

PARISH OF ABERDARE ST FAGAN

OUR VISION

Our parish vision has developed out of a long and detailed process which has sought to involve as many people as possible in the life of our parish. Following our first Mission Action Plan, which ran from 2014-2016, a Parish Vision Meeting was held in August 2016, to which all parishioners were invited. Over 40 people attended, and discussed a whole range of issues concerning the life of the parish. Arising from this meeting, our Principles, Values and Priorities for the next few years were agreed. Subsequent PCC meetings have sought to put flesh on these bones by identifying specific actions we can take in order to put these principles, values and priorities into practice. This document, which was approved at the PCC meeting on 1st February 2018, represents our Mission Action Plan for the years 2018-2023.

As well as laying out our plans for the future, this document also celebrates and gives thanks for all that has been and all that is currently going on in the life of our parish, including initiatives which arose from the last Mission Action Plan.

Our principles

Our parish seeks

- P1. To be a place of worship, reflection and fellowship
- P2. To bring people to faith in Jesus Christ
- P3. To be at the heart of our local communities

This can be summed up by the three words: WORSHIP – FAITH – FRIENDSHIP

Our values

We have adopted the following values:

- V1. Be collaborative: we work with each other, our community, other Christian churches
- V2. Be positive: we invest our energy in getting things done
- V3. Be visible: we go outside the walls of our churches and seek opportunities to serve others
- V4. Have integrity: we put God's word at the heart of all we do

Our priorities

Flowing from our principles and values, we have identified the following as our main priorities for the next 5 years:

- A. Addressing how our three churches can work together more/discuss the configuration of churches in our parish. (P1, V1)
- B. Reach out to attract new worshippers, especially families and young people (P2, V3)
- C. Reach out to the community around us, putting ourselves at its heart (P3, V3, V4)
- D. Encourage more church members to give by Gift Direct and generally improve our finances (P1, V2)
- E. Forge more links with local schools (P3, V1-4)
- F. Grow and deepen the faith of existing worshippers (P1 & 2, V1 & 4)
- G. Involve people in whole mission of the church by practical means as well as spiritual (P1-4, V 1-4)

Putting our priorities into practice

A.

What we give thanks for:

- The three churches in our parish, their officers and congregations, and the distinctive things they bring to parish life
- The occasions on which we do come together for joint worship (eg confirmations, Patronal festivals, other festivals, and social events)

What we would like to do/see happen/consider

- Encourage children from all three churches to take part in the Good Friday service at St Luke's
- Offer transport between the three churches when joint services takes place
- Consider buying a parish minibus for the above
- Consider holding a youth service in St Luke's church hall

B.

What we give thanks for:

- The large numbers of families and young people currently involved in the life of our parish
- Our BLAST and Faith Factory groups in St Luke's and St Fagan's respectively
- Our NAB Youth Club
- Our monthly youth service
- The large numbers of confirmation candidates we have each year
- Our monthly Messy Church
- The relatively new monthly Teddy Bear service in St Luke's
- The many volunteers who keep all of the above going!
- The new worshippers we have welcomed into our churches in recent years
- The large number of baptisms we conduct each year

What we would like to do/see happen/consider

- Employ a youth worker (full or part time)
- Involve children from St John's School in leading All Sorts services
- Advertise the youth service more widely in the deanery
- Overhaul the All Sorts service in St Fagan's
- See more children attending Messy Church/Teddy Bear service (links with Priority E below)
- Encourage more leaders for Messy Church
- Hold a Messy Church session in St Luke's Hall/St John's School Hall
- Develop a more structured approach for baptism preparation (eg getting families together for all baptisms that month, YouTube resources etc)
- Encourage recently confirmed young people to remain part of the church through sporting/social events
- Continue with the discussion/social/pizza group for older youth
- Continue with the annual St Fagan's brunch in December to attract back lapsed worshippers

C.

What we give thanks for:

- The many community outreach initiatives going on, such as Caffi Cinio, Tea & Toast, Company at Christmas, the Llwydcoed Community Action Group, our links with the 1st Aberdare St Fagan's Scout Group and the groups which use St Fagan's Hall
- Our links with local schools (see also Priority E) below, and local nursing homes
- The people who come to our churches for the rites of baptism, marriage and funeral

- The legacy of our Springboard parish mission of 2015, and the team which continues to meet to keep the essence of Springboard going

What we would like to do/see happen/consider

- Provide a school holiday lunch club for children who have free school meals
- Provide a school uniform bank for families on low incomes
- Look into working with Christians Against Poverty to set up debt advice centre or similar
- Carry out community audits in Trecynon and Cwmdare (following on from Llwydcoed in 2016) to find out what the needs are
- Hold an open air service in Dare Valley Country Park
- Hold another community concert as in the Springboard week

D.

What we give thanks for:

- The generosity of past and present worshippers who sustain the life of the parish
- Our parish treasurer and finance team for their commitment and hard work

What we would like to do/see happen/consider

- Draw up a parish budget before the end of each year to try and achieve a balance of income and expenditure
- Consider ways of encouraging more church members to give by Gift Direct
- Reconsider our fundraising events programme to raise more funds while not overburdening people

E.

What we give thanks for:

- The strong links we currently have with local schools, through assemblies given by the clergy and visits for educational reasons or for carol services etc.

What we would like to do/see happen/consider:

- Run an 'Easter Experience' or 'Christmas Experience' for local schools, either inviting them to church or as a holiday club.

F.

What we give thanks for:

- Our Advent and Lent study groups, the monthly Café Church and Bible Study, the Pilgrim Course started in Autumn 2017
- The monthly prayer group started in 2015
- Peter Godsall's ordination as deacon in 2017
- Parish participation in Walsingham pilgrimages (adult and youth) and the parish retreat

What we would like to do/see happen/consider:

- Continue with the next stages of the Pilgrim course, and try and encourage newcomers to join in
- Look at establishing nurture groups for the congregations
- Hold a 'teaching Eucharist' in one of the All Sorts services to explain what goes on in the Eucharist
- Hold a quiet day for the pastoral visiting team
- Consider a pilgrimage to Iona or similar
- Encourage parishioners to consider vocations to ordination or reader ministry

G.

What we give thanks for:

- The many people who give generously of their time and talents in service of the church

What we would like to do/see happen/consider:

- Carry out a skills audit of the congregation to harness people's gifts
- Start a "men's group"
- Set up a parish email database to keep people informed of what is going on
- Encourage people from outside the congregation to help out eg with St Fagan's weekly working party
- Form a young parents group based on adults confirmed in 2017

Detailed planning

Goal	Next action required to take this forward	Responsibility	By when
PRIORITY A			
Encourage children from all three churches to take part in the Good Friday service at St Luke's	Publicity/personal invitations to children from other churches	Clergy/children's leaders in other churches	Early 2018
Offer transport between the three churches when joint services takes place	Publicise in advance of joint services/encourage church members to ask around	Clergy/wardens/all church members	Ongoing
Consider buying a parish minibus for the above	Consider feasibility at future PCC meeting – 17 th April	PCC – maybe specific members to look into?	17 th April 2018
Consider holding a youth service in St Luke's church hall	Youth service planning group to consider	Youth service planning group	Mid 2018
PRIORITY B			
Employ a youth worker (full or part time)	Think about putting together application for diocesan mission fund or similar	Springboard Team/PCC sub-group – next agenda	17 th April 2018
Involve children from St John's School in leading All Sorts services	Discuss with Adam Hollidge	Clergy?	1 st half of 2018
Advertise the youth service more widely in the deanery	Identify one service where we invite youth from other parishes	Youth service planning team	Latter half of 2018
Overhaul the All Sorts service in St Fagan's	Think about changes that could be made	St Fagan's leadership team	1 st half 2018
See more children attending Messy Church/Teddy Bear service (links with Priority E below)	Distribute publicity further ahead in advance of sessions/services. Contact recently baptised	Fr Richard / publicity officer	Ongoing
Encourage more leaders for Messy Church	Put out appeal in parish/link with skills audit	Fr Richard	Mid 2018
Hold a Messy Church session in St Luke's Hall/St John's School Hall	Consider at Springboard Team/consult with Sue Mitchell	Springboard team	1 st half 2018
Develop a more structured approach for baptism preparation (eg getting families together for all	Consider at Springboard Team	Springboard team	2 nd half 2018

baptisms that month, YouTube resources etc)			
Encourage recently confirmed young people to remain part of the church through sporting/social events	Organise events in each half term	Springboard Team	Ongoing
Continue with the discussion/social/pizza group for older youth	Continue to hold each month, invite more young people	Youth leaders	Ongoing
Continue with the annual St Fagan's brunch in December to attract back lapsed worshippers	Continue to hold each year. Suggest moving to January. Perhaps more than once per year?	St Fagan's wardens & clergy	January 2019
PRIORITY C			
Provide a school holiday lunch club for children who have free school meals	Jan Vardon & Nancy Read to report to PCC meeting 30/11/17	Decide resulting from presentation	Review Jan 2018 PCC
Provide a school uniform bank for families on low incomes	Consult with Sue Mitchell etc., think about practicalities	Springboard team	Early/mid 2018
Look into working with Christians Against Poverty to set up debt advice centre or similar	To consider at a future PCC meeting	PCC	2019
Carry out community audits in Trecynon and Cwmdare (following on from Llwydcoed in 2016) to find out what the needs are	To consider at a future Springboard meeting	Springboard team	2019
Hold an open air service in Dare Valley Country Park	Decide on date, venue, format	Springboard team – agenda for future meeting	Mid-late 2018
Hold another community concert as in the Springboard week	Set date and organise acts	Social committee – date set for 27 July. Meet before to organise	After Easter 2018
PRIORITY D			
Draw up a parish budget before the end of each year to try and achieve a balance of income and expenditure	Start consulting on budget in summer of each year	Finance committee	Summer 2018
Consider ways of encouraging more church members to give by Gift Direct	Finance committee to consider	As above	Early 2018
Reconsider our fundraising events programme to raise more funds while not overburdening people	Social committee to consider	Social committee	Meeting held January 2018

PRIORITY E			
Run an 'Easter Experience' or 'Christmas Experience' for local schools, either inviting them to church or as a holiday club.	Invite Tonyrefail churchwarden to next PCC meeting. Plan for Christmas 2018	Peter Godsall	April 2018
PRIORITY F			
Continue with the next stages of the Pilgrim course, and try and encourage newcomers to join in	Run stage 2 in summer 2018, Contact newcomers via email	Clergy	Mid 2018
Look at establishing nurture groups for the congregations	Consider at church leadership teams	Leadership teams	2019
Hold a 'teaching Eucharist' in one of the All Sorts services to explain what goes on in the Eucharist	Include in planning cycle for All Sorts Services	Clergy/wardens/children's leaders	Early 2018
Hold a quiet day for the pastoral visiting team	Date set: 15 March 2018	Fr Richard/Visiting team	
Consider a pilgrimage to Iona or similar	Look in to costs	Clergy	2021/2
Encourage parishioners to consider vocations to ordination or reader ministry	Consider at Springboard team, seek advice from vocations advisers. Link with St John's school – pupils?	Springboard team	2022/3
PRIORITY G			
Carry out a skills audit of the congregation to harness people's gifts	Draft questionnaire and distribute	Clergy/wardens	2019/20
Start a "men's group"	Organise meeting to gauge interest – Penderyn distillery?	Martyn Silezin	Autumn 2018
Set up a parish email database to keep people informed of what is going on	Distribute forms for people to give email address and consent – comply with data protection law	Wardens/leadership teams/consult with Catherine Evans re wording etc.	Mid 2018
Encourage people from outside the congregation to help out eg with St Fagan's weekly working party	Consider at St Fagan's leadership team	St Fagan's leadership team	May 2018
Form a young parents group based on adults confirmed in 2017	Talk to adults, see if interested. Get adults confirmed last year to mentor ones for this year – start with meal	Clergy	Early/mid 2018

Goals for each year

2018-2019

- Encourage children from all three churches to take part in the Good Friday service at St Luke's
- Offer transport between the three churches when joint services takes place
- Consider buying a parish minibus for the above
- Consider holding a youth service in St Luke's church hall
- Investigate employing a youth worker (full or part time)
- Involve children from St John's School in leading All Sorts services
- Advertise the youth service more widely in the deanery
- Overhaul the All Sorts service in St Fagan's
- See more children attending Messy Church/Teddy Bear service
- Encourage more leaders for Messy Church
- Hold a Messy Church session in St Luke's Hall/St John's School Hall
- Develop a more structured approach for baptism preparation (eg getting families together for all baptisms that month, YouTube resources etc)
- Encourage recently confirmed young people to remain part of the church through sporting/social events
- Continue with the discussion/social/pizza group for older youth
- Continue with the annual St Fagan's brunch to attract back lapsed worshippers – maybe hold more than once per year
- Provide a school holiday lunch club for children who have free school meals
- Draw up a parish budget before the end of each year to try and achieve a balance of income and expenditure – start planning in summer
- Consider ways of encouraging more church members to give by Gift Direct
- Reconsider our fundraising events programme to raise more funds while not overburdening people
- Continue with the next stages of the Pilgrim course, and try and encourage newcomers to join in
- Hold a 'teaching Eucharist' in one of the All Sorts services to explain what goes on in the Eucharist
- Hold a quiet day for the pastoral visiting team
- Form a young parents group based on adults confirmed in 2017
- Encourage people from outside the congregation to help out eg with St Fagan's weekly working party
- Hold another community concert as in the Springboard week
- Run an 'Christmas Experience' for local schools, either inviting them to church or as a holiday club.
- Start a "men's group"
- Set up a parish email database to keep people informed of what is going on

2019-2020

- Look into working with Christians Against Poverty to set up debt advice centre or similar
- Carry out community audits in Trecynon and Cwmdare (following on from Llwydcoed in 2016) to find out what the needs are
- Provide a school uniform bank for families on low incomes
- Hold an open air service in Dare Valley Country Park
- Look at establishing nurture groups for the congregations

2020-2021

- Consider a pilgrimage to Iona or similar
- Carry out a skills audit of the congregation to harness people's gifts

2021/22/23

- Encourage parishioners to consider vocations to ordination or reader ministry