

Glasgow and Galloway Mission Action Plan

Name of Charge/s St Oswald, Maybole

Name of Facilitator Ros Brett

MAP Completed

YEAR 5



Stage 1: Why are we going for Growth?

<p>From the scribe's notes of the Review meeting, list the: <i>Last MAP actions completed</i></p>	<p>1. Welcome and integration Create a better, safer space at back of church for welcome and fellowship, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) taking out the two short pews to create more spacec) clearing the clutter from the back of the church by upgrading cupboards in Vestry to store tea/coffee items, cups, etc. <i>This has been achieved by re-using and re-positioning an existing shelf unit.</i> <p>2. Worship, prayer and spirituality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Develop resources and support for new leadersb) Rationalise rotas to allow personal worship time <p><i>In addition a new monthly service of Holy Communion has been started in Girvan by Rev Jim Geen.</i></p> <p>3. Imaginative Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Maybole 500 Flower Festival A successful event held in June 2016 which other churches in the town and Ayrshire Region helped facilitate. Included a well-attended Songs of Praise.c) Repeat the Charity Shop week in collaboration with Save the Children. Successful week during November 2016 <p><i>In addition to specific year-4 MAP goals we did the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Continued to welcome members of other churches in Maybole</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Christingle</i>▪ <i>Maundy Thursday supper</i>▪ <i>Easter morning early service and breakfast - number attending increased in 2017</i>• <i>Supporting the community</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Fairknowe (care home) services</i>• <i>Community carol service</i>• <i>Senior Citizens lunch</i>• <i>Food bank</i>• <i>Maybole Council of Churches</i> <p>4. Missional Leadership Develop proposal for a Missional Leader based in Maybole.</p> <p>In August 2016 we appointed Rev Jim Geen as pastoral worker. With Bishop Gregor's support we then prepared a proposal to break our link with Holy Trinity, Ayr and appoint a part-time Priest-in-Charge. The proposal was unanimously agreed at our AGM in Dec 2016 and we are currently in negotiation with the Bishop's Staff Group about the timescale and process.</p> <p>Moving forward as an independent congregation is a life changing event for our congregation, affirming our faith and providing us with a vision for the future of SEC in the southern part of Ayrshire.</p>
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	<p>Children and young people This was not included in our year 4 MAP goals but we continue to support Gardenrose Primary school and facilitated a visit to the church for Primary one pupils before Christmas.</p> <p>Learning and Discipleship Not a specific year 4 MAP goal but in response to demand Rev Jim Geen led an evening Ecumenical Lent Group in addition to the Thursday morning group.</p> <p>Additional items not under MAP headings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following an insurance review in January, much of the first half of 2016 was spent developing a Health and Safety Policy, Fire and general risk assessments, with an Insurance company deadline for completion of mid-July. We are grateful to Chris who spent a lot of time creating these important documents. • Blythwood Care Christmas Shoebox appeal. In 2016 we filled 80 boxes. Knitting group continue to knit for this appeal. • Produced Christmas wreaths and floral decorations for members; partly as a fundraiser but also to support housebound members of the congregation.
<p><i>Last MAP actions not completed</i></p>	<p>1. Welcome and integration b) making the area safer by installing a fixed urn in the vestry so no need for a kettle on the floor in church d) buying a few suitable chairs for the fellowship area</p> <p>Our initial proposal for this has developed to include plans to re-furbish the vestry. Some initial planning has already begun and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installing a fixed urn in the vestry so no need for a kettle at the back of the church • upgrading cupboards in Vestry to clear clutter • installing heating in vestry • possibly buying a few suitable chairs for the fellowship area <p>2. Worship, prayer and spirituality b) Proposed Alpha course was not possible, due to Rector's illness</p>
<p><i>Learnings from the fourth year's MAP</i></p>	<p>We have learnt over the four years that we can be self-reliant; there has been a real growth in confidence. More importantly, MAPing has made us think about and reflect on why we are here and how everything we do fits into a pattern of mission and ministry. We shared our experience across the diocese at the MAPing day in May 2016.</p> <p>Rector's continued ill health has provided challenges for us but we have met these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Jim Geen has taken services • Worship leaders have led services of HC with RS, SOTW • Worship leaders have developed skills in leading and giving talks - filling the sermon slot
<p>Reflect upon the resourcing of the fourth year's MAP and what that means for the fifth</p>	<p>Lack of time has held back the alterations to the vestry; priority was given to Health and Safety and the appointment of a pastoral visitor.</p> <p>Money has been provided for our needs – from various sources. The congregation resources the church's work as they can, financially and with personal expertise and by freely giving their time to complete many tasks.</p> <p>We secured local grants for the Flower Festival. Money was raised at the flower festival and charity shop week shared with Save the Children.</p>

	<p>Our proposed independence has meant that our Worship Leaders have had to develop more skills in leading and providing talks at services. We are now able to keep services going using our own authorised lay people. This gives us a good foundation for the future.</p> <p>Everything requires energy, but almost everybody is involved. We look forward to Year 5 with enthusiasm and a desire to further develop our skills.</p>
<p>Review - <i>your Church as God would see it now</i> - <i>where God is at work in the community and in the church now</i> - <i>what growth signs need to be built upon</i> - <i>what avenues can be set aside for now</i></p>	<p>As a church we are friendly, open and respond to opportunities as they arise.</p> <p>We feel God is particularly at work in our plans to extend our mission into Girvan.</p> <p>We see nothing that needs to be set aside. The children’s work on Sundays is currently on hold, but only because there are no children coming to church.</p>
<p>Appraise, affirm and celebrate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we now exhibit the following strengths ...</i></p>	<p>We are responsive, we think creatively and we have confidence, applicable across all the strands.</p>
<p>Assess: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we realise that we are suffering from the following weaknesses...</i></p>	<p>We are energetically pursuing many opportunities, but the core group involved is very small. We need to be careful not to take on too much at any one time.</p>
<p>Investigate: <i>with regard to each strand of the strategy, we now detect the following opportunities...</i></p>	<p>Missional Leadership To appoint our own part-time Priest-in-Charge to continue and build on the many strands of ministry being undertaken in and around Maybole and to start a new Episcopal ministry in and around Girvan.</p> <p>Imaginative Outreach To make use of the site of the old St John’s building in Girvan for outreach. To explore better use of St Oswald’s hall by local community and church for weddings. To raise awareness in local community by keeping the church open during daylight hours, better use of notice board, local press, social media, etc.</p> <p>Learning and Discipleship Following the success of the 2017 Lent groups, continuing an evening Bible study group in addition to the morning one. Longer term goal to investigate the possibility of starting a study group in Girvan.</p> <p>Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Develop the monthly service of Holy Communion in Girvan. Introduce a simple prayer tree made from locally sourced twigs at the back of the church on a trial basis so that people can leave prayer requests.</p>

Stage 2: What will our Growth Strategy involve?

<p>God's call to growth. <i>Having thought about the challenges for each strand, discern your overall strategic response.</i> <i>(i) what is your vision of the way of life God is calling you to now?</i> <i>(ii) list the values that underpinned last year's MAP; are there any new values which you need to adopt for further growth to happen?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) God is calling us to be an independent congregation, to be brave and take a leap of faith with our mission outreach in Girvan. (ii) Developing mission and outreach in imaginative ways and finding the resources needed to keep our ministry going underpinned our 4th year MAP. We need to continue with this to further develop our ministry and mission in Maybole and Girvan. (iii) The long term aim is to develop projects addressing specific needs in the community, develop our congregation through prayer and study and increase our congregational base by allowing those outside to come to a desire to share the joy of faith which drives us.
<p>Our prioritised response</p> <p><i>To work towards responding to that call, and expressing our values, we will focus upon the following strand (or strands) of the strategy because...</i></p>	<p>A. Missional Leadership 1. Fulfil agreed proposal to appoint part-time Priest-in-Charge.</p> <p>B. Welcome and Integration 1. Completing our goal for a better, safer space at the back of church for welcome and fellowship. Having looked again at parts b) making the area safer by installing a fixed urn in the vestry so no need for a kettle on the floor in church, and c) clearing the clutter from the back of the church by upgrading cupboards in Vestry to store tea/coffee items, cups, etc We decided this would be best facilitated by a complete upgrade of the vestry. Plans and costings required.</p> <p>2. Re-decorate hall to make it more welcoming</p> <p>C. Imaginative outreach Maybole 1. Install new notice board 2. Investigate ways the hall could be used more by the wider community, suggestions include art wall, story time for young children with carers, use by more groups e.g. DofE 3. Advertise the church as a wedding venue 4. Print cards for distribution to holiday parks etc 5. Keep the church open during daylight hours, perhaps with someone in attendance at certain times to give pastoral contact</p> <p>Girvan 1. Develop old St John's site as community garden, to include a notice board. Longer term vision to build a small prayer hut/chapel. 2. Build wider community contacts in Girvan e.g. with Rotary 3. Establish ecumenical links with South Carrick Churches Together and support their work/events. 4. Publicity in Carrick Gazette, use of cards at holiday parks, etc.</p> <p>D. Learning and Discipleship 1. Start a regular evening study group in Maybole, in addition to morning 2. Investigate the possibility of starting a study group in Girvan</p> <p>E. Worship, Prayer and Spirituality 1. Develop monthly mid-week service of Holy Communion in Girvan 2. Introduce a simple prayer tree made from locally sourced twigs at the back of the church for prayer requests.</p>