

# Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan



**Name of Charge/s** St Andrew's Irvine

**Name of Facilitator** Elizabeth Matheson

**MAP Completed** 30/03/13.....

**YEAR 2**

## Stage 1: Why are we going for Growth?

<p><i>From the scribe's notes of the review meeting, list the last MAP actions completed</i></p>	<p>Service of Taize Prayer</p> <p>Blessing of Animals Service</p> <p>Involvement in community outreach (Care &amp; Share project)</p> <p>House Study Group</p> <p>Knitting baby clothes for Malawi</p>
<p><i>Last MAP actions not completed</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><i>Learnings from the first year's MAP and what that means for the second</i></p>	<p>In addition to the goals we set ourselves last year we have also worked more on building our ecumenical links with the Church of Scotland in Irvine and other churches in the area. Our involvement in the Care and Share project is a fairly large investment of our resources but has proved very rewarding for our outreach into the community.</p>
<p><i>Reflect upon the resourcing of the first year's MAP and what that means for the second</i></p>	<p>After some reflection on the first year's MAP we have realised that as an elderly and small congregation we cannot undertake too much. "Just keeping things going" is important to us, and so we feel we have to build on what we already have. We hope that by growing within ourselves we may, in some way, create growth in numbers in the future.</p>



<p><b>Review</b>  <i>(i)Your church as God would see it <b>now</b></i>  <i>(ii)Where God is at work in the community and in the church now.</i>  <i>(iii)What growth signs need to be built upon.</i>  <i>(iv)What avenues can be set aside for now</i></p>	<p>(i) Struggling but determined to carry on our work in the community</p> <p>(ii) God has always been there but it`s us that haven`t...! We feel God is working to help us recognise and acknowledge the need for us to be involved in our community outside our Sunday worship.</p> <p>(iii) We feel that the care we have already started in the community needs to be built upon and expanded.</p> <p>(iv) We do not feel there is anything to set aside for now.</p>
<p><b>Re-appraise, re-affirm and celebrate:</b>  <i>With regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we now exhibit the following strengths...</i></p>	<p><b>Prayer and Spirituality being a praying community:</b>  We have a number of people able to lead us in prayer together.  We have grown in spirituality through the use of Taize and silence.</p> <p><b>Learning and discipleship being a learning community:</b>  Some of us have become confident in writing our own prayers.  Our fellowship has grown during learning groups in Advent and Lent.  The Care &amp; Share Project has helped us appreciate the church`s involvement within the community as a whole.</p> <p><b>Missional leadership being an intentional community:</b>  Despite our ageing congregation some of us are able to provide help for others in our community. We`re also involved in wider community projects through our ecumenical links.</p> <p><b>Numerical growth being an affirming community:</b>  Although we lack any regular attendance by children the whole congregation encourages, includes and supports those who come occasionally.</p> <p><b>Imaginative outreach into communities being a purposeful community:</b>  Many of the congregation have lived in the community for a long time and have a detailed knowledge of our neighbours. We are an ecumenical community and involve ourselves in ecumenical projects such as Irvine Care and Share.</p> <p><b>Children and young people being a nurturing community:</b>  We do not have any regular children but the few that do attend occasionally are always welcomed and encouraged.</p>



<p><b>Re-assess:</b>  <i>With regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we are suffering from the following weaknesses now.....</i></p>	<p><b>Prayer and Spirituality being a praying community:</b>  Although we prefer private prayer we`re not sure we do it right. We`re not very open to alternative worship and prefer what we know.</p> <p><b>Learning and discipleship being a learning community:</b>  Although we have study groups they are not always fully supported.</p> <p><b>Missional leadership being an intentional community:</b>  Being an elderly congregation most people tend not to get involved in projects. We don`t seem to have enough time.</p> <p><b>Numerical growth being an affirming community:</b>  Although welcoming and inclusive when people are with us, we`re not very good at invitation.</p> <p><b>Imaginative outreach into communities being a purposeful community:</b>  We simply don`t have enough active people to be involved in most things.</p> <p><b>Children and young people being a nurturing community:</b>  We are an ageing congregation and do not have any children or young people to nurture. Those that do come occasionally are often grandchildren who are just visiting.</p>
<p><b>Investigate:</b>  <i>With regard to each strand of the strategy, we now detect the following opportunities.....</i></p>	<p><b>Prayer and Spirituality being a praying community:</b>  The silence and Taize Prayer has proved fairly successful and that gives us an opportunity to encourage our ecumenical partners to be involved too.</p> <p><b>Learning and discipleship being a learning community:</b>  As well as studying together in our own group, we recognise that there are opportunities to join Diocesan learning events as well.</p> <p><b>Missional leadership being an intentional community:</b>  Our Blessing of Animals Service has been successful and provides an opportunity to reach out to those people who do not normally join us.</p> <p><b>Numerical growth being an affirming community:</b>  Making ourselves more visible in the community is important. We need to keep our website up to date and report our events in the local press.</p> <p><b>Imaginative outreach into communities being a purposeful community:</b>  Being a small congregation we cannot master too much on our own. However, we can make a valuable contribution to the community by working ecumenically.</p> <p><b>Children and young people being a nurturing community:</b>  We can provide support and encouragement to those children who come occasionally so that the seed is planted and nurtured gradually.</p>



## Stage 2: What will our Growth Strategy involve?

<p><b>God's call to growth.</b></p> <p><i>Having thought about the challenges for each strand, discern your overall strategic response.</i></p> <p><i>(i) what is your vision of the way of life God is calling you to now?</i></p> <p><i>(ii) List the values that underpinned last year's MAP; are there any new values which you need to adopt for further growth to happen?</i></p>	<p>To consolidate and build upon that which has already been achieved. To make ourselves more visible within the community through the media of website, newspapers etc.</p> <p>To be a learning community within and outside our own congregation. Improve communication to the wider community.</p> <p>Our communication needs to be worked on so that we reach as many people as possible outside our own congregation.</p>
<p><b>Our prioritised response</b></p> <p><i>To work towards responding to that call, and expressing our values, we will focus upon the following strand (or strands) of the strategy because...</i></p>	<p><b>Imaginative outreach into communities being a purposeful community:</b></p> <p>We feel that we need to build upon the services we ourselves provide for our own community, and at the same time be more involved in those services provided ecumenically within the wider community. By doing this we hope to provide the care and support we feel is needed, and the visible sign of the Church at work in our local area.</p>
<p><b>Goals</b></p> <p><i>We will address the following by means of...</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take a regular column in the local newspaper to advertise our activities and report on those events as they happen.</li> <li>2. Ensure our website is kept up to date with those events and reports.</li> <li>3. Build an effective Pastoral Care Team</li> <li>4. Be willing to work together with the Church of Scotland on social events to build our relationship, friendship and Christian mission together.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>



### Stage 3: How will we encourage Growth?

#### Plans, processes, people and resources

*Remember: SMART – plans must be **S**pecific and documented, You must be able to **M**easure the difference you are making; so change or re-visit the Goals if necessary.*

*Your proposals must be **A**chievable; do not try to meet impossible goals. Actions must be able to be **R**esourced, by people, buildings, and funding. To enable proper review, your actions must be **T**ime bounded.*

<b>Actions:</b> <i>small achievable steps which gradually build into something bigger</i>			<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
		Building Pastoral Care Team	Barbara Mackie Cathy McMillan Judith Sydee Susan Barlow	April 2014
		Communication through Newspaper and Website	Susan Barlow	April 2014
		Ecumenical relationship with Church of Scotland	Barbara Mackie	May 2014



## Stage 4 Outputs: keeping the MAP alive

*We will endeavour to **address these plans in action, ongoing consultation and prayer**, and will regularly **affirm and celebrate God's gifts and blessings and our responses**, culminating in our annual MAP review. We will communicate widely what we have attempted, so that others may learn from our experience.*

*We have already identified the "resilience" required to keep the MAP alive. The following factors will not discourage us in our task:*

*That we are few in number and are an ageing congregation*  
.....

Date of MAP Review with Bishop/Dean .....

MAP signed by

Rector/clergyperson .....*Martin Sofield* .....Date 31/03/14

Secretary of the Vestry .....*Judith Sydee* .....Date 31/03/14

(5 copies are signed, being for the cleric, the Vestry, Bishop Gregor, the Convenor of the Regional Council and the Facilitator.)

*I will keep in contact with the charge throughout this coming year as they work for growth*

Facilitator .....*Elizabeth Matheson*.....Date .....

Agreed frequency of ongoing Facilitator contact .....2.....

*Spirit of our Loving God,  
in your mercy and compassion  
inspire, encourage and empower us  
to live and work together  
as a Diocese,  
to allow your mission for us  
to take flesh  
through Jesus Christ  
our Living and Eternal Lord. Amen*

