

Mission Action Planning: a brief summary

Use prayer, reflection, worship, Bible reading, etc throughout the process

Use flipcharts, post-it notes, breaking into small groups, etc to enable discussion and capturing of ideas

Pre-work (some could be done on Sundays/PCC meetings before the Review)

1. remind everyone of the Diocesan Vision (the green book)
2. through a questionnaire, ask everyone in the congregation what they would realistically like the church to be in four years' time (n.b. the balance between dream and realism)
3. do an audit of what the church already does, and who does it
4. through a questionnaire, ask everyone in the congregation to ask their neighbour or friend what they see as the needs of the community in their neighbourhood, and the wider community in the town; also, what they expect/need from the church

Review: using the answers to 3 and 4 above:

5. make a list of: "what's going on in the church? – what's going well, what's going badly"
6. n.b. at this point look back at the previous Mission Action Plan: what you've done, what you've not been able to do, what you've done that's not on the MAP
7. n.b. at this point match your answers to the five Marks of Mission in the green book
8. make a list of reasons why people don't come to church/are not interested in it
9. make a list of: "what's going on in the community? – what's going well, what's going badly"

Analyse: using all of the answers above

10. look at Strengths (what you do well), Weaknesses (what you don't do well or don't do at all), Opportunities (things you could do – n.b. realism), Threats (what stops or would stop you doing things)

if you are having an Awayday, this may be the moment to break for lunch

Vision: using the answers to 10. and 2. above:

11. ask people to imagine that they are being interviewed about their church by a journalist; what would they like to be the headlines? what would the text be?
12. set the answers in the five Marks of the green booklet

Prioritise: using the answers to 10. and 11. above:

13. ask people to think carefully and then vote for what they considered to be the top three priorities
14. total the votes, to give your top three or four priorities; then check back that these are what people consider to be the top three or four; ideally these would be spread across the five Marks

Plan: using the answers to 10. and 14. above:

15. for each priority, ask a few people to produce a plan – with a timetable and milestones – to make it happen
16. n.b. the plans should have a financial dimension, and be reflected in your church budget/financial plan
17. don't forget to look for some projects which can be shared with the other churches in the Mission Community - the test will be "what would be better done together" or "what can only be done together"

Cycle:

18. in a year's time, do the process all over again, improving your MAP

<http://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/our-vision/mission-action-planning.html>