**Short Guide to Creating a Mission Action Plan**

**What is a Mission Action Plan?**

The Miss ion Action Plan (MAP) is a document which outlines and develops your church’s vis ion for the future, and the practical steps your church are going to take towards achieving those goals.

Developing a MAP provides a way to make sure the life and work of your church is purposeful, forward thinking and focused on the Diocesan Strategy.

**4 Stages of developing a MAP:**

**Consulting Church Members – Getting everyone involved!**

***Consultation can be done in several ways, from corporate meetings to questionnaires, but involving all members of your church is a vital aspect of creating a shared vision, and developing a plan of action which everyone can feel part of.***

To get your initial ideas off the ground, you could consider asking people about:

• Their story – how God has brought them here?

• The church’s s tory – where God has been at work in the community?

• Their dreams – what they would hope for in the future of the church, without any constraints of resources? This should be focused on Growing Numerically & Spiritually, Contributing to the Common Good and Reimagining Ministry

• The key issues they believe there are in the church’s life locally, and which are most important?

**2. Shaping a Vision**

***The ‘vision’ is the heart of your document; it is an aspirational, theoretical ideal upon which your plans can be built.***

Your vision should address issues such as :

* What would your church ideally like to achieve?
* What topics does your church feel are of key importance?
* What ideas really encompassed important aspects of the diocesan strategy and mission which are currently underdeveloped or missing from your church.

However, once you have created your draft vision for your church, don’t forget to again discuss your ideas with the wider church community. Participation equals positivity! Your congregation must recognise the vision as derived from their input, the more they are involved and consulted the greater their ownership, and acceptance, of your fresh ideas should be.

**3. Developing the Plan**

***The plan embodies the practical considerations, and should relate your mission to all aspects of church life.***

One way to structure your plan could be around the three central characteristics of your church: Looking in – How will your miss ion nurture and grow the faith of your church community?

(Growing Numerically & Spiritually)

Looking out - How will your miss ion care for, and impact upon, the wider community? (Contribute to the Common Good)

Looking up – How will your miss ion provide worship and sustain faith? (Reimagine Ministry)

**What to include in the plan?**

• What are you already doing which you would like to build upon or expand?

• What are you currently doing which should be reconsidered or stopped?

• What new ideas and initiatives would you like to s tart being involved with?

• What resources will you need to carry out your plans ?

• Will any training be required in order for you to fulfil your aims ?

• How will progress be reviewed?

• How will necessary changes to your MAP be made?

**4. Communicating your MAP**

***Your MAP is a living document. It is designed to be used every day!***

* Dis tribute your Action Plan as widely as possible throughout the Community, the more people see it and hear about it in daily church life the better.
* You could consider creating an A5 flyer to have at the back of the church for

people to pick up; include it in your newsletter; reference it in sermons and in your choice of charitable aid; include your vis ion and ideas in every aspect of church life!

* Review, and us e, your MAP at each PCC meeting as a way of checking your

 church’s priorities and us e of resources

**Mission Action Plan Summary**

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| **STRATEGY AREA** | **AGREED GOAL** | **PLAN** | **TIME****SCALE** | **RESOURCE****IMPLICATIONS** | **TRAINING NEEDED** | **REVIEW DATE** |
| Looking in – Growing Numerically & Spiritually |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Looking out - Contribute to the Common Good |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Looking up – Reimagine Ministry |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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