



## Why do we need a plan for mission?

*Emil Brunner, a highly influential 20<sup>th</sup> century Swedish theologian rightly challenged the church to remember that*

**“The Church of God does not have a mission,  
the God of Mission has a church”**

The first intentional work to identify goals that would help Christ Church to fulfil this calling to participate in God’s mission began in 2005, with 10 individual goals being identified. These were reflected on and taken forward at a congregational gathering in the summer of 2008, and were again considered by the congregation at a gathering on 6<sup>th</sup> October this year.

Over 80 people were present for this and all comments recorded by the table facilitators have been carefully considered.

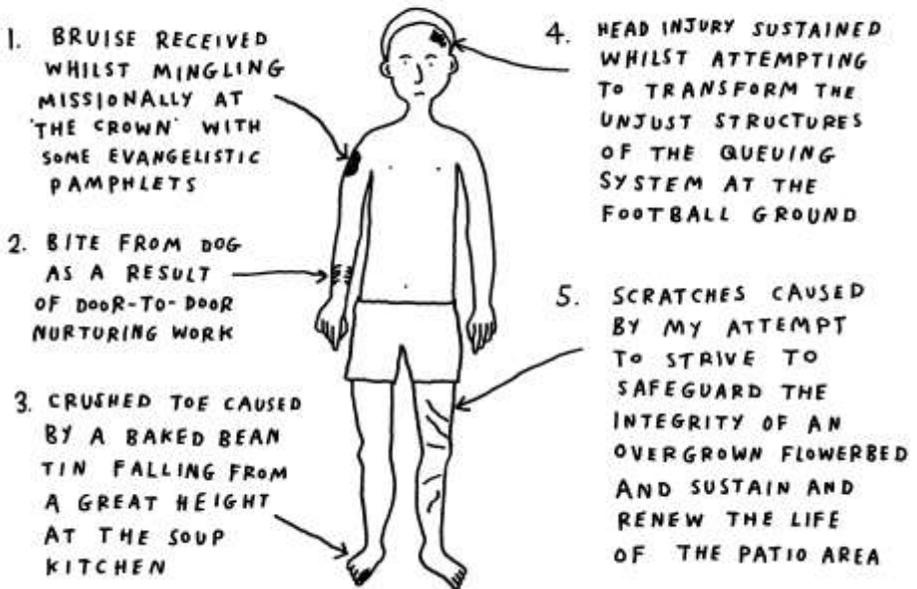
Those comments and suggestions which relate directly to furthering our mission are reflected in the following pages of this booklet. Others have been referred to relevant staff members, office bearers or committees for their consideration, and some have already been actioned (*e.g. sound system slip on the notice sheet 27<sup>th</sup> October to 24<sup>th</sup> November, updating and tidying noticeboards etc.*)

**PLEASE REMEMBER** that ongoing suggestions and comments are welcomed at anytime and there has been a box for this purpose for some four years now at the back of church. **Please use it!**

Having had 10 individual goals for over 8 years, it is clear that now would be a good time to state these in a different way as some overlap, and some aspects that are now part of our common life (eg ecumenical and interfaith matters) don't appear at all!

To enable this we have used the Anglican Communion's **Five Marks of Mission\*** - which are thankfully not like this -

## THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION



but rather umbrellas for the different areas of our church life.

We have aligned each goal with one of the **Five Marks of Mission\*** and to state how we are already living that out, and what we might now add on to enhance and develop these areas of our life at Christ Church within the next three years.



## To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

### ORIGINAL GOALS FROM 2005

**Goal 3** *“To communicate effectively with each other and our wider communities.”*

**Goal 6** *“To provide an inspiring, creative and accessible environment for worship, education and outreach and a place of welcome for people to explore spirituality”*

### WHERE WE ARE NOW AND WHAT NEXT

Our main means of communication are through our website, magazine, internal and external noticeboards and weekly notice sheet. We will build on this by:

- Re-launching the website to make it more interactive for members of the congregation and visitors to the site
- Make more use of the Diocesan and Provincial websites where appropriate

All of our buildings are well used by the congregation and the wider community with maintenance and capital costs being well managed by the Factor and Property and Finance & Management Committees. Invaluable maintenance and other minor works are carried out on an ongoing basis by the “Bob the Builder” group of volunteers. We will build on this by:

- Making the front entrance porch of the church more accessible and attractive
- Encouraging more volunteers of both genders for the Bob the Builder group



**To teach, baptize and nurture new believers, and provide opportunities to grow in discipleship for members of all ages and learning styles.**

### **ORIGINAL GOALS FROM 2005**

- Goal 1** *“To continue to grow and nurture the members of our Young Church and Youth Fellowships and to actively seek to involve them in all aspects of the life of our church.”*
- Goal 4** *“To provide opportunities for all members of Christ Church, and those of other faiths and none, to grow in the knowledge and love of God.”*
- Goal 5** *“ To provide a range of social activities that is inclusive of all members, and to build a sense of community at Christ Church”*
- Goal 7** *“To provide a wide variety of inclusive and inspiring worship that is both rooted in our Episcopal faith tradition and accessible to those exploring faith in the contemporary world.”*
- Goal 9** *“To encourage all members of Christ Church to fulfil their call to their own ministry”*

### **WHERE WE ARE NOW AND WHAT NEXT**

Every Sunday of the year during the 10am service crèche facilities are provided and nurture and learning opportunities for 4yr olds plus are provided by the Young Church and Godly Play teams, as well as Play and Praise on Friday mornings for pre-school children. A strong informal social and support network amongst many of the families also exists.

We will build on this by

- re-establishing part of the role of the Associate Priest to provide pastoral support for families with children.
- Finding ways, in consultation with parents, of enabling the children to spend time in the church building not only during services but also at other times

- We will, with immediate effect, seek to appoint a part time Youth and Young Adult Networker for an initial period of two years.

We have a well-established Journeys in Faith Programme offering sessions, which may be one off or part of a series, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. These are led by a variety of people from both within outwith the congregation (eg New College). It also includes occasional midweek series on different topics (eg Interfaith, Creationtide) and seasonal study groups during Advent and Lent as well as a well-established Wednesday morning reflection group and a Monday morning gospel reflection time.

- We will build on the variety of content provided during the Sunday sessions by reminding the congregation that suggestions for the programme are welcomed, (*nb suggestions made at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October have been noted*), and by strengthening our links with New College and University contacts as well as ecumenical and interfaith colleagues.
- We will re-consider the timing of the Sunday sessions in light of the successful café style coffee time now being held in the hall after the 10am service.
- We will introduce weekday courses on a variety of topics e.g. basics of faith, prayer and spirituality.
- We will consider how best to advertise sessions and event that may be of interest to people in the wider community.

We offer a range of social activities throughout the year, both daytime and evening open to all ages. We will build on this by

- Encouraging members of the congregation to make suggestions of any ideas they may have for adding to what is already offered

We provide a wide range of services each week (13 in total) encompassing everything from said daily prayer and communion, informal Sunday evening services, traditional language prayer book communion, sung eucharists (with young church leading the liturgy of the word 4 times a year) and choral services. We will build on this by

- Advertising our services more widely, highlighting that crèche is provided and Young Church groups meet every Sunday of the year.

We have an extensive number of people who volunteer their time and skills to enhance the ministry and outreach of Christ Church in both seen and unseen ways. We will build on this by

- Continuing to offer training, support and encouragement for all of our current volunteers.
- Being more proactive in helping those who wish to offer more to the life of Christ Church to discern what that might be



**To respond to human need  
by loving service**

### **ORIGINAL GOALS FROM 2005**

Goal 2 *"To encourage, develop and expand our outreach activities so that we can continue to make the love of God known in our local communities"*

Goal 8 *"To provide continuing pastoral care for all, especially in times of need"*

### **WHERE WE ARE NOW AND WHAT NEXT**

Having been one of the founding members of the Eric Liddell Centre, Christ Church continues to support it both financially and practically. We provide food weekly for the St Catherine's Convent ministry to feed the homeless, we support Fresh Start by providing appropriate household items at their annual appeal in January and also to a lesser extent throughout the year.

Hats are knitted for the Mission to Seafarers, clothes for babies and young children of families in difficult circumstances, and prayer shawls for those who are sick or sorrowing.

We make widely available on noticeboards and to church members information on places where the homeless can be fed or find shelter. We operate a "no cash" policy to those in need but will always provide food and or help to find shelter as appropriate.

Open Church, staffed by volunteers 3 times a week, provides an open door for people to “come in” to the church to reflect, pray, talk, look around as they wish. We will build on this by

- Finding out how we can best support the Food Bank that operates out of Bruntsfield Evangelical Church
- Advertising all these activities more widely within the congregation, encouraging support and participation
- Increasing community awareness of our Church, in all its various facets, by considering arranging a meal once a year on a weekday evening with a suitable speaker

We have strong area and pastoral visitor ministries, and a wide informal network of pastoral care and support offered by members to one another. We will build on this by

- (As already stated on page 4) re-establishing part of the role of the Associate Priest in providing pastoral support for families with children.
- Continuing to provide support, training and resources for those exercising these pastoral ministries



**To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation**

Goal 10 “ *To demonstrate visibly our Christian action for peace and social justice for all people across the world*”

We are a Fair Trade church and run a weekly One World Shop selling fairly traded goods. Through financial giving we have a strong commitment to the Eric Liddell Centre and to Christian Aid as well as a number of projects throughout the world through the work of our UK & Overseas Support Committee. Through our Christmas giving and 10% giving (legacies) we also support a number of local and other UK charities.

We will build on this by

- By seeking to become better informed about the unjust structures of our own society and globally that cause such needs to be addressed

- By being better informed, find ways as individuals and as a congregation to respond prayerfully and actively to these issue



**To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

Although implicit in Goal 10, we have had no specific goal relating to this area but have been working for a number of years on many of the principles of being an eco congregation such as recycling, using eco friendly kitchen and cleaning products, and addressing energy efficiency in relation to our heating and lighting. We will build on this

- Informing and encouraging the congregation to reflect on the small choices they make – e.g. the banks they use; food they eat; how they interact with nature
- Hearing from others in the wider community (church and non church) about how they engage with and address this principle

### **Reflection from the Rector**

On reading this booklet I see much that gives us cause for celebration in the life of Christ Church that contributes to our part in furthering God’s mission. What I do note though is that our great strength and focus is in the second Mark of Mission: *“To teach, baptize and nurture new believers, and provide opportunities to grow in discipleship for members of all ages and learning styles”*. Our challenge now is to find ways of using those strengths to develop the other Marks of Mission, and to work out the “who and how” for the ways identified in this booklet which we will build on all to respond fully to all the Five Marks of Mission

*Susan Macdonald*

**Approved and commended by Vestry**

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*Christ Church Morningside Registered Charity SC003009*