

Mission Action Plan 2016-2017



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Introduction to the Mission Action Plan

Our mission statement recognises that our response to God's love in Jesus requires us to live out that same love in God's world – enacting the hope we have in Jesus in concrete ways, believing that actions really do speak louder than words.

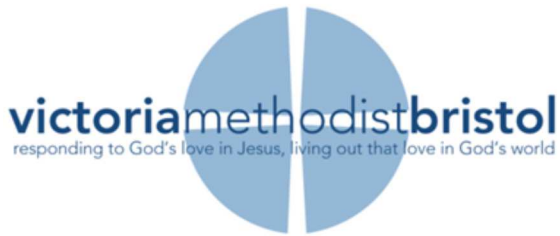
Our vision statement is “Vic is a Methodist Church which seeks to share the Gospel by encouraging lifelong learning and engaging with and through media and the creative arts.”

Our work together over the next year will be set against the major redevelopment of our building. However, in the midst of the uncertainties and disruption, the leadership of the church believes that we are already well placed to begin to develop new ways to act on what we, as a church family, believe God is calling us to be and do, as well as continuing with many of our current activities.

This Mission Action Plan has been developed through a number of workshops involving many people from the Vic congregation. It is a “living” document shared with the whole church family that helps us identify our values and mission priorities for the next part of our journey.

Our Mission Action Plan highlights the values the church community has said it regards as important and identifies a number of priorities for development in the following areas:

- Worship
- Learning/Welcome and Caring
- Service and Outreach



Introduction to the Mission Action Plan

Through our consultations, it is clear that people at Vic feel many of the activities already being undertaken are true to our values and vision and we will be continuing with these. These activities are listed as Appendix A to the plan.

Many good ideas were generated at the consultation meetings, more than we are able to take up at the moment; ideas not currently taken up have been recorded in Appendix B. The Leadership Team needed to focus on a manageable set of priorities for this next period but it did not want these good ideas lost; these can be considered at future reviews of the plan.

The redevelopment of the church presents a number of exciting opportunities for engagement and growth. We invite you to prayerfully read and engage with what has been proposed in this document.

We are very aware that we need to work on how we communicate what is already happening within the church community and our priorities for mission both internally and externally and we welcome all suggestions of how to do this better.

The Vic Leadership Team.

August 2016

Worship

We value:

- Elements of worship in our daily lives, not just a Sunday activity at church
- Worship which is varied, well-planned and delivered with an interesting range of ideas
- Worship which relates the Gospel to contemporary social concerns of justice and peace
- Worship which is accessible and welcoming to all people, whatever their lifestyle, faith or culture
- The involvement of our children and young people in our church and worship
- Using the many talents of different people from our congregation within worship
- Music in worship (using the organ, piano/keyboard, choir and band)
- Worship which engages different senses, particularly the use of art and imagery in services
- Space for silence and contemplation
- The traditional forms of Methodist worship whilst being open to different views and ways of doing things
- Engagement of the intellect through sermons, house groups, private reading, study and reflection
- All-age worship which is well-prepared and good quality.

Learning/Welcome and Caring

We value:

- Being a welcoming and inclusive community
- Being a caring community where all are valued
- Developing Christian faith by learning and studying
- Open and critical thinking

Service and Outreach

We value:

- The importance of living out our faith through social action
- Deepening our understanding of the social Gospel and what it means for us as a community and as individuals
- Supporting each other in living out the social Gospel in a world where secular values are often contrary to Gospel values
- Opportunities to engage with our local communities, particularly through the creative arts

1.

Worship

1.1 To increase the participation of children and young people in worship

We will do this by:

- encouraging our young people to participate in worship [e.g. through reading, drama and music]
- inviting our young people to plan and lead occasional all-age services so we can share their experiences and the issues that are important to them
- learning more new, modern worship songs
- seeking to attract more children, young people and their families from outside our current congregation

1.2 To enhance our worship in our daily lives

We will do this by:

- encouraging preachers to provide an order of service and/or other supporting material to go out with notices to help the congregation prepare thoughtfully and prayerfully for worship.
- building a library/database of prayer and study resources that can be used by individuals and groups to aid them in their daily worship and reflection

1.

Worship

1.3 To develop a calendar of services focusing on and integrating different styles of worship which engage all the senses

We will do this by:

- building on learning from the circuit taster services and, each quarter, incorporating this learning into at least one service
- supporting such services as a whole congregation
- committing ourselves to maintaining traditional styles of worship whilst incorporating elements from 'modern worship styles' in traditional Sunday services
- using the opportunity of having to worship in the hall, during our building work, to experiment with different styles and set-ups of worship

1.4 To broaden the range of hymns and worship songs used in our worship

We will do this by:

- developing our use of the many talented instrumentalists and singers to facilitate the congregation's learning of new songs and extend the variety of high-quality music provision in worship

2.

Learning/Welcome and Caring

2.1 To enhance and support our work with children and young people

We will do this by:

- ensuring that there are enough leaders and helpers each week to meet the needs of the wide age range of children and young people
- ensuring sessions are well prepared and planned to meet the needs of the wide range of children and young people
- ensuring that resources are provided in order to deliver high-quality sessions
- supporting young people and their leaders in various ways including supporting their attendance at relevant outside events, starting with 3Generate in October 2016

2.2 To run a Preparation for Confirmation Group

We will do this by:

- identifying the appropriate resources and timing for a group/course, such as Compass, to explore Confirmation and membership of the Methodist Church
- encouraging non-confirmed members of the Vic community to consider joining the group

2.

Learning/Welcome and Caring

2.3 To increase the opportunities for the congregation to develop their faith through the creative arts

We will do this by:

- organising music workshops [linked to outreach priorities]
- running a short course/study group using creative arts to explore and deepen an aspect of our Christian faith

2.4 To deepen our commitment to implementing our vision

We will do this by:

- asking each group that is part of the life of the church community to address how they contribute and how they can develop their contribution to implementing the vision

3.

Outreach and Service

3.1 To scope the clubbers project over the next six months and assess whether we have the people, resources and commitment to start a sustainable project;

To start the project if the assessment is positive

We will do this by:

- liaising with the Street Pastors to ascertain what resource would complement their current activities
- liaising with the Ark Project and Vic congregation to assess the level of commitment and support for the short, medium and long term
- bringing a proposal to proceed to the Leadership Team and Vic congregation if the assessment is positive

3.2 To deepen our awareness of public issues, the social gospel and how we can respond

We will do this by:

- organising three Sunday-lunchtime meetings per year (one per term) with a focus on public issues and their relevance to Bristol; outside speakers would be invited
- organising a further Sunday-lunchtime session each term to discuss a report produced by the Joint Public Issues Team

3.

Outreach and Service

3.3 To reach out to our local community through the creative arts.

We will do this by:

- organising three or four arts events in the new sanctuary with external people participating in the performances as well as in the audience

3.4 To work towards providing one celebration lunch per term (or other event) for post-graduate students, ideally on an interfaith basis

We will do this by:

- holding the first of these events in late autumn 2017
- linking with ecumenical and interfaith groups to seek common areas to work together reaching out to post-graduate students

3.5 To investigate the 'Culture of Invitation' and assess if and how Vic should be involved

We will do this by:

- attending the relevant circuit-organised event in the autumn
- discussing feedback and possibilities with the Leadership Team and then assessing response

Current activities we want to continue

Worship

- Pattern of morning and evening services
- Monthly all-age worship opportunity, either a Sunday morning service or Messy Church
- Contribution of choir to worship
- Ecumenical lent worship

Learning/Welcome and Caring

- Junior Church and Den
- House groups
- Book Group
- Enjoying Art Group
- Prayer and Bible Study groups
- 20's and 30's Group
- Women's Night
- Weekend Away alternating annually with Church Away Day

Current activities we want to continue

Outreach and Service

- Ecumenical service projects –Soup Run and Giving Tree
- Joint projects with the Ark – Christian Aid and Fairtrade
- Vic projects – Mental Health group and Avenue House fellowship
- Fresher's welcome event
- Charitable giving through special collections and Traidcraft stall
- Support for Methodist Centre [circuit project]
- Links with University Music Department
- Use of premises for groups linked to our mission [e.g. 12 step groups AA, CA, etc., arts organisations]

Ideas raised at MAP workshops not included as priorities for 2016/17

Learning/Welcome and Caring

- Social opportunities for newcomers
- Jobs for newcomers
- Time-limited nurture group
- Welcome house group for newcomers
- Church BBQ
- Drama/pantomime
- Using videos to help illustrate ideas
- Movie week
- Interactive games related to faith

Outreach and Service

- Debt Counselling
- Dementia Cafe
- University Chaplaincy input