

# CHRIST CHURCH HIGHBURY

## Mission Action Plan



Christ Church Highbury is a living, praying, worshipping community in the heart of Highbury.

The last version of the church's vision and strategic plan came out of consultations and development in 2007. It identified the central vision and mission of Christ Church and set out the outcomes towards which the Church could work. Many of the objectives of that plan were achieved. After much prayerful consideration some key themes emerged as to where God might be leading us over the next five years. In 2012 these were put together in a draft Mission Action Plan.

In consultation with the PCC, the staff team and individual members of the congregation we arrived at a new set of plans. These broadly fall into three areas:

Adult Discipleship

Children's Ministry

Community Engagement

The other areas of the Church's' life continue to be developed as part of the Churches overall mission and engagement, building on the work done so far, but the plan does not go into detail as to how this on-going work is to continue. It is important to emphasise that this planning process is not a matter of jumping through hoops or ticking boxes. Rather it is an expression of our living faith in Jesus Christ set in the context of being a Christian Community in Highbury. Rooted in prayer and worship we seek to reach out to all in loving service in the name of Jesus Christ.

May God lead and encourage us as we seek to share God's hope, faith and love with all in our parish and beyond.

Jonathan

May 2012

VISION: 

To be faithful to God, love each other and bring God's life to the world

AIMS: 

To be a Christ centred and growing community (Roots Down)

*where* every member is encouraged and equipped to grow as a fully committed disciple of Jesus

*where* our life and values are shaped by the Gospel

*where* young and old and everyone in between matter to God and to each of us

*where* the Bible is taught intelligently, accessibly and with relevance at all levels of our Church's life

*where* we are attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading and enabling

*where* all children and young people are priorities for our ministry

*where* prayer is a top priority as we seek the Lord's direction together

*where* creative liturgy and musical resources are used to inspire worship

*where* there's no 'first class' or 'second class' Christian, just one journey to be on together

*where* everyone makes the effort to befriend those outside their natural circles of friendship

*where* we care for one another as we "bear one another's burdens"

*where* every member aims to discover their God given gifts



## To be an outward looking and serving community (Branches Out)

*where* we seek to live for Jesus Christ and make him known

*where* newcomers are swiftly integrated into the life of the church and feel 'at home'

*where* the love of Jesus finds practical expression for those in need

*where* we go out of our way to meet people outside the church at their point of need

*where* everyone is encouraged to use their gifts in the ministry of the church and in God's world

*where* we seek to engage with the people of our parish and city

*where* we learn how to serve God in our places of work

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

To continue to operate as a living, praying and worshipping community in the heart of Highbury (ie we will not neglect the "business as usual" aspects of running a healthy church).

### AND

God is calling us to focus on 3 priorities:

**Deepen and develop adult discipleship** encouraging each person on their spiritual journey whatever their stage of faith

**Develop Christ Church as a beacon for children's ministry** by providing a centre of excellence where best practice and new ideas can emerge

**Grow in outreach and service to the community** by developing existing work and exploring other ways of responding to local need

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

- Pilot a new mentoring programme available to all
- Begin a new monthly service aimed at 18-35 year olds
- Extend membership of home groups including new youth discipleship group
- Monthly gathering for food, teaching and fellowship
- Work towards a Christian "way of life" for each individual
- Extended sermon series on discipleship
- Run an overview of the Bible course using the SPTC material
- Run a Marriage Course
- Parish w/e away (2013)

Existing activity for Adult Discipleship Team

- Alpha, Homegroups, Ethics Group
- Lent Groups, Theology course
- Men's Breakfast,
- Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Feasibility study to explore how best we can develop Christ Church as a beacon for children's ministry
- Implement outcomes from the study
- Create a new, safe space for parents and children to enjoy (building)
- Encourage different approaches to developing children's work eg. Messy Church, a new parenting course etc.



Existing activity for children

- Playgroup, Parent and toddler group
- Baby crèche, Toddler crèche
- Beginners Group, Explorers Group
- Pathfinders Group, All-Age Worship
- Friday Night Youth Group

## OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY

- Feasibility study to extend Fellowship Room to create a café and community space
- Carry out parish audit (year 1)
- Develop plan to meet the parish's needs
- Support 'Sinai in the City' initiative for families
- Develop our partnership with St John's School

Existing activity for Community Engagement Team

- Teas for the elderly, Nightshelter
- Parent and toddler group, Christ Church Playgroup
- Friday Night Youth Club, Highbury Fields School Lunch-club
- Transition Highbury Garden Project
- Nurture links with regular hirers of Christ Church eg. Sparky Songs, Brownies etc.



## ENABLING OBJECTIVES

- Implement fundraising strategy to support our financial needs
- Implement new organisational structures and develop leadership
- Improve internal and external communication
- Develop our buildings to support our aims and objectives

Fundraising

Full stewardship campaign every 2 years

Source a fundraiser to apply to Cloudesley

Promote giving through legacies

Regular fundraising events (at least every 2 months)

Leadership and organisation

New organisational structures (see appendix)

Training and support for mentors

Run another Growing Leaders course

Clergy retreats, conferences and staff away days

Communication

Website development

New external and internal noticeboards

Articles in existing local papers and publications

Better signposting for services and events

Buildings

Feasibility study to extend the Fellowship Room to create café and community space and safe space for parents and children

Re-decorate the worship space

## YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES

- Put in place a new organisational structure
- Extended sermon series on discipleship
- Appoint new music director
- Launch 'Sinai in the City' initiative
- Feasibility study to explore how best we can develop Christ Church as a beacon for children's ministry
- Carry out parish audit
- Replace and redesign external noticeboards
- Redesign noticeboards and 'look and feel' in Fellowship Room

