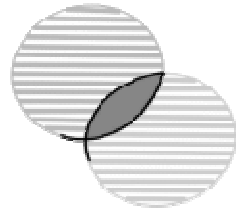


PARISH DAY: MISSION ACTION PLAN!



We are called to be a Missionary Church - so how should we respond?

One way is to use **MAPs: Mission Action Plans***, to help us pray, decide priorities and to make plans. These plans will help us to bring God's Kingdom into the areas we serve. The aim is to encourage every Christian to engage in mission.

MAPs show the way forward. They will help us to work together, to listen more closely to God and to all those we are called to serve.

MAPs have three parts:

Mission:

- ▶ "...is finding out what God is doing, and joining in" (Rowan Williams);
- ▶ looks outwards, and engages with the world where we are;
- ▶ spreads good news, equipping Christians to express their faith.

Action:

- ▶ arises out of prayer, values, convictions, gifts and passion;
- ▶ expresses God's concern for his world;
- ▶ engages in hope, embraces struggle, enhances joy.

Plan:

- ▶ defines action in terms of goals;
- ▶ defines steps needed to meet those goals;
- ▶ considers who and what we need.

On Saturday 1st October we will be holding our first **Mission Action Planning** event - a Parish Day in the church hall, for everyone to come along to and have their say. **Mission Action Planning** is an essential element in the diocesan initiative *Living God's Love*. During the morning we will be exploring what it means to 'Live God's Love' by *Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities* and *Making New Disciples*.

But the first stage in

Mission Action

Planning is to spend time looking and listening, so during September we will be asking the congregation to complete a short questionnaire about their experience of church. We will also be going out into the community to find out what people think about church.

The Parish Day is intended to be an informal chance to get together and share hopes and dreams for our church. We will be looking at the results of the surveys and listening to people's views and comments. We plan to use the day to see what we are doing right, what needs changing and to think about where we want to be in the future. We want to hear what you have to say so please join us on the day which will begin at 9.30 am. We will finish with lunch at about 12.30, followed by a short act of worship.

Bishop Alan has said of those churches which have already begun the process: "I am impressed with the way that PCCs have used **MAPs** to listen to one another, plan together and take concerted action. **Mission Action Planning** can focus the ministry and mission of parishioners in new and exciting ways."

We look forward to seeing you on 1st October! Please sign the list in church to register your interest.

The MAP Steering Group

*Jo Spreadbury, Jane McHugh, Bill Sanderson,
Catherine Evans, Pam Rastall, Rob Sheppard,
Roger Silvester, Judy Stower*

** Mission Action Planning is a tried and tested method for individual churches to review their mission strategy and to plan their mission priorities and actions.*

www.churchmaps.co.uk

