

Mission Action Plan

Great Longstone, Wardlow, Stoney Middleton and Curbar

Benefice Mission Action Plan Overview

A Mission Action Plan (MAP) offers a 3 year plan of the things that we, as the churches of the benefice, aim to fulfil in order to see growth and outreach.

Each individual church will have its own set of objectives as well as benefice wide objectives.

Following a vision day, opportunities for individual responses and numerous consultations with churchwardens the following vision statement was produced (the vision statement has been useful in considering what things we hope to achieve in our MAP across the benefice and within each church):-

"We are here to work together within our communities in order to foster mutual care, bring hope to those in need and to nurture a sense of belonging, across people of all ages, through the strength of the church and a shared belief in the Christian message of love and forgiveness."

Following the consultation process each church now has their own individual things they hope to achieve over the next 3 years (please see attachment with your churches MAP objectives). The aim is that people from within each church will help to fulfil their own objectives. It is very important that every single member gets involved in some way – as we progress please look out for the various opportunities to be involved.

It is also of the highest importance that we encourage members from other churches in the benefice to help with each other's individual MAPs. We will also need to draw in others from our villages who may not be part of the church.

How the MAPs will be fulfilled will be considered by each individual PCC and further information will be offered to the church. Individuals may be approached to take on pieces of work. Volunteers will also be recruited.

Initially the first united objective of the benefice will be as follows:-

By January 2018 there will be a united benefice prayer group meeting regularly to pray for the vision and MAPs of the benefice

- a. This group will have the single objective of praying for growth and outreach, the priorities of each church and to seek God to equip the churches to fulfil their MAP***
- b. The group will be open to anyone from any church to be involved***
- c. The group doesn't need to be led by the clergy***
- d. The group doesn't have to meet in church (it may well be better to meet in a church hall or people's homes)***

It is important that each PCC, to begin with, ensures that they send at least 4 people to be part of this prayer group. A rep from each church should be part of the leadership team who will enable the group to function. Regular reports of the groups work should be reported to PCC and communicated to the congregations regularly.

Mission Action Plan for Great Longstone & Wardlow

Year 1 (to be fulfilled by January 2018)

- **Upgrade our communication and advertising to the wider community**

As a priority we need to make use of social media, website and other forms of electronic communications

Upgrade our notice boards and keep them updated

Have a photo board of who's who in the church

Consider other methods of advertising and communication in the villages and further afield

- **Greater involvement in the school and the school with church**

Regular invitations for children to be involved in the worship life of the church (reading lessons, prayers and school choir involvement etc).

Regular involvement of appropriately trained church members to offer support in the school

A team to be set up to consider further ideas of how to engage with the school and families

- **To build on the worship we already offer**

Consider whether a regular praise and uplifting hymns service could be useful

Consider how more regular use of praise and uplifting hymns in the communion services may enhance our worship (what additional instruments would benefit our worship?)

Seek advice on how to make our regular services more accessible to outsiders

Year 2 (to be fulfilled by January 2019)

- **To set up a group to ensure that the inner life of the church is attractive**

The group would consider what would make our inner life better and how the church family could be even more open, loving, prayerful and graceful

It would find ways of ensuring that church would be a great place to invite friends and family

It would find ways to make the building warm and inviting

- **To start a Messy Church**

Messy churches are the fastest growing churches in the Church of England at the moment and attract young and old alike – please see Fr James for more details

Year 3 (to be fulfilled by January 2020)

- **To have regular outreach courses running in the parish each year**

A group to be set up to consider using courses such as Alpha, Start or similar initiatives

