Our Mission Action Plan

Parish: Deanery:

Period covered by this plan:

*Please feel free to expand the boxes if you need more space.*

Our Vision/Values

Our Mission Statement is

‘Our Mission is to help every person belong to God’s family and follow Jesus.’

Our core values are

Teamwork; Welcoming; Valuing and listening to everyone whatever age, helping them to find their voice and their ministry.

We want to be more effective in mission to our parish, to be a focal point for community in this neighbourhood.

Stage 1 - Review

*Where we are starting from* - a realistic summary of our context and our present situation.

At the last census the Parish Population was 7,300; 4,850 (66%) claim to be Christian. The largest Demographic Age is 15 to 29, which is the least represented age group on the Electoral Roll at St John’s. We are most likely to see this age group at Baptisms.

Our Parish is within 10% of the most deprived parishes nationally. Deprivation indicators take into account areas such as finance, health, social factors and education, including qualifications. 34% of children under 16 live in poverty. These are children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits due to reported income being less than 60% median income. 43% of households with children are single parents, which is seen as being a factor of a higher risk of children living in poverty. 34% of households are social rented properties. ‘Vulnerable groups are often concentrated in the social housing sector, with low rates of employment and low-income levels.’ (Statistics and comments are taken from the Parish Spotlight –
Deprivation and Keys Issues affecting Parishioners). We are seeing and experiencing changes to these statistics especially more diversity of cultures in our Parish and our church.

Whilst situated in Walkden, a large portion of the parish is situated in Little Hulton, which can make it difficult for the less mobile who live at the opposite edge of the boundary to attend. Some within the community claim they were not aware that St John’s existed or was their Parish Church. St John’s has recognised this and over the years has held occasional services in a local youth club building on a large housing estate in the centre of the parish. St John’s has recently seen the benefit of leafleting parts of the parish when advertising events and services.

There are two primary schools within the parish and no church schools. North Walkden school is a short distance from St John’s and Bridgewater school is further away in the centre of the parish. There are strong connections with both schools. They attend church for special services during the year and some classes also visit and take part in the various Experience events ie Christmas, Easter, Moving On and Harvest.

St John’s have a thriving Messy Church which is also linked into North Walkden School by natural networks of the young mum’s who are involved in the leadership. Messy Church is well prepared and well attended.

St John’s is a friendly, welcoming Church family with a much-loved Victorian building. There are presently 71 on the Electoral Roll for. The majority of regular attenders are over 60 however, we are beginning to see young families and a good number of children for the size of congregation.

Our PCC Secretary has recently retired after 30 years of service. Other than this vacancy our PCC officer posts are all filled.

WE have a high number of those seeking and achieving vocation. We presently have one recently ordained OLM; one Reader; two ALM’s in Prayer and Spirituality and Children’s Work. One Reader in training; one beginning ALM training in Administration and two people beginning the Foundations course.

There is a sense of Pastoral awareness where members of the congregation and encouraging and supportive of those unwell or in everyday situations. A small, core group of the congregation are especially instrumental in contributing to and attending fund raising and other events.

Although our income is often low and we have had times of struggle through many fund-raising events and initiatives we have always paid our Parish Share and all expenses. We recognise and address maintenance and repair issues of the building and have attracted grants to contribute towards these.

We have a Community Centre which is fully operational and generates groups from those on the fringes of church as well as income. This can also be used for Church events.

We have kept Our Key Priorities small and manageable and include:
Growing churches: We recognised the need for more young families to be welcomed and involved by way of a Fresh Expression of Church. We aim to support and build up Messy Church to be a strong congregation meeting regularly and growing Spiritually. This is ongoing and we are organising a pilot coffee morning to raise awareness of Messy Church, to get more people involved and to raise funds.

Serving the Community: We recognised the need for increased pastoral care of older people in the community and of aging members of the congregation. One of the ways we are presently exploring is to further ways of offering fellowship to the community and congregation by changing the time of the monthly mid-week Holy Communion Service. This is to introduce a simple lunch in Church for those who have attended and to invite and welcome those in the community.

We are open to recognising and meeting other needs within our community as part of continuing priorities.

Nurturing: We need to continue to offer and grow new Bible study/fellowship groups. We already have an established group who attend regular, six weekly Bible Study sessions.

We encourage and support regular prayer within our congregation. A small group pray for fifteen minutes every Sunday Morning before the service begins. We have recently started a mid-week 8am Morning Prayer and First Friday Prayers with the other Churches within the team.

As one of our recognised Key Priorities we have recently introduced Pastoral Prayer after the Communion Service. This was planned and achieved over a few months with sermons to introduce Pastoral Prayer, Bible readings to give more of an understanding of Jesus and disciples prayer for others. Training was given for those who felt called to this ministry. The congregation were informed of the date and frequency of Pastoral Prayer by word of mouth, weekly notice sheet and magazine.

We recognise the need for the church doors to be open more and the building accessible to others. One of our long term planning priority is to reorder the church to become a multi-purpose community centre and worship space.

**Where we are going** - a description of where we would like to be in five years’ time.

What are our dreams and vision for the future of St John’s?

As not to overwhelm our congregation we have kept everyone updated and involved in the priorities at St John’s. As advised we have recognised and addressed areas of priorities and worked through precise, time-based and measurable actions that have helped us to achieve our priorities. This is positive and affirming and needs to be sustained.
As a church, we need to: continue to pray in order to mobilise;

To grow spiritually in order to recognise and develop our strengths; listen to God, to each other and to the local community;

To grow numerically by being inclusive and welcoming amidst the changes within our church and parish. Especially to those from diverse and varied backgrounds and abilities.

To inspire Godly conversation – to become more confident in sharing our own stories.

Listening and recognising needs in the community and how we can fill a gap, no matter how small. Working with local groups and sharing resources by being aware of and following the five marks of mission.

To have the church doors open more often, being accessible, available and relevant to all who use it.

To continue to recognise and encourage gifts and vocations.

To build stronger links, work together and support the churches in our team and Churches Together in our area.

To regularly review and update priorities; assess what is working and what isn’t. For all at St John’s to feel heard, involved and informed. To take small, firm steps and not to be afraid of taking risks and stepping out in faith even if it means getting it wrong sometimes.

Stage 2 - Prioritise

How we will get there - a description of the priority actions if we are to ‘get there’.
Priority 1

Priorities are listed in ‘Where are we going.’ These will continue to be recognised and addressed and fed into the Current Activity Plan at future MAP meetings and discussed and agreed with the PCC.

To look at ways of serving the older people in the congregation and parish by initially offering soup and sandwiches after the monthly mid-week Holy Communion Service.

To continue to support and build up the leaders of Messy Church to be a strong congregation meeting regularly and growing spiritually. To get more people involved in the leadership and facilitating team.

To encourage and support continued regular prayer and Bible Study courses.

Priority 2

To sustain the upkeep and repair of the building.

To keep in mind the long term planning priority to reorder the church to become multi-purpose community centre and worship space.

Priority 3


Priority 4

Growing – Nurturing – Serving
Stage 3 – Current activity plan.

**What do we need to do and by when?** Precise, time-based and measurable actions that help us achieve our priorities. It is assumed that this page will be updated regularly as the outworking of the plan develops and progresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task / objective</th>
<th>Person Assigned</th>
<th>Resources available/required</th>
<th>Budget required</th>
<th>Timeline (expected start and completion dates)</th>
<th>Review method and timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*What do you need to do now to progress the delivery of your vision and priorities? Please list in this table, the individual actions that need to take place in order to start that delivery process. The numbers on the left should identify which priority a particular activity is part of. Describe each activity and detail ‘who, how, and by when’. This table will need to be regularly updated as actions are achieved and as other activity is added in order to achieve your priorities – and ultimately your vision.*

*These could be described as your short term horizon*
**Our partners** – what other people do we need to involve/consult – e.g. Mission unit/deanery; local authority; other churches; other organisations?

- Local Food Bank
- Local Authority Community Outreach and Support
- Mustard Tree
- Local Schools
- Walkden and District Churches Together
- The churches in our Team

---

**Parish and Deanery** - How our plan connects with and enhances the mission of the deanery as expressed in the current Deanery Plan?

At this stage the Deanery M.A.P. is collating all that is going on in the Deanery and building stronger links between the Deanery Churches, thus happening through the short presentations and the Peace Cafe event in September, plus encouraging vocations with in all the churches through various speakers and becoming more aware of what is offered in the wider church (i.e. Diocese)

Our mission action plan shows how we will play our part as a local church in the Diocesan vision of

**A worshipping, growing, and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community.**

This mission action plan was approved by the PCC on (Date) ..........................

Signed : .................................................. Post/office.............................................

Date : ..............................................

*Please send your plan, along with any supporting documentation to the MAP team – map@manchester.anglican.org. The MAP team will then review it and send it to your Archdeacon*