



ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH
150th Anniversary, 1872-2022



St Mary Abbots Church
Mission Action Plan
2022-2025



Introduction

As with all churches, we have spent much of the last year trying to find some sense of normality again after the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic: encouraging people to get back into the habit of coming to church; re-establishing our teams of volunteers without whom much of our life here simply would not happen; and getting our finances back on an even keel.

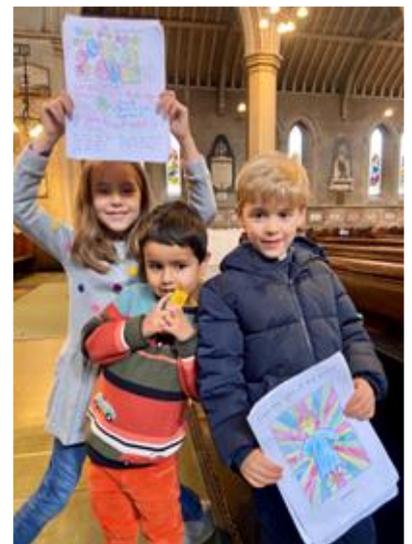
All of these things are happening in a way which has exceeded our expectations, and we are in a far healthier and more secure position than the vast majority of churches across the country. Our numbers are almost back up to pre-Covid levels; more and more people are taking part in re-establishing the areas of church life which had been restricted over the last couple of years; and our giving is now higher than before, giving us a small surplus for 2021.

Thanks to this returning stability we are delighted that we have been able to turn to developing our strategy for the next three years: our Mission Action Plan. In case you are sceptical of central church acronyms and initiatives, this is really just an opportunity for us to think about what our key priorities will be for the next few years. We have had six wide-ranging discussions with people from across our church community in which we asked them to answer three questions: What is the Church of God for? What are we doing well here at St Mary Abbots? What could we do better, or do that we are not currently doing?

Some strong themes emerged from these conversations, all of which are clearly highly valued. These include the strength and frequency of our worship and music; our excellent relationship with St Mary Abbots School; and the quality of our provision for younger children. We are very pleased that, based on these themes, the PCC also settled on a consensus about the areas of church life that we want to focus on developing over the next three years: Welcome, Discipleship and Outreach. We very much hope that this Mission Action Plan will help us as a church community to grow in our mission to make the love of God known here in Kensington; that we might all deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ; always trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide and equip us.

With our warmest wishes and prayers,

Mother Emma, Guy Heald, Ed Warrick and Father Christopher





'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' Hebrews 13.2

WELCOME

Our broad goals

- To welcome all, whatever their appearance, age, identity or background.
- To understand how our church feels for those who have never been into this or any church before.
- To make the church building more accessible, welcoming and spiritually more engaging.

What we want to achieve by 2025

- All members of our congregations offer a **warm greeting** to regular worshippers and to those who are new or returning to St Mary Abbots. Welcome should not be seen as the sole responsibility of the clergy and those on the door. We should as a community **all** feel a sense of responsibility for hospitality when attending the church as members of St Mary Abbots, rather than simply coming to attend or receive in the church.

- **WCs and disabled facilities** have been installed.
- Our building is more **accessible** to all, including those of all ages and those with disabilities.
- The building **tells our story** and that of our faith, retaining its sense of peace and sanctuary.
- We have **new noticeboards and external lighting**, to help make the church more visible and appealing to those passing by.





'Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.' 1 Corinthians 12:28

DISCIPLESHIP

Our broad goals

- To offer opportunities to deepen prayer life, spirituality, knowledge of the faith and commitment to Christ and His Church.
- To strengthen a sense of responsibility for the life of the Church, with wide participation in ministry.
- To increase the proportion of regular financial givers.

What we want to achieve by 2025

- **Regular prayer or study groups** run for adults, led by clergy and lay people. At the moment these are run periodically, and particularly for the annual confirmation (with separate adults' and children's groups), but we would like to have 'termly' courses / groups, so that there is always something to point towards for those enquiring about Christianity or wanting to deepen their faith. We will include a particular focus on apologetics, to empower people to share their faith more confidently with others.

- **Lay ministry and responsibility** are regularly encouraged, nurtured, developed and celebrated.
- Lay ministry and responsibility are seen as being **open to all**.

As Christians we believe that all of us have vocations, both in the world and within the church. You may have a gift and a calling which you haven't realised before, and we want to nurture your gifts. We are all the people of God, and the church needs all of us in order to flourish.

- **Annual targets** set for growth in participation.
At present we don't know the level of participation as a percentage of our electoral roll or database, but as a first step in establishing this we will build up our parish database using the ChurchSuite tool so that we have a better idea of who is doing what across the community, and so that we can develop targets and a strategy for engaging more of us in the varied life of our church.
- We will encourage all members of our congregations to discern prayerfully the level of their **financial support** for God's work, and, if possible, to consider making a regular pledge by standing order, so that the church can budget the resources appropriately for its mission, ministry and upkeep.
- **Stewardship campaigns** will help to clarify both ways of giving and the ways in which gifts are used, in order to help people make these decisions.



'Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.' St Teresa of Ávila

OUTREACH

Our broad goals

- To raise the profile of outreach and to establish it as a core part of the mission of St Mary Abbots.
- To serve the homeless and others in need through ongoing commitment and regular events / initiatives.
- To give a proportion of the parish's annual income to charities which reflect Christ's compassion, both locally and further afield.

What we want to achieve by 2025

- An **outreach group** meets regularly both to serve those in need and to make recommendations to the PCC for our charitable giving.
- Our charitable giving **equates to 10%** of our annual income.
- Ongoing and **committed support** for established weekly outreach activities.
- **Congregation members regularly take part** in supporting these outreach activities directly.

Review

We will review our progress on these priorities at the PCC twice a year, as well as presenting a summary of our progress at each APCM for feedback.

We hope that as signs of healthy growth we will see 10% increases in our average Sunday attendance, electoral roll and congregational giving year-on-year, but we are very conscious that only God gives the growth, and that numerical growth is only part of the picture. These numbers will therefore only be used to inform our overall assessment of the health of St Mary Abbots as we develop these priorities over the next three years.



Services

Sunday Services

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist (Provision for children)
11.15 am	Choral Matins
5.30 pm	Sung Evensong

Weekday Services and opening hours

The church is open from 8.30 am to 6pm Monday to Friday and from 10am - 6pm on Saturdays and Bank Holidays

8 am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
12 noon	Holy Eucharist (9.30 am on Thursdays during term time)
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

Monthly variations

Family Eucharist	1 st Sunday of the month at 9.30 am
Baptism Eucharist	2 nd Sunday of the month at 9.30 am
Taize Eucharist	3 rd Sunday of the month at 5.30 pm
Healing Eucharist	3 rd Wednesday of the month at 12 noon

Please see our church noticeboard or website for services for special festivals and events.

Parish Office

St Mary Abbots PCC

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