

St. John the Evangelist Mission Action Plan

February 2015



We are a worshipping and witnessing community within the Liberal Catholic tradition of the Church of England.

▣ We affirm the centrality of the Eucharist, with challenging preaching and traditional worship.

▣ We aim to be open and prayerful in our welcome.

▣ We proclaim the Gospel and strive to live out its values in our diverse and growing community through love, understanding and mutual respect.

▣ We reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of this area.

▣ We seek ways to celebrate and include our different backgrounds and gifts.

▣ We are committed to equality and believe that all forms of discrimination are contrary to the truth of Jesus Christ.

▣ We endeavour to respond to the needs of the wider community. We strive to reach out especially to the most vulnerable, and campaign against injustice.

Our Parish: what are the most important characteristics and valued activities within our parish?

We are an extremely diverse congregation, and yet common themes come through very strongly about what we value in our parish community. Our parish worship is centred on a Eucharist every Sunday morning at 10.am. People value enormously the warm and friendly welcome, the strong Fellowship and feeling of 'togetherness' and the strong pastoral care, both from clergy and lay members of the congregation. The warmth of the welcome makes worship at St. John's open and accessible. People value the style of our liturgy, the music and the preaching – all of which support our spiritual growth as a worshipping community. Our worship runs smoothly and is consistent, enabling everyone to participate. Our work with young people is incredibly important: Sunday School in particular, and the way in which we seek to include young people in the life of the church. The Lent Groups and Bible Study Groups, the Silent Pray Group, Children's Mass, the Choir all provide ways for different people to become involved in St. John's, to serve God and our congregation.

Priorities: What are our priorities as a parish community for 2015?

	Reaching out to our parish and to our local community
Priority	Work on links with the local community, including local churches Ensure everyone is welcomed on Sunday mornings Care for older members of the community 'Open Church' – church building open more frequently and more widely known about
What could this lead to?	Stronger Community presence More involvement with and from East Dulwich and Peckham communities Even stronger congregation
How?	<p><u>Links with the local community, including local churches:</u> Develop effective communication through our website, use of social media, use of outside noticeboards. Ensure information is kept up to date. 150th Anniversary Celebrations – investigate using Goose Green on Saturday 16th May for an event to mark our anniversary with a party Investigate having a stall at the East Dulwich Festival on 10th May 2015 to advertise St. John's. Explore using Special Collection Sundays to support groups working with disadvantaged groups in London. Support the work of PECAN with food collections. Give a higher profile to The Manna Society collection Re-launch 'Time and Talents'</p> <p><u>Open church</u> Re-launch Church Watch Sunday 8th February</p> <p><u>Sunday morning Welcome</u> Explore having regular café-style refreshments after church to encourage people to stay longer after the service. Celebrant to continue to ask the pastoral carers to stand up during the notices at the 10am mass. Some red sashes to be kept at church. Café Church once a quarter at 3pm to offer more informal style of worship Discuss how to support people who are unable to come to church at the times of our current services Discuss how to encourage and develop the Crèche team</p> <p><u>Care for the older members of the community</u> Discuss the possibility of making the centre available one afternoon a week to support meetings for older members of the community. Arrange for older people to be visited in their homes and organise a rota for giving people lifts to church Link with Dulwich Helpline</p>
Who?	PCC to lead All congregation to be involved

	Working with Young People
Priority	Develop links with St. John's and St. Clement's Primary School Work with other churches in developing plans to support and develop teenagers within our congregation Mid-week programme for parents and small children
What could this lead to?	Closer working relationship with our primary school More teenagers involved in our congregation
How?	<p>Our Youth work follows the three diocesan aims for working with young people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To work towards every child and young person having life-enhancing encounters with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ 2. To bring about Transformation, both in the Church and in the world, and recognise and enable the capacity of children and young people to be agents of change both for themselves and for others 3. To provide support and development for all working with children and young people in the name of the Church, so that they might demonstrate the highest qualities in their practice and personal life <p>We must sustain the work which is already developing with our young people:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people involved in the Advent Appeal for the homeless • Christmas trip to the Unicorn Theatre • Lent group will meet 2015 each Saturday evening for reading, prayers and discussion • Confirmation classes • Christian Aid Fundraising – Circle the City walks • End of school year trip • Sunday School Plus – this takes place for Year 6 and above • Emails sent to remind young people about activities in the parish/diocese and welcome them to attend <p>2015 marks the 70th anniversary of Christian Aid Walks. Make this year's walk an intergenerational event at St. John's to support our young people. Involve more people in running Sunday School Plus Share with the congregation the current work with our young people – its nature and focus. <u>Choir/Music activities for young people:</u> Children in the choir undergo a period of training, led by the head choristers. Children and young people are encouraged to take awards; they frequently play at the start of our service, and participate in choir events and concerts. Discuss possible collaboration between the choir and young people's groups and ensure that information about events is widely shared Church governors at St. John's and St. Clement's Primary School to lead on developing church links with the school. Discuss young people's events and involvement with St. John's Churches Together link Investigate the possibility of the parish employing a shared/part-time salaried youth worker Café Church (see Outreach section) would provide an opportunity for young people to lead worship Working Groups set up for working with teenagers and working with Primary School children.</p>
Who?	Working party for working with Primary school Working party for working with teenagers PCC

	Spiritual Growth
Priority	Provide people with opportunities to learn about and explore their faith Develop existing groups: Bible Study Group and Silent Prayer Group Investigate running a Parish retreat Develop communication within the congregation
What could this lead to?	Stronger links within the congregation Individuals feel spiritually supported by discussion/activities beyond Sunday Eucharist
How?	Parish Retreat planned for Autumn 2015 Ensure people are aware of the range of groups meeting to explore Faith and Spirituality, and that we make it easy for people to find information and to join: Silent Prayer Group, Bible Study Group, Advent Meditations, Lent Group Explore ways of ensuring our worship is accessible, and members of the congregation are able to develop their understanding of our worship – eg. Teaching Eucharist Use our website/social media/email groups to ensure that diocesan resources and information is shared and discussed. Use our website/social media to ensure that sermons are available Make opportunities for prayer more explicitly available and accessible – eg. After the 10am mass. Re-imagine and revitalise pastoral care in the parish and the role of the pastoral carers Discuss ways of ensuring we look after those who sit around us at church Investigate developing Christian Education for the congregation eg. The Bishop's Certificate, Catholic Alpha Investigate setting up home groups in our congregation
Who?	Small working party to lead