

Christ Church Highbury - Mission Action Plan 2019 (draft)

The following document is our draft Mission Action Plan. It results from some time in prayerful reflection by the PCC at an away day, and subsequent meetings, where we have tried to discern what God is calling us to at Christ Church at this time. We would really value your thoughts on this draft plan,. With that in mind, there are some questions at the end of this document. Please do email us office@christchurchhighbury.com with your thoughts, or respond in person in a small gathering in the Fellowship Room at 10am on Sunday 14 April. Many thanks,

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Where are we coming from?

Mission Action Plans should rarely start from scratch. We are part of a church community that has grown out of generations of Highbury people trying to be faithful followers of Christ in this place. Our reflections as a PCC looking at the last Mission Action Plan were that we are now being called to deepen rather than change the plan.

Active churches such as Christ Church always find it easier to start new ministries than they do to stop existing work. Therefore unless we are in a time of rapid numerical growth, there is always the risk of overextending and exhausting ourselves.

As we looked back on the last Mission Action Plan, it became clear that whilst really significant work has been achieved in the last six years, we had set ourselves more targets than we have been able to hit.

A continuing theme in away-day discussions was a need for our people to be nurtured, to grow and to be refreshed. The proposed Mission Action Plan takes inspiration from Jesus' promise of living water in the Gospel of John, and Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel 47) of the water of life flowing from the temple.

Jesus said:

Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (John 4.14)

Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6.35)

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. (John 7.38)

Vision:

For the love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ and welling up in the Holy Spirit, to be known and experienced throughout Highbury.

Core mission aims:

1. To be a place where everyone can come to faith in Jesus Christ and grow spiritually
2. To be a 'well', drawing people from across the local community to a place where they can find refreshment, healing and wholeness
3. To be a church which looks beyond itself and resources mission and ministry both home and away.

Key activities for each aim:

1. To be a place where everyone can come to faith in Jesus Christ and grow spiritually.
 - a. A regular cycle of Alpha/ Pilgrim feeding into...
 - b. A regular cycle of Baptism and Confirmation and...
 - c. A well-managed and supported network of home groups enriched by study evenings at Christ Church and other London churches.
 - d. Investment in and support for work with children and young people, with a better venue for children's work, increased support and nurture for Junior Church leaders, and the appointment of a Children's and Youth Co-ordinator.
 - e. A prayer network including a prayer cycle, prayer available at the end of services and the opportunity to pray and be refreshed on retreat days, weekends away etc.
2. To be a 'well', drawing people from across the local community to a place where they can find refreshment, healing and wholeness.
 - a. An ongoing programme of service that meets the needs of the more vulnerable in our community, particularly those affected by loneliness, mental distress and poverty, to include...
 - b. The Night Shelter project
 - c. The Memory café
 - d. The parent and toddler group
 - e. The provision of space/ support for community groups in the new community centre.
3. To support our wider society in knowing and experiencing God's love.

- a. The prayerful and financial support of our mission partners. Our congregation are kept well informed about the work of our partners and there are opportunities to review and suggest new partners
- b. Involvement with representation within wider societal campaigns – for example Citizens UK etc.

Enablers - the things that will help us in the grace of God to achieve our aims:

Our people, including staff and all volunteers.

Our buildings.

Intentional partnership with neighbouring churches.

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Questions for Reflection

1. Do you feel that the three core mission aims are appropriate?
2. Is there anything you feel strongly should be a priority that is not described above?
3. Is there anything described above you feel strongly should not be included?
4. How can you personally help Christ Church Highbury fulfil its vision?