

## ***From The Rectory***

The Diocese asked every parish or benefice to come up with a new or renewed Mission Action plan by Advent Sunday last year. We were working to a deadline and ideally looking for something which all three Parochial Church Councils could each get behind. You can read below what we came up with.

I don't say its perfect or complete. It is a working document which can be revised. We may come up with better ideas. Or decide that some of this is misguided. But here are some principles we are agreed on. And some next steps which we want to take under God.

We would love you to get involved. How could you benefit from or contribute to this mission? We'd love you to support it by your presence, by turning up at things! By using your gifts to serve others. Your happy smiling face and kind words could make a real difference. And by your giving. And by your prayers.

This Mission Action Plan aims to serve you and to give you opportunities to serve. Will you partner with us?

I'd always welcome your comments or questions and parishioners are always more than welcome to contact me:

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(Day off normally a Friday)

### **The Parishes of Warbleton, Bodle Street Green & Dallington**

#### **MISSION ACTION PLAN**

We want to Know, Love and Follow Jesus, and to make Him known. In line with the Diocesan Strategy 2020-2025, we aim to grow both in faithfulness and in number, being more open (one), more converted to Jesus Christ (holy), more generous (catholic) and more engaged (apostolic). See further:

[https://cofechichester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/01/NEW\\_Vision\\_Booklet\\_web.pdf](https://cofechichester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/01/NEW_Vision_Booklet_web.pdf)

Most of our regular activities are mentioned in our weekly notice sheet and monthly parish magazine (available at: warbletonchurch.org.uk) and on our websites, Facebook pages and Twitter account.

We are committed to the prayerful teaching and preaching of the Scriptural Good News of Jesus Christ in dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit.

We want our benefice to be an attractive option for all parishioners (and those from beyond the parish) whatever their age or background or level of previous Christian commitment. In particular, we will always do all we can to welcome children and families.

We have three strategic aims which will be a standing agenda item at all normal PCC meetings: Evangelism, Discipleship and Training in Ministry.

## **(1) EVANGELISM – Sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who are not yet believers**

We understand this to include “pre-evangelism”, making contact with those who are not yet Christians or regular church goers and building genuine friendships with them. We encourage every member to be a good neighbour and to be involved in the community. We do not want our committed members to be so busy with church that they have no time left for non-Christian friends. We will also look for opportunities to engage with our communities not only as individuals but as churches, such as at the Flower Show or in carol singing.

When someone moves into the parish, the Rector will aim to visit them with a free copy of the parish magazine and a welcome letter. Members of the PCC will let the Rector know if they spot someone moving in!

We will encourage every committed member to be able to say something about the Christian faith and their own relationship with Jesus. We will offer training in this. We encourage every member to be praying for local family and friends who are not yet believers and seeking to share the good news with them or invite them to an event. We have a bookmark available to act as a prompt for this.

We will use our Collect for Church Growth regularly in services.

In addition to all our normal activities, we will typically aim to put on two specifically evangelistic events a year (often a meal with a speaker) and will also offer a follow up course such as *Christianity Explored*.

In 2022, we are planning an evangelistic event and a youth evangelistic event working with Horam and Hailsham Parish Churches as part of the Gospel Partnership *Passion for Life* Mission.

We will think about suitable next steps for all those with whom we already have some kind of contact.

## **(2) DISCIPLESHIP – Knowing, Loving and Following Jesus**

We think of discipleship as involving every area of life, not just religious, spiritual or churchy activities.

We encourage all committed members to deepen their spiritual life by:

- Attending Morning or Evening Prayer (available on Facebook each day)
- Personal Prayer and Bible Reading (for which we offer resources)
- Belonging to a midweek group (Two new homegroups began in 2021)
- Reading the bible / praying one to one or in a small group AND / OR
- Other reading or study (e.g., our Lent book, something from our bookstall)

We hope that as far as possible every committed member will consider attending our monthly benefice Prayer Meeting Prayer First.

We also encourage all committed members to consider Planned Giving / The Parish Giving Scheme and to give what they can in proportion to their means.

## **(3) TRAINING IN MINISTRY – How can we help others to help others to know, love and follow Jesus?**

We consider every Christian to be a minister and want to encourage and help one another to minister to one another and to others. We will aim to identify training needs and provide or signpost to suitable training. For some, a form of Authorised Lay Ministry may be appropriate.

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Wherever possible we will work together in the benefice and with others in the deanery and diocese, with other denominations and all those of good will. In particular, Warbleton Parish Church also belongs to The Sussex Gospel Partnership. When possible, the Rector and other representatives will attend SGP meetings.

In addition to the above we will also:

- Continue to work on the provision of a loo and the improvement of kitchen facilities at Dallington
- Explore debit, credit card and online giving for Bodle Street Green and Dallington Churches
- Make contact with Carrick's Brook care home and explore working together
- Look for opportunities to develop our involvement at Dallington C of E Primary School, including inviting children and families to take part in special services such as Remembrance, Harvest etc. We might consider offering coffee and cake to parents at special midweek school services.
- At Bodle Street and Dallington we will develop a contacts list with emails and phone numbers
- Review our websites and Church Near You Pages
- Review our displays and the information and literature we provide
- Return to keeping Warbleton Parish Church open in the daytime
- Consider how we could offer a special welcome to walkers at Warbleton Parish Church

Agreed by the PCCs and sent to the diocese Advent Sunday 2021  
Review in 2025