

The Church of St John the Baptist, Newcastle

Mission Action Plan 2016

St John's is 'an oasis of peace in the heart of a busy city'; an ancient church surrounded by a rapidly changing urban environment, where shops open and close, new accommodation is being built and the many bars that surround us are constantly reinventing themselves.

Our Mission Action Plan seeks to address the following themes:

Growth in Spirituality

We will do this by:

- Keeping the church open daily as a place for people to come in and pray.
- Continuing St John's long tradition of contemplative prayer (going back to 1914), by concluding Morning Prayer with a period of silence.
- Nurturing people's spiritual life through theological conversation, such as provided by Lent courses.
- Celebrating the major festivals of the church year, striving to offer a high standard in liturgy and music.

Growth in numbers and missional commitment

We will do this by:

- Making a deliberate effort to encourage those we have not seen recently to return to Church.
- Promoting particular services (such as Christmas Eve), which attract families and people who do not normally come to church.
- Hosting concerts and other cultural events to engage new audiences and make the church available to more and different groups of people.
- Engaging with wider society through our beekeeping and other activities.

Developing our work with children and young people

We will do this by:

- Cultivating contacts with schools and creating opportunities for visits and other events.
- Encouraging members of the congregation to bring children and grandchildren to church.
- Developing our choral and organ scholarship programmes, and providing other opportunities for young people to develop new skills, such as through work experience schemes.
- Engaging with the students who will move into the new student accommodation being built in the parish.

Developing and promoting the breadth of lay and ordained vocation

We will do this by:

- Continuing to maintain our Christian witness as the body of Christ in the city centre by keeping the church open every day, engaging with visitors, and maintaining the daily offering of the Eucharist and Offices.
- Encouraging more members of the church to join in the ministry of welcome and hospitality (as 'church sitters') to those who visit St John's during the day, whether coming as tourists, for private prayer, or in need of help.
- Fostering vocation to all forms of licensed ministry by encouraging individuals in the discernment process.