

St John's Harpenden: Mission Action Plan 2015-2020 (Draft)

Our **vision** is to sustain and develop our vibrant all-age worshipping community, living out our faith in Jesus Christ in all we do, so that more and more people in our Parish are touched by his love.

Our **mission** is to welcome everyone warmly and enable all to grow spiritually - nourished and transformed by reverent and relaxed worship and inspired to live and share God's love.

Much progress has been made since our first MAP was drawn up for the period 2012-2017.

Many things set out there have happened or are well under way and do not reappear here (even though it remains no less important that they continue and develop), such as

- involving young people in worship more, in particular through the well-established Junior Choir
- the successful 'Tea at 3' initiative, the work of the St John's visitors and the welcome team
- the Church being open during the day, a link with Embrace, new look parish magazine and logo.

Other things from our first MAP re-appear in a more developed or advanced form.

This refreshed MAP not only charts progress along an established route but also expresses our sense of being called to be open to new opportunities and challenges:

Worship, Mission and Evangelism

- new orders of service to more easily allow for liturgical variation, new hymn book to incorporate a greater range of contemporary material, additional musical setting for the Eucharist (by end 2015)
- themed all-age services, involving more people, greater use of instruments (2015, ongoing)
- refreshed website incorporating our new logo (early 2016)
- work towards employing either (a) a youth worker (with an internal focus on discipling secondary school age children) or (b) a children's worker (with an external focus on develop connections with primary school-age children), or (in time) both (2016, ongoing)
- exploring new forms, times or locations for worship such as café church (2016) and exploring ways of developing our relationship with the local community more widely (ongoing)

Fabric

- more flexible seating arrangements in the Lady Chapel (2015)
- work towards the replacement of the Church Hall with a mission-enabling Parish Centre (design brief by early 2016, completion before 2020)

Discipleship, Fellowship and Pastoral Care

- sermon series on the Letter to the Hebrews and on Medieval Mystics (2015/2016)
- arranging a visit from the Vocations team (2016)
- a Parish retreat at Launde Abbey, Leicestershire (13-15 May 2016)
- a Parish weekend at Lee Abbey, North Devon (28-30 October 2016)
- developing our link with Embrace through a trip to Israel/Palestine (2017/2018)

Welcome, social and fundraising

- an Auction of Promises (early 2016)
- a Parish Open Day (proposed for 7 May 2016)
- a Fete (Autumn) and/or an Art Exhibition (May) (2017/2018)