



Mission Action Plan Review 2014/15

The Mission Action Plan Goals for 2014/15 were agreed by the UCC on 13 January 2014.

The Goals were:

- Goal 1. To establish a teaching course on prayer and/or offering a course on leadership of small groups
- Goal 2. Review and seek to improve the welcome we offer to everyone and specifically in 2014/15 focus on a) establishing the welcoming team; b) progressing the plans for the North Porch and c) reviewing the arrangements for coffee after Church.
- Goal 3. Form a new Events Committee to plan an active programme of events throughout the year
- Goal 4. Continue and, where possible, increase the Church's involvement and visibility in the community including St Mary's School and specifically in 2014/15 to a) celebrate the work of St Mary's people in the community during Volunteering Week and b) introduce a regular article in Link featuring the work St Mary's people undertake in the community.

Review of progress

Goal 1. To establish a teaching course on prayer and/or offering a course on leadership of small groups

A course on leadership of small groups was held in the autumn of 2013 which a few people attended but this did not result in any new home groups being established. The course was not repeated in 2014/15 and the minutes of the Community and Outreach Committee of 1st December record that this is on hold at present.

During lent in 2014 a weekly prayer course was held focusing on ways to pray which was well received by those who attended.

Over the weekend of 5-7 September a 'Home from Home' retreat was held which provided opportunities for prayer, discussion and reflection as well social opportunities to get to know each other better.

Goal 2. Review and seek to improve the welcome we offer to everyone and specifically in 2014/15 focus on a) establishing the welcoming team; b) progressing the plans for the North Porch and c) reviewing the arrangements for coffee after Church.

A welcoming team has been established and the minutes of the Community and Outreach Committee of 1 December records that 'the Sunday welcome is better – but needs some tweaking (giving of cards; who they go to)'. The minutes also refer to further work : newcomers' events and the possibility of e-mailing information on activities and services to those interested.

Plans for improvements to the North Porch have been discussed and proposals for alterations to the door, including push pad, agreed. It is anticipated that the proposed alterations to the North Door will be implemented during 2015/16. No decision has yet been made on the more comprehensive scheme which includes a ramp up to the door.

Arrangements for coffee after Church have been reviewed and coffee has occasionally been offered in Church on the third Sunday of the month. However the logistics of providing coffee in Church mean that more volunteers are required and many of the regular volunteers do not feel up to the physical demands associated with providing coffee

in church. When coffee is offered in church it works well socially but in practice it has turned out to be too much to ask of those who volunteer to provide coffee.

The financial arrangements for coffee after church have been clarified by the UCC. Donations are requested to wards the cost of providing coffee and refreshments and once the costs of provision have been covered the surplus, if any, goes to the charity Toybox.

Goal 3. Form a new Events Committee to plan an active programme of events throughout the year

An Events committee has been formed with Deborah as Chair. A programme of events was published for 2014 and one has also been published for 2015. Despite the programme of events giving advance notice of all events the barn dance was not well supported and the Sound of Music 'Sing-a-Long' and Christmas Pudding making had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Goal 4. Continue and, where possible, increase the Church's involvement and visibility in the community including St Mary's School and specifically in 2014/15 to a) celebrate the work of St Mary's people in the community during Volunteering Week and b) introduce a regular article in Link featuring the work St Mary's people undertake in the community.

Newsletters continue to be produced and delivered to every home in the parish. St Mary's run the Credit Union collection point for Rickmansworth and has introduced a collection point for the Food Bank.

St Mary's had a presence at the Bury Fete, on both days of the Rickmansworth Festival, at the Rickmansworth Society Autumn Market and at the Rickmansworth Christmas Evening. We once again held a community picnic although it was less well supported this year.

The service to commemorate Remembrance Sunday provided a focus for the whole community to commemorate the start of WW1.

At Christmas St Mary's people led Churches Together in Rickmansworth in singing Carols outside Marks and Spencer and at Tudor Parade. Deborah once again led Carols at the Rose and Crown Pub, in addition to the Boaters Christian Fellowship service at Batchworth Lock. Michael led a Carol Service at Wensum Court.

Girls from the Royal Masonic School have joined our main Sunday Service on a number of occasions during the year and their choir has sung for us.

We regularly advertise community activities in Link; Watersmeet Film Club, Rickmansworth Decorative and Fine Arts Society lectures and Rickmansworth Horticultural Society meetings.

In relation to St Mary's School, articles in Link provide an updated on their activities. Deborah and others continue to run J Club at the school; and some members of the congregation help in other ways at the school. Claire Husbands has been appointed as School Link Co-ordinator to be St Mary's focal point for communication with the school.

The work of St Mary's people who volunteer in the community was celebrated on the Sunday of volunteering week. Heather Pearce has agreed write articles for Link about St Mary's people and the charities/voluntary work in which they are involved.

The Way Forward: Goals for 2015/16

The UCC decided essentially to roll forward the goals for a further year deleting Goal 1 and slightly amending the other three goals. It has to be remembered that if we are to continue doing all the things we are currently doing, and doing them well, there is limited capacity to do more.

The Goals for 2015/16 are:

- **To continue to improve the welcome we offer to everyone and specifically in 2015/16 focus on a) tweaking the way the welcoming team works; b) installing a New North Door and c) reviewing accessibility for people with disabilities.**
- **To review the success of the programme of activities and offered in 2014 and 2015 prior to producing a Calendar of Events for 2016**
- **Continue and, where possible, increase the Church's involvement and visibility in the community including St Mary's School and specifically in 2015/16 to a) once again celebrate the work of St Mary's people in the community during Volunteering Week and b) introduce a regular article in Link featuring the work St Mary's people undertake in the community.**

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13 January 2015