

St Mary's

Parish
Church
Old Basing & Lychpit

WELCOMING

INSPIRING

ENGAGING

SUSTAINING

MISSION ACTION PLAN

2018-2021



*Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Cor 12)*

Welcome!

Welcome is at the heart of St Mary's mission. The church is a nurturing and supportive body at the heart of the community, ready to greet and support all with warmth and acceptance.

As members of the body of Christ, we seek to lead lives of self-emptying service to one another, to our community, and to the world in which we live.

Context

The parish of Old Basing and Lychpit has a population of approximately 10,000¹. Although some live on low or fixed incomes, we are mostly a prosperous parish with comparatively low levels of poverty, crime or other measurable social problems. There are a large number of retired people living in the parish, and a significant number of young families² served by two

¹ The Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council website cites the population figure like this: "This thriving yet still picturesque parish, now comprising the village of Old Basing and the new development in Lychpit, is home to some 10,000 people" (<http://www.ldbasing.gov.uk/>, accessed 23 Mar 2018).

² Age: Early years: 5.87% (429 children) of the population were aged 0-4 in March 2011. This compares with 6.8% at the district level. School age: 14.92% (1,090 children) of the population were aged 5 to 17 years in March 2011. This compares with 15.8% at district level.

Working age: In terms of age profile, 62.16% (4,543 residents) of the population in OB & L Parish is of working age between 18 and 64, very similar to 63.1% of the district level.

Retirement age: 17.05% (1,246 people) of the population were aged 65 and over in March 2011. This compares with 14.5% at district level. Over 85 year olds accounted for 2.48% of the population compared to 1.8% for the district authority. This highlights the lower proportion of school age children and higher proportion of retired people than is average for the district. (Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan Team, 2017, p. 15)

excellent schools, Old Basing Infants School and St Mary's Church of England Junior School.

In the most recent census, around 65% of the parish declared themselves Christian, and a high number of families come to the church for Christenings, Weddings, and Funerals.

The Worshipping Community of St Mary's numbers around 110. We observe a Sacramental tradition of worship, and seek to make its structure sufficiently flexible and accessible to accommodate the needs of all while acknowledging the reverence and awe that belongs to the liturgy.

- It is apparent from the aspirations in this document that we are limited in our ability to deliver any or all of them by the number of active "labourers in the vineyard". Therefore "growing new disciples" is a primary aim.*

We recognise a number of challenges and ways to counteract them:

- Creating opportunities to transform nominal Christian affiliation into lived Christian experience. We will seek imaginative ways to connect or re-connect with the whole of the community of Old Basing and Lychpit.*
- Connecting with families, young single people, and couples. We acknowledge that our shared activities with local schools and playgroups, our community-wide festivals, our presence*

at community events (such as the Old Basing Carnival, Basing House Craft Fayre, School Fetes), and our Advent Shed explorations across the parish give us opportunities to meet people and make St Mary's Church known.

- *Addressing the stresses and pressures on life created by high-pressure professional and business demands. We will actively explore ways to promote a wholesome and healthy lifestyle, improve our signposting of existing mental health agencies and offerings, and host events ourselves where possible and where appropriate. Overall, we want to encourage and promote volunteering as an outpouring of our Christian service, give our time and attention to activities such as the Basingstoke Night Light Winter Shelter, the Good Neighbours Scheme, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Council, and be open and available to serving the community in a variety of ways.*
- *Maintaining the high profile of the Church in the community. We desire to be engaging, relevant, caring, and thought-provoking in our dealings with each other and in our interactions with the community. We can improve our follow up and care of those who come to St Mary's Church occasionally for festivals, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. We can promote our connections with the diversity of community groups such as PLOCC, the Basing Singers, the Memory Café, and others.*

St Mary's and our Mission

We aim to support the four strategic priorities of the Diocese of Winchester: Under God, delighting in his grace and rooted in the diocesan rule of life, we will be a diocese in which:

We grow authentic disciples, going out as individuals passionately, confidently, and courageously sharing their faith, and coming together as creative church communities of prayer and worship that live out kingdom values.

We re-imagine the church intentionally connecting and engaging with our local communities in culturally relevant ways. We will rejoice in the richness of the 'mixed economy' of all ministry and proactively promote vibrant parochial and breathtaking pioneering ministries among 'missing' generations, e.g. children, young people, under 35s.

We are agents of social transformation using our influence as a diocese to transform public and personal life. We will demonstrate loving faith at work, in local communities and across the globe bringing healing, restoration and reconciliation, e.g. through Education, Social Enterprise, Health Care, Spiritual Care Teams.

We belong together in Christ, practising sacrificial living and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. We will combine radical generosity, care, and capacity building with a clear focus on directing finance into the mission of Jesus. Sharing and multiplying local good practice, using people, buildings, and other resources wisely we will seek to boldly prune, plant, and invest in building for the kingdom.

Growing Authentic Disciples - WELCOMING

- ***Growing New Disciples and Encouraging All to Grow in Faith - We want to engage adults who are at or near the beginning of their journey in faith and those who are interested in discovering more about the Christian faith.***
 - ***The Pilgrim Course, Emmaus, Christianity Explored, or other introductory course to the Christian faith can help us to do this. We aim to run suitable teaching courses throughout the year and during the term of this pMap cycle.***
 - ***Respecting newly-to-be-introduced General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidelines, we would like to send personal invitations to these courses (together with additional information about church activities) to adults coming to St Mary's for church, weddings, baptisms and other events. We will carefully research and agree the time(s) we run these courses.***
 - ***One house group emerged from the Pilgrim course, and we will work to grow further groups following other teaching courses.***
 - ***We would like to hold an annual service to celebrate marriages past and present. This will include a meal and can serve as a way to keep in touch with those married in St Mary's as well as others throughout the community.***

- ***Engaging with the Young, their Parents, and Carers - Acknowledging our diverse community and our desire to reach all people with the gospel of Christ, we aim to offer worship services that reflect our ethos as well as the heart of God.***
 - ***We will continue our All Age “Second Sunday” services. These serve as opportunities for people of every age and generation to worship together at a Eucharist service and as an introduction to more regular Sunday services with Junior Church. We will work to keep in touch with families coming for baptisms and invite them, in particular, to our All Age “Second Sunday” services.***
 - ***Plans for new models of non-Sunday, non-Eucharist gatherings for the very young are underway.***
 - ***Junior Church (designed for school-aged children on a Sunday morning) is in need of revitalisation, more lay leaders, and more families with small children to attend Sunday services. We will pray, work and endeavour to this end.***
 - ***Our present aim is to recruit a new Choir Director. If we are successful, we aim to encourage Infants’ School and Junior School singers to join the St Mary’s Choir.***
 - ***St Mary’s has enjoyed a successful first year of Messy Church, and we would like to consider how to take this forward. Reinvigorating and growing the Messy Church committee is essential. We successfully combined Messy***

Church sessions with the All Age “Second Sunday” services and this grouping could be trialled again.

- *Connecting with the Elderly and the Bereaved - Recently-bereaved people often turn to the church.*
 - *We would like to develop resources that form part of a pastoral visit pack. The pack would contain details of the care and support that St Mary’s can offer, including such items as church contact details, dates and times of services for the bereaved, dates and times of regular services, weekly café, men’s breakfast, home groups, introduction to Christianity courses, nurture courses and other social events.*
 - *We would like to hold regular quarterly services for the bereaved. We will aim to have refreshments in the Parish Room before these services in the Bolton Chapel, and we envisage a simple liturgy of prayers, poems, music, readings, and reflections.*

Re-imagining the Church - INSPIRING

- *Worshipping in New Contexts - We will seek to carry out our worship beyond the confines of the church building, making full use of our beautiful churchyard and the various community spaces in Old Basing and Lychpit through pioneering new services, retreats and quiet days. We would like to further our links with Care Homes in our community, in particular, Basingfield Court and Oakfields, and develop*

opportunities to share in worship, at-home retreats, and other periodic times of prayer, music, and celebration. Additionally, we would like to explore conducting worship services in the Lychpit Village Hall and at the Old Basing Recreation Ground.

- *Offering Occasional Offices - Because St Mary's attracts a significant number of Christenings and Weddings and remains the place where many turn for Funerals, we are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus with those with little church contact whom these Occasional Offices attract. We want visitors to be welcomed warmly, and that they be invited and encouraged to share more fully in the life of the church. We would like to reintroduce "Welcome Cards" for people who are new to St Mary's with a clear welcome greeting, and a section for providing their contact details if they would like someone from the Church to get in touch.*
- *Celebrating Special Days - Christmas, Easter, and Remembrance Day services are well known in the community and supported across all generations. Our two Crib Services normally attract 500+ people and our Carol Service usually has 170 to 200 people attend. We as a church want to ensure these opportunities highlight our place in the community, and give us an opportunity to communicate the gospel and express Christian hospitality.*
- *Enjoying Each Other (Fun) - We shall seek opportunities for the church family to be together socially. We also want to re-*

inforce the Social Committee and run various non-fundraising events for the church and wider community to enjoy. All Saints Children's celebrations, Barn Dances, Beetle Drives, Quiz Nights, and nature walks are all examples of activities that we might undertake. We want to fully-support all Friends of St Mary's events.

- *Linking with Younger People - We recognize our challenge to attract young people and families with younger children. We would like to support the creation and building of the new Scout Hut and explore ways to use it as a local youth centre. Equipment such as a table tennis table, a pool table, and badminton racquets could encourage young people to gather and use the Scout Hut and / or Parish Room as a safe place to congregate and "hang out". We will explore hiring a Youth Worker to join us in ministry and to provide additional resources to help us as a Church learn to engage more effectively with young people in Old Basing & Lychpit.*

Transforming Society - ENGAGING

- *Building community - Through activities such as Coffee Catch Up and Men's Breakfast, we will promote activities that build a strong sense of a caring local community.*
- *Addressing Social Exclusion - Through supporting initiatives such as Good Neighbours, Food Bank and the Night Shelter, we will collaborate with others to be agents for change in reducing social exclusion, marginalisation, and inequality.*

- *Growing Global Links - Through strengthening global links such as our link to Katakala in Uganda, we will seek to deepen our understanding of the issues of the wider world. These links give examples of how others live out their Christian faith and give us stories to tell.*
- *Building Relationships with the Wider Church - We will actively seek to create links of mutual support and cooperation with fellow Christians both in the local community (through Churches Together, for example) and through our global links, with the wider world.*
- *Engaging with Youth - We will build on our close relationships with the primary-level schools in the parish to be a church that engages with our young people and encourages them to cooperate for the common good.*

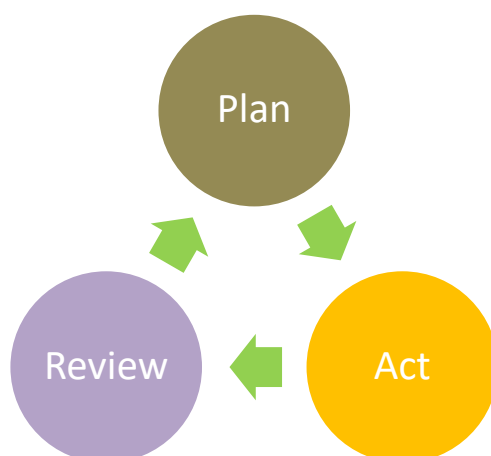
St Mary's provides Foundation Governors to serve at St Mary's Junior school, and we want to support those who are serving the community in this way. We have strong links with both schools would like to continue to provide opportunities to share the church building and encourage its use for school-related acts of worship, visits and events.

Sacrificial Living and Good Stewardship - SUSTAINING

- *Maintaining Church Fabric -St Mary's Church of Old Basing and Lychpit is an outstandingly beautiful Grade 1 listed building. Respecting our heritage, we will adapt the pews in the South aisle and at the front of church, and re-order the*

Chancel steps to create a more effective and flexible worship space.

- *Increasing giving - We recognise our responsibility both to fund the mission of the parish and to contribute to the needs of the whole of the parishes in the Diocese of Winchester through Common Mission Fund giving. Through an established Stewardship Programme, we will make the most efficient use of our resources and encourage regular and tax efficient giving.*
- *Promoting Community Events - We will promote St Mary's as an ideal venue for community occasions. We will host annual events such as the Flower Festival and Christmas Fete and welcome other community events and activities such as Ploughman's Lunch Club, Cubs, U3A, Alzheimer's Society, and Basing Singers. We will seek to develop these imaginatively as links with the community and as valuable sources of income.*
- *We want to continue our support and partnership with PIOCC (Churchyard Conservation Group) and recognise its importance to the community and to work together, if needed, to ensure it continues to thrive.*



In order to ensure that the plan is more than a series of aspirations, we require a regular review by the PCC of progress against a clear set of proposed initiatives.

	Action	Steering/ Detail	Review Date
Growing Authentic Disciples	Courses	<i>Pilgrim Group -leading a Beginners' Course?</i>	Oct 19
	House Groups	<i>Pilgrim Group - expansion/diversification?</i>	Ongoing
	Marriage Service	<i>New Incumbent</i>	Sep 19
	2nd Sunday (suspended)	<i>New Incumbent</i>	June 19
	Messy Church	<i>Dates to be agreed for 2019, suggestion of MC Feb 19</i>	Nov 18
	'Pram Service'	<i>New Incumbent</i>	Sep 19
	Junior Church	<i>JC leaders - recruit new helpers and explore possibility of Godly Play</i>	Nov 18
	Choir Director	<i>CWs w. Jo and Paul - Advertise for position.</i>	Jan 19

	Welcome Pack <i>including Welcome Cards</i>	AM	Nov 18
	Bereavement Pack	PP/JE	Complete
	Bereavement Services	New Incumbent	June 19
Re-imagining the Church	New Contexts	New incumbent	Sep 19
	Social committee	JJ (with support)	Nov 18
	Youth Worker	New Incumbent	Sep 19
Transforming Society	Social Exclusion <i>Includes Night Shelter</i>	DS	Nov 18
	Global Links	RS	Nov 18
	Local Links	Deanery (via PS)	Jan 19
Sacrificial Living	Fabric	CWs	Ongoing
	Giving	ML - Giving Course?	Nov 18
	Local Events/Groups	DF	Ongoing
	PIOCC	PIOCC Rep	Ongoing