

St Thomas with St Stephen

Mission Action Plan for 2022–2024

As a church we are called to love God, love each other and love our neighbour. In other words, we exist as a church for worship, discipleship and mission.

A MAP gives us as a church a helpful framework for moving forwards together by highlighting our shared **mission priorities** and giving us an outline **action plan** of how we achieve them. It doesn't tell us everything we will do as a church and is not meant to be exhaustive.

Growing the Church, Matthew 28:16–20

We are a church that is intentional about growing in numbers

We are committed to sharing the responsibility for the Great Commission:

- We will have training in faith sharing
- We will include more testimony in our services, activities and small groups
- We will have a proclamation element in every church activity and regular persuasion courses eg Alpha

We will develop a new worshipping community:

- The focus for this community will be the unchurched and the dechurched
- We will build on growing relationships with our existing contacts and connections
- We give the freedom for this to be a creative form of worship community that is fully part of STwSS, but a congregation in its own right and of equal merit to other congregations

We will build up targeted and integrated ministries for our underrepresented groups:

- We will prioritise study, learning and discussion groups about our inclusion of specific races and cultures and seek to better our church culture and practices
- We will focus on developing our young adults ministry
- We will host a series of targeted events eg men's and women's nights, parents night out, singles suppers...

Developing Discipleship, Mark 8:31–38

We are a church that places a high priority on developing discipleship

We place significant value on helping members grow in faith:

- We will refocus home groups
- We will develop a series of short courses and teaching events
- We want to develop mentoring and accountability groups across all ages

We will give prayer a higher priority in our church:

- We want to expand, train and make greater use of the Prayer Ministry team
- There will be more organised regular prayer events, evenings and materials to encourage corporate and personal prayer
- There will be a termly prayer and retreat day

We recognise our need to invest in leadership at all levels:

- We want to help people discern their calling and then empower them to live it out
- We will repeat the Growing Leaders course
- We will create some "How To" guides to give people confidence to organise events and activities.

Reaching the Community, Matthew 5:14-16; Isaiah 61:1-4

We are a church that is committed to reaching the whole community

We are committed to being a safe church and community:

- We will have clear safeguarding policies, procedures and recruitment for all our activities
- There will be training and information sharing for team and whole community about issues such as self-harming, domestic abuse etc.
- We will create safe spaces within our church that allow for vulnerability.

We seek to increase our presence in our local community:

- We will put on regular, well organised events with clear invitations and as a church share in the task of inviting others.
- We will seek to develop the café space at St Thomas' into a community hub.
- We will increase our community banners, signage, posters and online presence and engagement.
- We will be a presence outside of our own buildings at community events

We want to be actively engaged with and available to our wider community:

- We will be quicker to respond to local, national, and international crises
- We will improve our knowledge of and engagement with local businesses, groups, schools, churches, councillors, and online community groups.
- We will actively pursue issues relating to Climate Justice.