerts, other services etc. Potential for development of deeper links with the local Primary and Secondary school or other children and youth</p>	<p>1. website team and support</p> <p>2.group leaders</p>	<p>1. March 2018</p> <p>2. March 2018-20</p>

		outreach with the support of SAMs Project Worker and/or other bodies in the future. Find ways of making regular social events and fund raisers more missional and outreach orientated.	3.group leader and kirk session 4.group leaders and minister 5.congregation	3. March 2020 4. March 2020 5. March 2020
	2. Develop the music ministry of the church.	Find ways of extending and promoting the church children's choir and music ministry by visiting similar activities in other churches/local groups. Continue to encourage and develop children's music participating in events, services and special visits e.g. to Care Homes. Continue to develop regular special events which an extended church choir can be involved e.g. GCC Concerts, Carol service in the community and other seasonal events. (The aim of this is to promote the use of music to reach out to the community as well as encourage fellowship and participation within the church.)	1.group leaders and support 2.group leaders and support 3.music and other group leaders	1. March 2019-22 2. March 2019-22 3. March 2019-22
	3. Explore and develop Alpha.	Invite an Alpha rep. for a briefing. Encourage the congregation to support Alpha praying, attending or volunteering. Considering a time and venue.	leadership	March 2019-22
<b>Good stewardship of our resources</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b> Examine the needs of the congregation against the upkeep of the property.	Prayerfully and objectively review on an ongoing basis the needs of the congregation in terms of size, organisations, use of space etc. against the financial resources (including fund-raising) for upkeep and maintenance of the whole building. Where necessary seek guidance and support to devise a plan for the future of the congregation and it's buildings.	Kirk Session and potentially whole congregation	March 2018 and ongoing yearly review

\*NB – Some of these actions can be developed and focused on by groups that may be created by the Kirk Session (see COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP 2.2) but in any case the Vision and Review Committee of the church will undertake to ensure *at least* bi-yearly meetings (March and September) take place to assess and support the implementation of this Action Plan.

EXTRA POINT – The Vision and Review Committee of Woodside Parish Church recognised through this process that the whole issue of the church facilities which are now used by more and more community and outside groups is an area that needs to be looked into in the future and have therefore added an extra section to the Action Plan which will facilitate a regular assessment of this. Regular redecoration/maintenance of certain areas of the church facilities (hall corridor and men's

toilets for example) do need more pressing attention and should also be improved within the time frame of this action plan as part of our outreach and mission efforts to the community.

On behalf of the congregation and the Kirk Session we would like to express our gratitude to our dedicated Vision and Review Committee members especially Rev. Phil Lightbody and our late deaconess Moira McCallum for their hard work and commitment to this church review process. We also want to thank Prof. Jeff Maxwell, Rev Elsie Fortune and Alexis Darg from the Visitation & Oversight Committee of Presbytery for their great support through this process.