

St. Cuthbert's Church, Fulwood

Bishop's Mission Action Plan

**Initiated November 2005
First annual PCC review January 2007**

Overview 2006

2006 was a challenging year in the life of St. Cuthbert's Church, Fulwood. The incumbent was absent through stress-related illness for four months and for a variety of reasons some members of the fellowship chose to move to other churches. However, throughout the year the church's core activities, including 3 Sunday services, 9 home fellowship groups and a vibrant children's/youth work were maintained. Also, the events outlined above meant that both individually and corporately people were led to evaluate their spiritual focus and priorities.

One particularly significant outcome has been the concentration of energies on a limited number of specific, new activities rather than widespread individual initiatives. The Mission Action Plan dated November 2005 (copy attached) outlines a wide-reaching medium/long term strategy. During 2006 significant progress has been made with many aspects of this plan and the next stages of required action have become clearer.

Specific Progress To Date

Hearts Open To God

- Increased numbers at twice weekly morning prayers - 01 2006 & ongoing.
- Start of regular Friday worship evenings - 03 2006
- Development of youth work with additional leaders volunteering and the formation of a youth band, Crossfire - 06 2006
- 14 hr night of prayer on the theme "What Is Church?" led by a broad cross section of the fellowship - produced material for further reflection to undergird our mission 09 2006
- "Back To Church Sunday" attended by 281 people (160 more than on a "normal" Sunday - 09 2006
- Sacramental healing integrated into Holy Communion services - 10 2006
- Prayer ministry and Christian listening available every Sunday morning - 11 2006
- Increased opportunity for church members to participate in leading in services, including a series on "My Work", families leading intercessions and an all-age, inter-active Good Friday devotion - ongoing throughout the year.

Comment

A prayer space has been designated and this needs to be completed. Ongoing opportunities need to be identified for youth involvement in services.

Lives Open To Each Other

- Members of the PCC participated in sessions led by Rev. Andrew Clitherow concentrating on healing, reconciliation and understanding - 05 2006
- Computer suite finished and available for outside use - 08 2006
- PCC Away Day facilitated by Chris Williams - 10 2006
- Consent given by the PCC to investigate a new organisational/administrative structure which includes reducing the size of PCC - 11 2006

- AV training - Ongoing

Comment

The original action plan highlighted the need to improve communication. However, before this can happen an appropriate structure needs to be in place which will allow capacity for the development of all areas of church life with more people being actively involved. The present PCC structure is no longer seen to be the best way to achieve this. A bi-product of the revised structure will be improved communications and better defined leadership roles.

Doors Open To All

- Church centre open 3 afternoons per week as part of the Open Door initiative - 01 2006 & ongoing
- Increased links with local schools, esp. Archbishop Temple C of E school & Queens Drive C.P school through taking assemblies and arranging services in the church premises. Developing links with Preston Youth For Christ through prayer and financial support with several members of the church becoming Trustees - 01 2006 & ongoing
- Stewardship course undertaken in conjunction with Credit Action - 05 2006
- Part-time, paid Church centre administrator appointed to help maximise the potential of the premises, and release the incumbent and other lay members of the congregation for other work - 09 2006
- PCC ratified the appointment of a sub-group "Reach" authorised to develop specific outreach initiatives - 09 2006
- Joined with the Railway Mission in their Christmas outreach initiative - 12 2006
- Boxing Day event for the local community attended by 80 people, including many non-church members - 12 2006 Please see www.stcuthbertschurch.net for further information and pictures of this event.
- Church centre made available for use by the Asian Christian Fellowship and Howarth Road residents association - ongoing.

Comment

Through the year specific opportunities have arisen which have led to further links with the local community and partnership with other Christian groups. The impact:preston initiative is a more long term project. However, the church's own Reach initiative is aimed at outreach in the immediate vicinity.

Specific Action Points For 2007

- New Alpha course - 01 2007
- Review Boxing Day event and decide on next Reach priority to include appropriately marking the centenary of the founding of ST Cuthbert's parish in 1907, and the 95th anniversary of the Scout group attached to the church in 1912 - 02 2007
- Finalise the new organisational structure - for ratification at AGM 04 2007
- Complete the designated prayer area - Easter 2007
- Each committee /sub-group in the new structure to identify one priority objective for 2007/8 - 06 2007
- Training relating to use of individual talents / gifts and prayer and vocation – Ongoing

