

PCC : 15th February, 2008

Special meeting primarily to look at Mission and the new Mission Action Plan for the Parish.

As part of the meeting it's important that we start to plan properly for the year ahead. I've said before about my concern that it's very easy to drift and I think we often do that. I think the most successful Parishes are the ones that don't drift, but ones which have a clear focus and a clear vision for the future.

At the recent meeting of the Mission Committee we went through the Mission Action Plan produced at the beginning of 2006 and it was really good to see that we had basically accomplished everything on it, which is the reason we need a new one.

It was important that that first one was all achievable because I think as a Parish we needed to have some encouragement and build up some confidence in doing things, but the next Mission Action Plan must contain a good number of things we can do in the short term, but also some longer term goals, and some ambitious goals.

It's very easy as part of any Mission Action Plan to talk about and plan for how we'll keep things going, but a MAP mustn't be about keeping going, it's not about

being here in 5 years or 10 years or even 20 years time – it is about being where God wants us to be.

I'm not moaning at all because I love what I do but the last 3 weeks have been some of the hardest since I've been ordained for various different reasons. There's been a lot of sadness and a lot of people hurting – I've worked longer hours in that time than probably ever before – as I say I don't mind that at all because I love what I'm doing.

Sadly though, and I'm not so keen on this bit, some time has been taken up on talking to people about the different Churches in the Parish – and there is a sense at times that some people are thinking there is a competition between the two.

If there is then we are missing the whole point of what we are here for and that is to share the gospel message with other people, and to enjoy fellowship with one another, to pray together, and to just be part of a family committed to supporting each other.

Our new MAP must contain a vision that is centred upon sharing the gospel, not upon maintaining a Church. Some of the things that perhaps we need to consider will be changes which will be difficult, some which we may not even like, but if they are the right

things to do, then we must start planning to do them, and start getting on with them.

I'm going to continue by playing a CD which is somewhat controversial – some of it doesn't really apply to our Parish, some of it some of you will certainly not like. I don't really want to discuss the CD after, but please bear it in mind as we think about our future and the shape of our Churches over the coming years.

Play CD

MAP : Run through Mission Ctee minutes

Talk about sub ctees – need to be on top of things, need to meet or more regular PCC's

Where are we at the moment ? What do we offer for our congregation/ for people outside/ different age groups ?

Where do we want to be ?

How are we going to get there ?

Social Ctee money side ???