

Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, ESSENDON



MISSION ACTION PLAN (MAP) A MAP FOR THE FUTURE

While it is true that some plans do not bear fruit, it is also true that if we do not set goals and have a plan then nothing will happen at all.

This document is the fruit of much prayer and many meetings and discussions. It is not perfect but it is a start towards mission in our Parish. This Mission Action Plan is a living document, constantly evolving. 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.

We do not expect that all of our ideas will work, but we do need to keep searching for effective ways to serve in the mission of the Church.

We have consulted with the congregation with a planning day entitled "Dreaming about the ideal Church" on Saturday 8th May 2010. A summary of discussion is available on our web page. (www.essendonanglican.org.au). Following this day, a small group of Vestry and Wardens have spent much time with their Priest shaping this Mission Action Plan which will be reviewed regularly.

The Parish Vestry enthusiastically adopted this document on Sunday 11th July 2010.

SECTION 1 OUR CHURCH

Mission Statement

We are disciples of Jesus who are seeking to love God, and our neighbour.
We are committed to being God focussed, Jesus centred and Spirit led.
We are determined to build up the Kingdom of God and renew our Church.

Vision Statement

We also commit ourselves:

- To listen to God.
- To be nourished by God's word and sacraments.
- To meet together to pray and worship God.
- To use the gifts God has given us.
- To explore our faith and spirituality.
- To link into and serve the local community.
- To continue to strengthen and build up our Church.
- To care for our environment.
- To care for those in need.
- To support family life.



SECTION 2 THE IDEAL CHURCH

1. Church growth and attendances

We believe that God wants our church to grow and to bring people from darkness to light. We are called, as baptised children of Christ, to follow His great commission to go and make disciples.

Goals and actions

- 1.1 We challenge ourselves that by July 2011 we have 15 people regularly attending at 8am and 50 regularly worshipping at 9.30am
- 1.2 In 2011 and each year onwards we increase our attendances by 20% each year
- 1.3 We get involved in 2010 in "Back to Church Sunday" on Sunday 12th September 2010 and in future years
- 1.4 We will also work towards increasing the numbers of regular and new worshippers by – written invitations, letter drops other forms of advertising
- 1.5 We provide training for welcomers (sidesmen and others).
- 1.6 To explore 'Fresh Expressions' ways of doing church and to try new ideas to connect with people. (see also 8:1)

Reviewing and accountability

Vestry to review this on an annual basis

Resources needed

Enthusiasm

People power to deliver letters etc

Financial resources

Training – how to share faith, how to invite others to church, how to welcome

Transport for some people to come

Lay leaders to work with clergy

Potential problems

Being not prepared to invite friends, the unchurched, or the lapsed to their church

Being not positive about the Church or prepared to try new things or change

Are we a welcoming church?

Do we really want new people in our church?

Responsible Persons

The whole parish with the help of the Priest and Vestry

2. Worship & liturgy, spirituality

We are responsible for assisting all to worship God in appropriate and theologically sound ways. We are called to grow in faith and spirituality. In our search for God, we encourage prayer, the reading of the bible, pilgrimage etc

Goals and actions

- 2.1 Maintain the current liturgy in the 8am and 9.30am Sunday Eucharist (except on a few special occasions)**
- 2.2 Continue running Bible Studies and Lenten Studies
- 2.3 We explore alternative services to attract others (youth / children / family / contemporary) . These would be of a fresh expression style held at alternative times to the Sunday morning services.
- 2.4 To build up the faith and spirituality of our people using pilgrimages, articles in "Reach Out", training days and 'quiet days' etc
- 2.5 To encourage people to learn to pray
- 2.6 Educate and explain more of the Sunday liturgy of the Church
- 2.7 Develop further the music of the church including building up the choir, exploring alternative church music, different accompaniments and the occasional sung Evensong.
This can also include Sunday afternoon concerts.
- 2.8 Organise special services such as blessing of pets, harvest thanksgiving, pram service etc

Reviewing and accountability

Annually by Priest and Vestry

Resources needed

Musicians, choir members	Bible study / prayer resources
Liturgical resources	Lay worship leaders

Potential problems

Not dealing with change	Finding musicians and lay worship leaders
Confidence in following the liturgy	

Responsible Persons

Fr John, Church Organist / Director of Music, Margaret E

3. Fundraising, finances, buildings, stewardship

Stewardship is about using our time, talents and treasure to build up the Kingdom of God. It is also about maintaining and managing our asset base to give sustainable long term security to the parish.

Goals and actions

- 3.1 Wardens with the Parish Priest to develop a maintenance list and set priorities for all buildings
- 3.2 Develop and document a new philosophy and policy towards stewardship
- 3.3 Form a Social Committee to organise social & fundraising events on a regular basis
- 3.4 Consider opening up the sanctuary of the church including the moving of communion rail
- 3.5 Develop the budget and present it to the October Vestry ready for the Annual Meeting each year
- 3.6 Maintain and support the working of the Opportunity Shop

Reviewing and accountability

Vestry annually

Resources needed

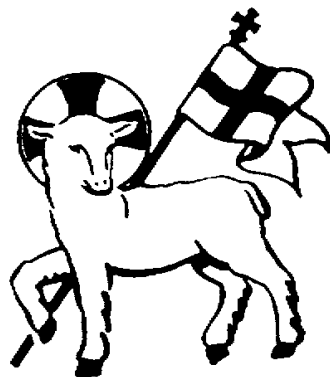
Money to update sanctuary
Resources on stewardship

Potential problems

Reluctance to change
Not enough money
People feeling that they are always expected to give.

Responsible Persons

Bill Howard with the Treasurer and Wardens
Social Committee



4. Pastoral Care—how can we care for each other?

Pastoral care is all endeavours undertaken by Anglicans that involve the practical gospel command to love. It is about how we care for each other. It includes parish visiting and strategies to care for those in need.

Goals and actions

- 4.1 A Pastoral Care Committee to be formed to meet regularly to develop and implement strategies to better care for each other.
- 4.2 Continue the emergency food relief and other emergency support (working with the Op Shop)
- 4.3 Training for pastoral visitors / welcomers / Reach Out deliverers etc
- 4.4 Encourage all to be good welcomers and to also wear name tags
- 4.5 Prepare new member kits with parish information and resources included
- 4.6 Parish Priest and others to visit the house bound and those in hospital and to take them communion

Reviewing and accountability

Vestry with the Parish Priest on annual basis
Pastoral Care Committee needs to meet regularly with Parish Priest

Resources needed

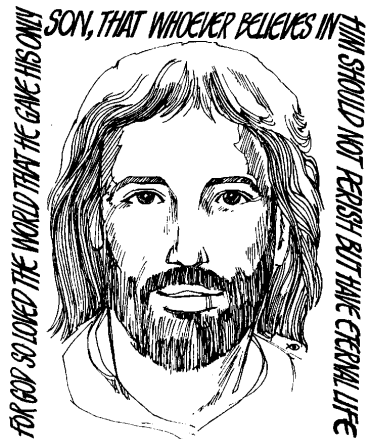
Name tags
Training or refresher Courses for welcomers / pastoral visitors / Reach out deliverers

Potential problems

Sensitive recruitment of pastoral visitors
Ego versus care

Responsible Persons

Parish Priest chair Pastoral Care Committee
Parish Priest appoint Pastoral Care Co-ordinator



SECTION 3 MISSION

1. Mission to Children & Youth

The mission to children and youth is about exploring ways of helping children and young people to come to know Christ by encouraging their participation in the life of the Church.

Goals and actions

- 5.1 Set up a Children / Youth Committee to explore possibilities of mission
- 5.2 Continue to follow up baptismal families with visits before and after the baptism plus teddy bear picnics.
Also explore birthday cards & baptism anniversary cards.
- 5.3 Explore the possibility of setting up a children's ministry (Sunday School / after school club or something different)
- 5.4 Explore setting up a young adults group for 20-40 year olds
- 5.5 Explore the possibility of family / children / youth worship options (including a mid week pram service) and music options
- 5.6 Explore alternative possibilities of connecting with the youth of Essendon (Fresh Expressions — see also 8.1)
- 6.7 Recruitment / Training of leaders including appropriate Diocesan checks etc
- 6.8 Link in with the local schools

Reviewing and accountability

Vestry review annually Children / Youth Committee to meet regularly

Resources needed

Recruitment & Training of leaders
Resources and equipment

Potential problems

Working with Children checks / Police checks
Attendance at "Power & Trust" seminars
Sensitive handling of children from multi cultural and multi faith communities

Responsible Persons

Parish Priest (or if we ever get a curate) Children / Youth Committee

2. Mission to the Elderly

Our churches have an ageing population. Mission to the Elderly is about exploring ways to help them to continue connecting with God and the Church.

Goals and actions

- 6.1 Explore possibilities of organising transport for the elderly
- 6.2 Explore the possibility of recording Sunday services and distributing to elderly and house bound
- 6.3 Continue visiting nursing homes to care, and for the delivery of Anglican services
- 6.4 Continue to visit elderly and also house bound with home communion (involve others as well as parish priest)
- 6.5 Christmas visit with choir and parishioners to nursing homes etc...
- 6.6 Explore possibility of day time social activities for the elderly in our church buildings
- 6.7 Explore local community resources for elderly and ways to link in

Reviewing and accountability

Vestry review annually

Parish Priest to explore issues with Pastoral Care Committee

Resources needed

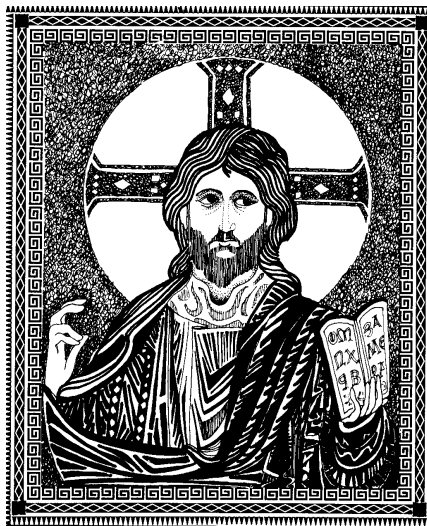
Transport / car drivers / suitable cars
Food
Smile
Suitable Recording equipment
Teams of visitors

Potential problems

Insurance (legal risks)
People not acknowledging their health /
disabilities and other issues

Responsible Persons

Pastoral Care Committee with Parish Priest



3. Mission to Families

Mission to families involves supporting parents in nurturing the faith of their children. It is about assisting families to participate fully in the life of the church family.

Goals and actions

- 7.1 Explore the need in the community for Parenting Programs and other education programs for families (eg: understanding teenagers)
- 7.2 Explore family worship and involving young people in worship
- 7.3 Organise regular family friendly social activities (film nights / picnics)
- 7.4 Explore the possibility and need for women's and men's groups in the parish

(see also children / youth for other family activities etc..)

Reviewing and accountability

Vestry review annually
Children / Youth Committee to meet regularly

Resources needed

Educational programs

Potential problems

Working with Children checks / Police checks
Attendance at "Power & Trust" seminars
Sensitive handling of families from multi cultural and multi faith communities

Responsible Persons

Parish Priest
Children / Youth Committee

4. Mission to the Community of Essendon

It is important for the Church to look outwardly and to connect with the local community. It involves linking with other groups and churches as well as exploring fresh ways of connecting with those people who have not previously had, or have a lapsed Christian involvement.

Goals and actions

- 8.1 Form a 'Fresh Expressions' Committee to develop programs and resources to do church differently and so connect with the local community. eg coffee shop church
- 8.2 To explore ways of promoting our church with handouts, signage etc (see also 1.4)
- 8.3 To explore ways of linking with other local churches and community groups in our area.
- 8.4 To support the work of the Op. Shop in its mission in the community.
- 8.5 To explore ways of assisting further the hungry and needy in our community. This could include linking with other organisations such as Anglicare.

(see also church growth and attendance plus worship, liturgy and spirituality pages)

Reviewing and accountability

Vestry to review annually

Fresh Expressions Committee & Parish Priest to review regularly

Resources needed

Training

Vision, openness – prepared to try new things – prepared to fail at times

Potential problems

Not prepared to try new things

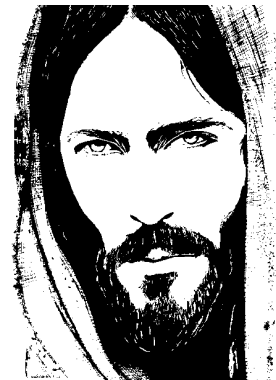
Not prepared to take risks

Not prepared to change

Council approvals

Responsible Persons

'Fresh Expressions' Committee
including Parish Priest



Other Issues

- 9.1
 - a. Redevelopment of tennis court area and hall
 - b. Develop a plan for the modernising of the old kindergarten building
 - c. Review contracts and conditions for the hire of our hall and facilities annually
(December)
(Wardens, Vestry – Bill Howard)

- 9.2 Collect together, index, file and store all archives and parish records
(Wardens – Jamie Lingard & Fr John)

- 9.3 Set up and maintain a parish web site www.essendonanglican.org.au
(Fr John)

- 9.4 Develop training programs and resources to equip our laity to be leaders in our church and community.
(Fr John)

- 9.5 Explore ways to improve communication within our church (including an evaluation of Reach Out and the Pew Sheet etc
(Vestry)

- 9.6 Work with the Christ Church Op. Shop in its mission to our church and the community (see also 8.4)
(Fr John & Christ Church Op. Shop Committee)

- 9.7 To continue to work with the Parishes of Aberfeldie & Strathmore on the development of Essendon Anglican Church Cluster (EssACC)
(Fr John & EssACC committee)

SECTION 4 PRIORITIES & GOALS FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS (July 2010 to June 2013)

It is proposed that all aspects of this Mission Plan will be worked on each year. There will be a special priority or focus each year.



JULY 2010 to JUNE 2011

Focus: Building up attendances
Pastoral care

JULY 2011 to JUNE 2012

Focus: Families / Youth and Children
Elderly

JULY 2012 to JUNE 2013

Focus: Building up faith and spirituality
Connecting with Essendon Community

May 2013 there will be a review of this Mission Action Plan noting successes and failures. There will be consultation with vestry and parishioners and a new plan will be developed for the following 3 years.

Vestry will also assess progress at its May and October meetings.

**The 2010 MAP Committee are Margaret Elsey, Bill Howard, Jamie Lingard,
Sue MacMillan and Fr John Mathes (Sunday 11th July 2010)**