

Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, ESSENDON

MISSION ACTION PLAN (MAP)

2015—2019

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.

On Sunday 21st February 2015, parishioners of Christ Church Essendon gathered to dream of the ideal church and to develop mission strategies.

The Wardens & Parish Council with the Parish Priest reviewed these dreams and have developed this Mission Action Plan.





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 & attendance

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

Explore setting up a young adult group

Explore "mentor" / "buddy" system for all parishioners.

Advertise more in "free newspaper" activities eg Messy Church / Op Shop

Implementation plan

Jillian asked to explore setting up a young adults / teenagers group which will act as a core social group who might later form a musical group or serve or connect in other ways with the Church

FJ to draft proposal including forms / booklets / info for a "mentor" / "buddy" system to be brought to Parish Council to discuss and implement

Parish Council need to discuss the appointment of a Publicity Officer for the parish to work with local newspapers, school newsletters and other media

2. Worship & liturgy, spirituality

We are responsible for assisting all to worship God in appropriate & 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

Explore the possibility of setting up alternative worship

Explore the possibility of contemporary music

Encourage people to light candles at alternative times

Continue online Bible Study Group at Lent and other Spiritual Activities (Christianity Explained)

Implementation plan

Tony, Alan and FJ to explore spiritual activities in the Parish

Bill & Jillian to explore the possibility of contemporary music

Parish Council to explore need for alternative worship and times

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

Encourage more people to “direct debit” as alternative to envelopes

Explore the layout of the Church (eg removal of pews at back) including alternative heating and fans

Implementation plan

Ask ADF for ‘direct debit’ forms and put in “Reach Out” with additional information – Alan to give benefits (testimony)

FJ to re-convene the committee to explore layout of Church and heating possibilities.

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

Explore “mentor” / “buddy” system for all parishioners.

Re-convene the Pastoral Care Team to improve our current pastoral care program

Implementation plan

FJ to draft proposal including forms / booklets / info for a “mentor” / “buddy” system to be brought to Parish Council to discuss and implement

FJ to re-convene the Pastoral Care Team to improve our current pastoral care program



SECTION 3 MISSION

1. Mission to Children, Youth & Families

The mission to children and youth is about exploring ways of helping children and young people to come to know Christ and to also participate in the life of the Church. 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

Encourage Messy Church to continue the good start and to expand

Do up the kid's plays area to make more practical

Explore tablets (ipads) and appropriate Christian apps for children to use at parental discretion

Implementation plan

Parish Council to establish committee to update kid's play area and also explore the tablets idea

2. Mission to the Elderly

Our churches have an ageing population and we need to care for them and allow them to still feel important in the life of the Church. It is about exploring ways to allow them to continue to connect with God and the church.

Goals and actions

Ask Pastoral Care Team committee to consider assisting elderly

Explore holding twice a year a service and lunch for shut-ins – get family or church members to provide transport

Implementation plan

See Pastoral Care Team committee



3. 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 a Christian involvement and people do not "know Christ" as well as to those who may have wandered from active involvement in Church life.

Goals and actions

Talk with the clergy of Essendon to explore ways of working together within the community

Parish Council to explore this issue more

Have a stall at the Moonee Valley Festival (February) promoting the Church activities (work with others churches)

Implementation plan

FJ to talk to Essendon Clergy

Parish Council to discuss issue more at a Parish Council meeting

Other Issues

PA systems / audio Visual system improved (before end of 2015)

Appointment of Childrens / Family worker in 2016 using rents from apartments

Explore front of Church re concrete and car parking

SECTION 4 PRIORITIES & GOALS FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS (2016 to 2018)

In conjunction with our present ongoing ministry, there will be a special priority or focus each year.

2016

PA systems / audio Visual system improved

Heating / cooling

Reconfigure back of church

2017

Focus: Childrens / family worker and supporting their programs

Young Adults Group

2018

Focus: Connecting with Essendon Churches – working in community

Parish Council will also assess progress at its July meetings.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Parish Council including the Wardens and Vicar encourage all to read and reflect on this document.

At the June 2015 meeting of the Parish Council this document was adopted as the Mission Action Plan for the Parish . .

The Parish Council is working towards implementing as much as possible of this MAP whilst maintaining existing activities.

Thank you to all who gave up their time and dreamed about the ideal church at Essendon.

Thank you to all who continually work hard in this Parish to build up the Kingdom of God.

If you would like to be more involved and if there are things in this document that you would like to be part of—please talk to Fr John. Thank you

In 2019 there will be a review of this Mission Action Plan noting successes and failures.

There will be consultation with the Parish Priest, Wardens, Parish Council and parishioners and a new plan will be developed for the future of the Parish.

The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream. The oak sleeps in the acorn; the bird waits in the egg; and in the highest vision of the soul a waking angel stirs.

Dreams are the seedlings of realities.

James Allen, *As a Man Thinketh*



