

The Mission of St Matthew's
Report on the suggestions from PCC Meeting on 5th June 2017

At the meeting on 5th June 2017, members of the PCC were invited to discuss and rate the priority of suggestions for how St Matthew's might develop its mission.

Having collated these scores, we have looked at which ideas were rated as 'high' priority and considered how they might best be taken forward. Some will be relatively simple to implement, others less straightforward. After considering the practicalities, we have identified four suggestions for new missional activities to begin in the autumn.

1 Welcome Pack/ Who's Who

Communication and publicity ranked very highly in the PCC's list of priorities, including the suggestion of a welcome pack. This would include a set of biographies ('Who's Who at St Matthew's').

The welcome packs are intended for newcomers to St Matthew's, both new local residents and those working nearby. In order to request a pack, we suggest that people be invited either to fill out a card with their contact details, or to apply online through the website, or to ask one of the clergy. The pack may then either be handed to them or sent by post or email, as they prefer.

It would be very helpful if one or two members of the PCC could assist Fr Jamie with this project, with the aim of having the packs available in September.

2 Saturday Film Club

The PCC ranked a 'Film Night' as a high priority. We therefore approached the Abbey Community Centre (who have a weekday film club) for guidance on setting this up. They explained that there is very little provision for local residents on a Saturday afternoon and they felt that residents would welcome this. Accordingly, we suggest that we begin with a Saturday afternoon slot and review this after a few months.

In terms of the community, our target audience will be local residents and service users of the Abbey Community Centre.

The Abbey Community Centre are happy to provide the DVDs and refreshments in return for a charge of £2 to those attending. They will deliver the DVD and a supply of popcorn, choc ices, tea and coffee to St Matthew's the Thursday before the Saturday concerned. The Abbey Community Centre have offered to take bookings and collect the £2. St Matthew's will effectively be providing the space (i.e. the Trevelyan Hall), fresh milk and people to welcome guests (which would include members of the congregation).

St Matthew's will need to purchase a 12 month licence for £152. In terms of frequency, we envisage that the club would take place fortnightly (subject to review).

In so far as pastoral assistants are involved, they will be given time off during the week in place of Saturday.

3 Faith and Food

At the PCC meeting on 5th June, it was suggested that we begin by focussing on the things we already do well and find ways to develop those ministries. In keeping with our tradition of hospitality, we propose to pilot a series of 'Faith and Food' evenings, beginning in the autumn.

Members of the congregations and local community will be invited to come together for a supper and listen to a talk about the Christian life. There will be a modest charge to cover costs. A variety of speakers will be invited, building on our existing links, and the content will cover different areas of interest without being too academic in style.

As regards format, we envisage that during the evening the speaker will give short addresses between the courses, a format which Sion College have found to be successful. Depending on numbers, we will use the dining room and drawing room in the Clergy House, which can seat up to 20 people.

Arrangements for catering will need to be worked out.

We suggest that we hold two evenings each quarter, with a break in the summer.

4 Community Engagement in Social Action Projects

Pastoral engagement with the local community is a significant aspect of the ministry of the clergy and pastoral assistants. This is the sort of activity that is difficult to measure but represents an important part of the church's outreach.

Owing to the nature of our buildings and their other full time uses – in particular the Clergy House and Conference Centre – we are not currently in a position to host social action projects such as a night shelter or soup kitchen, or to house a refugee family. This does not mean, however, that engagement with social action is not a priority for St Matthew's.

In our discussions, we noted that there is a wide provision of services and social action projects in the local area (i.e. hostels, soup kitchens, services and information for homeless people).

Accordingly, our suggestion is that as a church we find ways (a) to communicate our support for ministry to the marginalised and (b) to enable members of our congregations to volunteer in these projects.

As a first step, we propose to produce a 'Get Involved' leaflet with information about local volunteer opportunities.