

## **Mission Action Planning – starting the journey**

A couple of months ago Deborah, as her sermon, told us about the Archbishop's request that all parishes in the diocese develop a Mission Action Plan for the parish and submit it to him by Spring 2012. She outlined the Mission Action Planning process and sought volunteers to help take forward this initiative. I was one of those who volunteered.

In order to find out more Barbara Patterson, Lizzie Miller and I attended an evening seminar with Diocesan Representatives at All Saint's in Oxhey. A number of representatives from other parishes were there. Some 24 of us in all.

We learnt that Mission Action Planning is a central element in the diocesan initiative '*Living God's Love*' with its three themes:

*Go Deeper into God,*  
*Transform Communities* and to  
*Make New Disciples.*

We were told that it is an invitation to journey, to see things from new perspectives, to discover new ways of doing things and to learn from each other as we travel together.

In recognition that the process of Mission Action Planning is a journey a video was shown looking at three journeys in the Bible which had powerful lessons for all those seeking to Live God's Love today.

The first was Elijah's journey from Mount Carmel to Mount Horeb a distance of some 400 miles (1 Kings 19); the second the passage from Luke Chapter 10 when Jesus sends seventy of his followers out in pairs to spread the word that the Kingdom of God has come near and the third also from Luke the journey of the two disciples to Emmaus after Jesus' death when he joins them and walks with them on their way. Luke 24 verse 13 to the end.

All three journeys involved risk and uncertainty. Companionship and working together is part of each story. And food features in all three; with the Angel giving bread to Elijah to encourage him to continue his journey when he was despairing and wishing only for death; Jesus sending out his disciples with nothing telling them to accept the hospitality offered 'eating and drinking whatever they provide'. Finally it is only after the disciples have invited the stranger that joined them on the road to Emmaus to stay and eat with them that they recognise him as Jesus when he 'took bread, blessed and broke it'

We are starting St Mary's Mission Action Planning journey and will need you to travel with us in determining priorities and a course of action. A number of workshops are planned and we hope that as many people as possible will attend

one of them. It is vitally important that our plan for St Mary's is developed with and by the congregation.

The proposed dates and times (to be confirmed) for the workshops are:

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 - 8.00 pm**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 11.30 – 1.00**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2.00 – 2.30**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 – 12.00**

We will regularly report on progress in the Link

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