



**MISSION ACTION  
PLAN**

**CONFIDENT**

**COMPASSIONATE**

**CREATIVE**

**2014**

# Our Vision

*We seek to be*

- the family of God in NW8 and W9, living the gospel of Christ with confidence and joy
- a Church where all are welcomed into friendship with God
- an inclusive community crossing boundaries of age, gender and race and growing in relationship with one another and with God

*Introduction from the Vicar*

Welcome to St Mark's.

We hope in these few pages, you will be able to pick up something of the life of this parish church.

This Mission Action Plan is a statement of the current ministry of this church and is also a statement of how we as the Body of Christ in this place intend to serve our community locally and farther afield more faithfully over the next three years.

This Mission Action Plan will be revised annually and decisions made by the Parochial Church Council will be made in consultation with it. This document (like the life of any Christian) is by its nature a 'work in progress'.

As part of a much wider Church, we have been inspired by *Capital Vision 2020* which we have taken as a basis for our own more local Mission Action Plan.

If you are already a part of St Mark's, then we commend this to you and ask you for your own participation in helping the Church in this place achieve God's ends by giving of your time and talents, practically, prayerfully and financially.

If you are reading this and are new to St Mark's or considering joining this community, then we welcome you and invite you to join us on this next exciting part of our journey as God's people in this place.

We are:

**Confident**

*in speaking and living the gospel of Jesus Christ*

**Compassionate**

*in serving our community with the love of God the father*

**Creative**

*in reaching new people and places with the good news in the power of the Spirit*

## **Confident**

*in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

### *We value*

- The Anglican model of Christian discipleship based upon the use of Holy Scripture, Human Reason and the Tradition of the Church
- Dignified, inclusive, Eucharistic worship enhanced by a committed voluntary choir, professional Director of Music and Organ Scholar
- A spiritual life in which people of all ages and backgrounds are included, and reflect the diversity of the parish

## *We seek to develop*

- Lay participation in pastoral care through
  - Development of a pastoral team who will work with families and individuals who come to us for weddings, baptisms and funerals and with regular members of the Church
- More opportunities for education and discipleship through
  - House groups
  - Lectures
  - Foundation of a children's choir
  - Seasonal courses
  - Confirmation, baptism and marriage preparation
- Larger and more committed congregation involved in all aspects of church life through
  - Increased commitment of time with champions of core areas of responsibility
    - Managing and educating volunteers
    - Establishment of sidesperson's ministry
    - Maintain proper management of social events
  - Increased commitment to financial giving
  - Church members as Ambassadors for Christ and his church

## **Compassionate**

*in serving our community with the love of God the father*

### *We Value*

- The church being open to all throughout the week
  - We hold a coffee hour on Tuesdays for anybody to gather and talk and find companionship
  - The church is used throughout the week, by children's groups, support groups and others
  
- Relationships with local schools and with other places of worship
  - Several local schools use the church and we are developing our relationship with several more
  - We hold joint services with other churches in the area and co-operate closely within church decision-making bodies
  
- Pastoral care and visits from the clergy and through Neighbourcare
  - Parishioners and clergy visit the old and the lonely and people in hospital
  - Clergy are always available for advice, care and guidance

## *We seek to develop*

- Safe and accessible buildings and grounds
  - By improving and making safe the pathways around the church and the floor in the church
  - By providing full disabled access, better toilet facilities and a hearing aid loop in the church
  
- An educational programme for all ages
  - By expanding our existing children's Sunday School in numbers and in scope
  - By building on the successful Lent study groups and Bible discussion group
  
- Our involvement in community projects, supporting those in spiritual and material need
  - By being more pro-active in making our facilities available to organisations that share these goals
  - By urging and encouraging each other to give of our time and talents towards these projects

## **Creative**

*in reaching new people and places with the good news  
in the power of the Spirit*

*We value:*

- The increasing use of our buildings and grounds for regular and ad hoc community events and projects, such as concerts, weekly classes and meetings for adults, young people and children; Tuesday coffee hour and BBC religious broadcasting.
- The role that our musicians play in bringing people into the church through their leadership in worship, the giving of concerts and taking their music beyond the parish boundaries.
- The national profile of St Mark's developed by our Director of Music's work with the BBC and the Vicar's involvement in national church projects, such as Praxis (national worship group), Affirming Catholicism (maintaining the catholic nature of the Church of England) and baptism and wedding projects.

## *We seek to develop:*

- Our communications with the church and wider community through social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, and more traditional channels, such as The Lion and e-mail newsletter, with a view to increasing the number of people that receive news, views and information about St Mark's. To this end we will
  - ensure that responsibility for communications is shared by setting up a communications committee/working group
  - help new users to gain access to social media channels
  - continue to provide hard copy communications
  
- Regular and reliable charitable giving, whether through monetary donations or other means. We aim to:
  - Double our weekly congregational giving by 2016 so that St Mark's is in a position to commit to regular charitable giving
  - Offer church buildings or grounds free of charge twice a year for charitable fundraising events
  - Respond positively to ad hoc requests to accommodate or otherwise support charitable fundraising events
  
- Our social activities, particularly those extending beyond the church community. Our aim is to develop St Mark's as a hub for social activity in the area through:
  - Private events (e.g. through hire of the hall)
  - A scheduled programme of events run by the social committee, such as quiz nights, film nights, drama and music events.
  - Rebuild and enhance the organ for use as a teaching instrument and for recitals and concerts for all ages

# Regular Public Worship

*The church is open daily from 8.30am to 5pm (earlier or later when services dictate)*

## **Sunday**

8.00am Morning Prayer

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Choral Parish Eucharist

6pm Choral Evensong (Canticles and Curry) - first Sunday of the Month

## **Tuesday**

12noon Eucharist (Common Worship Order 1)

## **Thursday**

7pm Eucharist (Including laying of hands with prayer once a month and Eucharistic Devotions once a month)



## Capital Vision Prayer

Generous God,  
you have called us to be salt and light in this great city;  
Guide us by your Holy Spirit  
to discern your will for your Church  
as we seek to follow your Son Jesus Christ  
in loving and serving our neighbours.  
Give us the wisdom and strength to fulfil the vision you put before us  
and help us to play our part in transforming our earthly city  
into a sign of the Heavenly Jerusalem  
where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen.