



*All Hallows, Whitchurch
with Tufton and Litchfield*



Parish Mission Action Plan
October 2015

Last year Bishop Tim challenged Christians in his Diocese to live the mission of Jesus, witnessing to the Kingdom of God at the local level in our daily lives.

We need to find practical ways to work towards our world being transformed by the love of Christ, with all in our community knowing and understanding this love.

In response to this encouragement we have drawn up this Parish Mission Action Plan responding to the Diocesan Strategic Priorities of

- *growing authentic disciples*
- *reimagining the church*
- *becoming agents of social transformation and*
- *belonging together in Christ*

The plan sets out our priorities for the new few years. Progress will be regularly reviewed by the PCC. It does not rule out other initiatives, as the Holy Spirit moves us to responds to God's call.

*God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church.
Send your Holy Spirit to bring
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Faith to our lives,
Hope to our communities,
And love to our hearts.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

We grow authentic disciples

What do we want to achieve?

By developing and offering prayer and study programmes we will help ourselves and others along the road that leads to Christ.

What steps will we take to achieve this?

- 1 Develop small house groups, including other denominations*
- 2 Increase opportunities for prayer and show people how to pray*
- 3 Develop and run courses:
 - a. For young people*
 - b. As an introduction to Christianity*
 - c. On marriage, for those about to be married and as a refresher for those already married**
- 4 Special services of civic thanksgiving*

What will we see as a result?

- 1 Deeper faith*
- 2 More prayer*
- 3 A greater understanding of the role and relevance of faith in our lives*
- 4 More people from the community attending services*

How will we know if we have achieved it?

*Increasingly active small groups
Well-attended events*

Who will be responsible?

Worship Action Group

We reimagine the Church

What do we want to achieve?

By offering a wider range of worship we attract more people, across a broader range of ages.

What steps will we take to achieve this?

- 1 Redefine the sidesman's role as a 'Welcome Team' and provide training*
- 2 Provide new orders of service with clearer instructions*
- 3 Explore different forms of worship and encourage worship led by the laity*
- 4 Explore ways to engage with the young:
 - a. Through youth groups*
 - b. Drawing in others from the town*
 - c. Investigate employing a youth worker shared with all the churches**
- 5 Provide training for lay leaders*

What will we see as a result?

- 1 A larger and livelier worshiping community*
- 2 More young people joining our groups and joining in worship*

How will we know if we have achieved it?

Greater involvement of the laity in our worship

More people coming to worship more often

Growth in the number of young people sharing in our church life

Who will be responsible?

Mission Action Group (1-2, 5), Worship Group (3), Youth leaders (4)

We are agents of social transformation

What do we want to achieve?

Improve the way we communicate who we are and the work we do in the community.

Continue support for the Parish Nurse scheme. Seek to develop this into a locally based and run not-for-profit care agency for local people.

What steps will we take to achieve this?

- 1 Encourage and equip members to openly express their Christian faith as 'normal' in the community*
- 2 Revise the parish website and keep this up to date. Explore other means of communication such as social media*
- 3 Look for opportunities to provide admin and organisational support to local community activities*
- 4 Seek to strengthen links with our schools*
- 5 Identify what support the Parish Nurse scheme needs and resource this suitably*
- 6 Set up a project team to investigate creating a not-for-profit care agency to benefit local people*

What will we see as a result?

- 1 Christians of all denominations will be seen to have a greater presence and help our local community remain vibrant*
- 2 The Parish Nurse scheme reaching more people*

Who will be responsible?

Mission Group. A specific project group will be formed to develop the Parish Nurse scheme working with the current Parish Nurse support team

We belong together in Christ

What do we want to achieve?

Improve links across the generations and between the denominations.

What steps will we take to achieve this?

- 1 Identify and organise events of interest to all Christians and people of Whitchurch*
- 2 Develop a programme of activities to bring different generations together for a common purpose. This could be as simple as serving tea and cake to an older persons club after school, or story swap type sessions*

What will we see as a result?

- 1 More social interaction and working together between Christians in Whitchurch*
- 2 More social interaction between generations*

Who will be responsible?

Mission Action Group

It should be noted that we will continue to:

- Pay our Common Mission Fund in advance, in full*
- Donate 10% of our income to charity*
- Support our overseas mission in Mityana*

