

A Mission Action Plan for St Giles-in-the-Fields

For the Parochial Church Council, 8th July 2018

Period of time

- To cover the period from 8th July until the PCC meeting of July 2019 and beyond

Preamble

To be mindful of

- The **Diocesan Capital Vision 20 | 20** principles
 - Confident
 - Creative
 - Compassionate
- The Church of England / Ecumenical **Five Marks of Mission:**
 - To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
 - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
 - To respond to human need by loving service
 - To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
 - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth
- The previous Mission Action plan
- The changes facing St Giles in the public realm in the coming years
- The challenges facing St Giles in terms of lay and priestly leadership in the coming years

Reflection

- *We have reasons to be **confident** because of*
 - the quality of our worship
 - our tradition of, and desire for, hospitality
 - the pastoral bonds that have grown between us
 - the growth of our presence within the local and wider community

- *We are not without **creativity***
 - through liturgy and music
 - by promoting and supporting artistic and pastoral activity
 - by providing a home for affiliated ministries
 - developing expressions of our historic place

- *We would like to become more actively **compassionate***
 - Our long tradition prompts reflection on the provision of care
 - Our more recent tradition has provided space for others to provide care and support
 - The time has come to engage in a more deliberate programme of compassionate action

- Some elements of the Five Marks of Mission correspond with the life of St Giles but not all and as such they continue to challenge us
 - We proclaim the good news, and offer teaching, and nurture, but only within the existing framework of ministry and liturgy
 - Informally we respond to human need by loving service but formally less so
 - Transforming unjust structures and safeguarding the integrity of creation have not been a feature of the ministry and mission of St Giles

- Many of the local public realm works will be completed during 2019
 - Crossrail will be in operation
 - The Denmark Street redevelopment will be nearing completion
 - The street layout opposite St Giles will have been re-landscaped as part of the West Street Project

Missionary identity

- To retain A church of blessing, encouragement and praise

Missionary tasks

- **The Reaching Out programme**, designed
 - to draw more people to Sunday worship for the first time, through
 - § a modernised website
 - § advertising more widely on social media forums
 - § investing in creative expressions of the historic significance of St Giles
 - to retain the allegiance of more and nurture belonging, by
 - § developing a social media community of friends and followers
 - § sending out regular publicity f worship and events
 - § being more deliberate in making contact with new worshippers
 - § explore setting up regular social gatherings open to all
 - § explore ideas such as a book reading group and a walking group
 - § create more openings for voluntary involvement
 - to widen the scope of our appeal
 - § to explore areas of common interest with the local resident and business community (see below)

- **Investing in a more creative use of space for ministry and mission**
 - To undertake a feasibility study of part of the **crypt** with a view to adapting it as a place to provide
 - § facilities as a night-time shelter for members of the street homeless community
 - § meeting space for support groups
 - § meeting space for other appropriate groups
 - To undertake a feasibility study to erect a **building** on the piece of ground between the Vestry House and the children's playground in the churchyard
 - § to be used as a publically-run, church-based kindergarten
 - § to be used for other child-related activities
 - To carry out a renovation project for the **Vestry House** in order to
 - § fully and appropriately conserve and restore the building
 - § establish the room as a more prestigious meeting space

▪ **Building a new generation of St Giles people**

Collectively the above proposals are intended

- to sustain and enhance the communitarian dimension of belonging to St Giles whether
 - § actively through commitment in worship and music
 - § passively through using the church buildings for some other shared purpose, such as work with young people and families or in the promotion of charitable causes
- to provide the foundation for identifying and creating a new generation of those who, enjoying and finding nourishing the shared faith and tradition of St Giles, will wish to be involved in lay leadership in the coming years
- build up and develop a group of those committed to sustaining and growing the congregation through a time of transition beyond the term of the current Rector

The Reverend Alan Carr, Rector