

- ❖ Maturity in faith *which leads to*
- ❖ Prayer and Worship *which is expectant and lively*
- ❖ Community service and engagement *looking outwards*
- ❖ Evangelism *to share the good news*
- ❖ Quality of relationships *revealing love for one another*

## **Mission Action Planning : PRODUCING YOUR MAP**

*This paper is produced for church leaders as a guide to writing up the MAP for information and use*

### **The MAP process**

The process is the vital thing – being on the MAP cycle (see diagram). The process is one of LISTENING (to God, one another and the parish community) and CONSIDERING (with God, one another and the parish community) the key things you are going to act on as you step on in faith and unveil the Kingdom of God where you are. The ACTION is ongoing – praying, thinking, discussing, writing, communicating, acting, measuring progress ... and coming back to review each year.

### **Holding your annual review**

You get on to the MAP cycle by holding a review. This is best done by as many people as possible in your church(es) – clergy and laity together. The Review is done in the context of the Diocesan vision and your local specific vision within that. It offers a simple analysis of where the church and the local community is at the moment and considers the key opportunities before you in furthering God's mission where you are. The document "Conducting a Review" is available as a download on the Diocesan website on the 'Vision to Action' page which can be found at <http://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/discipleship/vision-to-action-2.html>

### **The outcome of the review**

You will see from the last few paragraphs of 'Conducting a Review' that you end up with an indication of the key things you have discovered that will go forward to the 'Choosing future priorities' for your MAP.

At this point you need to form a small MAP group who can work on selecting the key priorities to present to the next PCC meeting for discussion and final agreement. This MAP group can be a specially elected group or a sub group of the PCC or even a group representing each church from the mission cluster. If a cluster is presenting a MAP together it needs to be clear how each church is acting on each priority ie. every church needs to own its part in the MAP.

### **Beginning to write the MAP**

There is no single prescription for a MAP! What is important is that you produce something which you and your PCC and church(es) are happy with and feel able to understand and use. However, several people have asked for some help with producing the MAP so I am offering the simplest way to do this which can be done easily by all churches.

The simplest way to write your MAP is to have four sections. In truth, as the MAP is really a summary in itself, I suggest that you probably only need to have one page of writing for each section. So the rest of this guide outlines these four sections and how to go about writing each one. Remember that you can use this method or something else which works best for you and your church(es)



## Section One : The specific vision and objectives for your church.

This first section outlines the specific vision and objectives you have – ie. what you want to see in 3-5 years time. Of course, this will connect with the overall Diocesan mission *to grow God's Kingdom in Cumbria* and the overall Diocesan vision *to see our churches growing disciples of all ages*. However, it is good for you and your people to state the particular vision you have together on the ground where you are and a summary (bullet points) of the main objectives. This sets the scene and reminds everyone – in the church and the community – what you are expecting to see in 3-5 years time and how different you expect things to be.

## Section Two : The write up of the review.

This section is a simple summary of the review you have held within the church and community. Avoid writing down everything people said but maybe concentrate on the SWOT exercise and the key things that came out of the post-it exercise outlining things people felt were pointers to future priorities and plans.

## Section Three : The priorities.

These will have come from the Strategic MAP Group formed after the review. This may be the PCC or a sub group of the PCC ... Please ensure that you have a group of people overseeing this and it is not just being run from the clergy study! For the MAP to work you need this Strategy Team in place to work collaboratively and effectively.

### St Saviours, Barrow Nook

*Mission Action Plan 2013-15*

#### **Priority 3: Establishing a network of small discipleship groups.**

This priority is being led by Sally Smith, John Jones and Mike McNally.

**Our specific plan is to set up six small discipleship groups by 2015**

##### **Oct-Dec 2012.**

- Recruit 4 small group leaders (to work in pairs). Find someone to train them. Hold 2-3 training sessions. Keep church informed and get everyone thinking about joining a small group for Lent 2013.

##### **Jan-Feb 2013**

- Publicise, encourage, tell everyone about the Lent Course coming up and the opportunity to join a small group

##### **Lent 2013**

- Run 2 small groups and encourage members to think and pray about carrying on beyond Lent as a discipleship group.

##### **Spring-Summer 2013**

- Establish the two discipleship groups and encourage stories from group members to be shared widely in church services, parish magazine, etc.
- Train up 4 more leaders (or more if required!)

##### **Autumn 2013**

- Set up 2 more groups (possibly using Advent as a focus)

2014 – 15. Detail to follow ... but our plan is to set up 2 more groups and to explore using 'The Alpha Course' as part of this to grow new disciples.

### St Saviours, Barrow Nook

*Within the mission of our Diocese to grow God's Kingdom in Cumbria and as part of the Diocesan mission to grow disciples of all ages ...*

#### **the specific vision of St Saviour's is:**

To grow a lively church of disciples who connect well with God, each other and the local parish.

#### **Our specific objectives 2013-15 are:**

- to refresh our regular Sunday service to enable new people to join us
- to set up a new family service in our church school each month
- to encourage every member to join a small fellowship group
- to partner with the parish council in setting up a part-time post-office in the village.

#### **By 2015 we expect to see**

- a growing church with two congregations (Sunday and midweek) which is enjoying worship and fellowship and is welcoming new people month by month
- a network of small groups across the congregations that are helping people to share faith together, pray for each other, care for one another and serve the parish.
- A new post office in our village.

## Section Four : The plan

Ideally, for each priority, you want a few people whose gifts draw them to that particular priority to work together on the detail of the plan for that section. This will simply lay out the actions that are going to be taken to achieve the objective along a time-scale (I suggest three years for this).

The key word here is 'simple'. This is not a technical engineering document! It simply lays out the steps along the way that need to be taken. So, for each priority, make it clear who the key lead-players are for that section and make it possible for anyone to contact them to join in with that priority. Emphasise the principle that "everyone is involved" and that each church member needs to find where their gifts best fit so that they can play their part in the MAP.