

Mission Action Plan (MAP) for St Saviour's Church, Luton

Our Details

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Parish: Saint Saviour

Benefice: Saint Saviour

Deanery: Luton

Archdeaconry: Bedford

Dates

MAP prepared for review by PCC on Thursday 22 June, 2017

MAP sent to Bishops and Archdeacon on Tuesday 4 July, 2017

MAP adopted by PCC on Thursday 31 August, 2017

MAP to be reviewed at the St Saviour's Church APCM in April 2018

Our Looking

Things seen about our local community

- Approximately 70% of the people who live in the St Saviour parish are economically active; although, the employment opportunities within the parish are very limited. Those who are economically active tend to travel outside of the parish to work and socialise. A high proportion of the housing in the parish is rented accommodation leading to a younger transient community, who when their economic situation improves tend to move out of the parish. The migration out of the parish means that the opportunities for engagement and awareness raising about the existence of the church with the transient economically active community is limited.
- The age of the population in St Saviour parish is approximately 77% under 44 years of age. No adjustments were made for the student population because of the lack of quality data about the student population in Luton. St Saviour's has a mixed age range from young children to pensioners; although the majority of the congregation population tends to be over 44 years of age. Working closely with the uniformed associations has meant that the congregation benefits from an influx of young people, who participate in the uniformed associations' activities, attending church services, on a monthly basis.
- Just over 46% of the St Saviour parish had identified themselves as Christian. We see our parish as a centre for Anglo-Catholic worship and a support to Anglo-Catholics both in the parish, in the local area and virtually through the media and internet. We also see ourselves as very much a parish church engaging with a diverse religious area and social community. We see our

parish as a location for Anglo-Catholics, advertised both locally and virtually through social media. We provide resources for our parish to reflect theologically on what it means to be a Christian (specifically Anglo-Catholic) amidst increasing religious diversity. We continue to take responsibility to reach out and to care for all souls in our parish in an increasingly diverse, transient and aging community.

Things we have seen about our church

- St Saviour's is a welcoming church serving a socio-demographically diverse community in central and south Luton. People are friendly and visitors often remark on how very welcome they are made to feel. The congregation at St Saviour's is very caring and exceptionally good at looking out for one another. This often extends to practical help and care. We maintain a Sunday school, a programme of training for Altar servers, and intend to offer joint activities with St Mary's, Sundon.
- St Saviour's maintains a strong Anglo-Catholic tradition; and within the Deanery offers a valuable aspect of church tradition to complement the various Christian traditions. We aim to offer a high standard of liturgy and, at the same time, a high standard of pastoral care, working with other churches especially in the anglo-catholic parishes of Biscot, Marsh Farm and Sundon, based in the north of Luton.
- The arrival of a very competent organist (and Director of Music at St Saviour's) has meant that on some festivals choral masses by some of the great composers may take place.
- St Saviour's is committed to placing its liturgical, sacramental and parochial emphasis alongside a robust approach to safeguarding both children and vulnerable adult first, alongside involvement in social and local issues. We are active in the church's efforts at pastoral outreach to reinforce the Christian presence in our community.

Our Discerning

Vision (for five years' time)

To bring God's love and presence into our lives and the lives of others. To worship together faithfully as a traditional Anglo-Catholic church, with love and reverence for the blessed sacrament, each other and the diverse, transient and elderly community that we serve.

To respond to the spiritual and social needs of the community, anchored in the deep truths transmitted through the doctrines and traditions of the church. To continue to serve the parish of St Saviour, to reach out to and encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to join us at St Saviour's Church to enable us to more effectively address the issue of parish share.

To address urgent fabric condition and ongoing maintenance needs to ensure that the church and hall are safe, weatherproof and accessible to people with disabilities. To raise our awareness and make use of Diocesan resources in the context of the resolutions and the approach to worship which the parish upholds. To provide timely and accurate reports to the Diocese, as required.

Priorities (for the next five years)

- To bring people of all ages into our church through a communications campaign using the internet (<http://www.stsaviour.org.uk>), social media and traditional communication methods.
- To continue to raise awareness of the church's presence within the community through 'open church' days and other church-centred social activities specifically to tackle elderly deprivation.
- To engage more effectively with disadvantaged young people and the issues they face, as well as the transient community within the parish of St Saviour.

Goals (for the next year)

- To keep the local community and other churches informed about our services, activities and events to help to build the congregation.
- To encourage more people to participate in the wider life and activities of the church to help to raise awareness.
- To develop 'outreach' programmes working with local charities to help to tackle social issues facing the elderly and young people.

Objectives (Delivery Plan)

- To develop a communications strategy by September 2017, to ensure that the local community and other churches are informed of services, wider activities and events to be hosted at St Saviour's Church. To use traditional marketing approaches, the intranet and social media to act as the vehicles to communicate; and to encourage congregation members to invite others in the community to join us at St Saviour's.
 - Success measure: to increase participation by local community and other churches at the activities and events organised by St Saviour's by 10% over one year. To measure success for participation and communications methods by using follow-up smart surveys, website and social media analytics to determine the reach and impact of communication approaches, by March 2018.
- To develop a volunteer programme by December 2017, to encourage wider participation in church activities and worship. Increasing the number of volunteers for activities led by the church by 10% and increase the number of young people participating in activities by 10%. The percentage increases are

planned to take place over one year following the launch of the volunteer programme.

- Success measure: to increase the number of volunteers specifically Readers and activities with a focus on young people. To establish a baseline for volunteers and then to measure success by the percentage increase over time against the baseline, by December 2017.
- To develop 'outreach' programme to help to tackle elderly deprivation and social issues facing young people in the local community such as drug abuse, by September 2017. Working with registered charities such as Age Concern and Narcotics Anonymous.
 - Age Concern: to open the church for coffee mornings and activities to engage the elderly in the community and to involve their friends and family. Social deprivation is the most common form of material deprivation for pensioners, with over 90 per cent of materially deprived pensioners lacking a social item (eg being able see friends and family regularly).
 - Success measure: to engage with Age Concern to address the issue of elderly deprivation, in the parish, by December 2017. To use the metrics provided by Age Concern to determine the success of the programme being delivered.
 - Narcotics Anonymous: to make use of the church hall to support meetings to assist young people facing drug problems to talk through issue in confidence. To welcome members from those attending into the church to further help them to reflect on their issues and resolve them.
 - Success measure: to engage Narcotics Anonymous to address the issue of drug abuse faced by young people in the parish, by September 2017. To use the metrics provided by Narcotics Anonymous to determine the success of the programme being delivered.
- To explore and apply to funding streams to address the urgent fabric condition and ongoing maintenance requirements for the church building and hall, by September 2017. To work with the DAC to set out a realistic and achievable scheme of work to address the immediate condition issues (roof repairs), access issues (for people with disabilities) and findings from the last Quinquennial Inspection. To make use of expert advice and assistance from the DAC to enable the work to progress appropriately.
 - Success measure: to engage with the DAC to establish and start to deliver a funded programme of work to repair the church roof and to address other concerns raised in the last Quinquennial Inspection, by March 2018.
- To intend to increase awareness and attendance numbers through a communications strategy aimed at promoting Anglicanism (aligned with Church of England directives in accordance with the resolutions and the approach to

worship which the parish upholds), church activities and events. Making use of traditional methods of engagement such as permanent signage for promotion of church activities and events and as reminders inside and outside the church. Developing a targeted internet and social media approach to attracting new congregation members, by September 2017. To aim to increase congregation numbers by 10% over one year (and then year on year until 2021 for review). Year on year increases will help to address the issue of parish share with which many churches with low congregation numbers have struggled.

- Success measure: to aim to increase congregation numbers on a year on year basis starting with a 10% increase from September 2017 to September 2018.