

## PARISH OF CENTRAL CARDIFF

### MISSION ACTION PLAN – REVIEWING OUR PROGRESS

The adoption of the 2004 Annual Report at the AGM in April 2005 re-affirmed the following as the basis of the Parish Mission Action Plan.

**Our purpose** as people and ministers of this parish is to sustain a pattern of worship and teaching that meets the pastoral needs of our situation, making the best use we can of our buildings, opening them for activities that serve the purpose of community-building, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Our aim** is to increase the number of regular active participants in the church's worship and ministry.

In the light of changing circumstances several **key areas** carried forward from the 2004 AGM requiring action from church members were identified and reported upon.

- A) A new parish treasurer, willing to work at computerising accounts and implementing the new legally required audit procedures. **Appointed at the 2005 AGM**
- B) A community focussed re-development plan for St James' church, backed by an initial feasibility study. **Delivered and received by the 2005 AGM. This endorsed the policy of opening the church for community purposes and seeking public funding to secure this objective.**
- C) To ensure that the parish quota is paid, and an overall balanced budget is maintained. **Achieved in 2004, but warnings given that income predictions make serious shortfalls possible in 2005.**
- C) To create and bring into operation a parish office, staffed by volunteers, by the 2004 AGM. **Delayed but work on construction of new office facilities at St John's nearing completion.**
- D) To increase the number of actively contributing worshippers in each congregation by at least five people by the end of 2004. **Signs of numerical growth at St Michael's. Stagnation elsewhere.**
- E) To recruit new volunteer teams to run the Parish Tea-Room and keep it open Tuesday to Saturday each week, by the end of 2004. **One new team working Thursdays, during school term times.**
- F) To ensure that all church officers, PCC and Church Committee members undertake at least one new learning activity in 2004 which will help refresh and strengthen their prayer life and understanding of the bible. **Sunday United Parish day for worship and reflection organised, not very well attended.**
- G) To ensure that every organisation within our churches, before the annual reports are written, reviews its life and purpose, and formulates exactly what its contribution to the work of mission and ministry in the parish consists of. *Only partially achieved*

#### IN ADDITION

Organ restoration programme at St John's in mid-course and on-time, despite setbacks due to asbestos removal and remedial work needed on aisle housing the organ. **Subsequently completed and re-dedicated in June 2005. Organ recitals and other concert programmes resumed.**

**St Michael's obtained Faculty and finally replaced its defunct pipe organ with a digital instrument.**

The St Teilo Arts development project managed to overcome its setbacks, and upgraded toilets for the disabled in autumn 2005. Completion of remaining building work is scheduled for mid-2006. **Renewal has been negotiated of a second three-year contract for regular use by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, thereby guaranteeing financial stability, and regular use of building by hundreds of University students a week in term time. Innovative Sunday evening 'Café Culture' concert/recital events have been entirely lay-led and organised.**

In response to the 2004 MAP review, additional lay people were recruited as Assistant Ministers of the Eucharist, and engaged in home communions. **On several when there was no cleric to take a service, St James' and St Teilo's held lay-led non-Eucharistic Sunday worship. St John's Sunday Evensong has been lay-led, and occasional weekday services at St Michael's have been lay-led.**

During the year it PCC realised that it would no longer be able to afford to provide for full-time training Curate's post. However, **the Parish has provided three placements for residential and non-residential ordinands in training.**

Publicising the Parish Office, encouraging parishioners and the public to use it has not been successful and the volume of use has not yet justified setting up a 'call centre' team as envisaged.

**A youth group started at St Michael's in 2005 is jointly led by laity and clergy. 2005 confirmation preparation involved regular participation by one lay person in partnership with the clergy.**

The re-location of St Monica's school in new premises, closer to St Michael's in Autumn 2004 has meant **increased use of the church for regular school worship, and special acts of worship in the school open to the wider community. There is increased interest and involvement in the school by some church members.**

St James' church nave was cleared of fixed pews in April 2005, and this has made possible more flexible use for youth events and public meetings. There have been only four of these. **Development of new uses is hindered by lack of caretaking and administrative help.**

Changes in public spending policies have made it difficult to attract funding for further development. Overdue roof repairs have still to find funding. Fundraising and grant applications are hindered by the lack of personnel willing to undertake them. Tredegarville school are keen to make use of St James' building and land to extend its own physical resources, whilst keeping the sanctuary as a place of worship. Progress on convincing funding sources to back development in this way is far too slow. Regular congregation numbers at St James' are 12-15, and inability to pay the quota, coupled to St John's difficulties meeting quota has put the parish into an **unprecedented financial crisis. We are succeeding in making optimum use of our buildings (except St James') for community purposes, without this the parish would be bankrupt.** *St James will have to close at the end of 2006 unless some promise of support for development can be secured.*

Work is under way on developing ministry to tourists at St John's. There is now a continuing series of charity fundraising events under the heading "Solidarity Events@ StJohn's". Eight events across the year drew in more than 1,500 new visitors. The addition of one more Tea-Room team means that it operates five days out of seven, and this has led to a noticeable increase in customers across the board.

#### KEY AREAS FOR ATTENTION IN 2006

- a) Sale of Parish houses. Revision of financial management – ensuring the Quota can be paid.
- b) Confirmation preparation and follow up experiment.
- c) Extending recent worship and teaching initiative with Tredegarville school families.
- d) Ensuring that, if it is impossible to develop St James', it is closed with dignity and sensitivity, and alternative arrangements are managed in good time.
- e) Re-visiting the operation of the ministry plan in the light of the withdrawal of the Chaplain.
- f) Extending the use of lay ministries.
- g) Consolidating the financial operations of the Tea-Room and devising a development plan for it.
- h) Responding to concerns emerging from the start of the St David II redevelopment works.
- i) Getting the Parish Office properly operational.
- j) Making yet another attempt to implement an effective adult discipleship programme.
- k) Extending regular team meetings to officers, in order to keep Parish life under review.

JKK 26.01.2006