

St James' MAP priorities

In November 2017, St James' PCC agreed that our Mission Action Plan should be centred around the following priorities. These were identified by the M.A.P. steering committee, based on input from the congregation from the post-it note feedback in May, the survey in September and the parish event in October.

Communication and information

Reviewing how we communicate important information to regulars and outsiders, with a focus on both the methods which we use (verbal, printed, online, etc) and what we are actually communicating, including thinking about the levels of detail needed (not taking tacit knowledge for granted).

Intentional welcoming

Finding ways *as a community* (i.e. not overly onerous on individual 'regulars') to ensure that newcomers are not 'falling through the cracks' and left feeling as outsiders, particularly young families with little or no church background.

Children and families in worship

Reviewing how we engage with children and their parents in worship itself, including any practical changes or provisions that might make it easier or less stressful for parents, our choice of hymns, involvement of children in e.g. prayers or readings where appropriate, the format of all-age Eucharists, etc.

Community belonging

How do we encourage a wider sense of 'community spirit', so that for a greater number of people St James' Church becomes more of a community to belong to than a 'thing to go to'. This may involve thinking about the range of social events and making sure they are appropriate for different groups.

Empowering the people

Thinking about how we can encourage people to have sense of ownership of the Church, and fostering an openness to new ideas and approaches, listening to suggestions and taking them seriously. As one part of this, considering the process and timescales we will use to review the Mission Action Plan as a church.

Encouraging volunteers

Finding ways to more effectively utilise the skills and talents of the people with the tasks that need doing within the church, recognising the anxiety that many (with already busy lives) have about potential levels of time and commitment required.

Christian education

Reviewing how we can best either provide or facilitate Christian learning (e.g. prayer and spirituality, Biblical knowledge and understanding, the traditions and teachings of the Church) for the people of St James', recognising that people have very busy lives and that attendance at such events are often very low.