



St Mary Magdalen,
Kentwood Hill, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6DR

www.stmarymagdalen-tilehurst.org
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St Mary Magdalen

**MISSION
ACTION
PLAN
2023-2025**



Mission Action Plan 2023 - 2025

Background

The parish of St Mary Magdalen is on the western edge of Reading but spreads across the boundary between Reading and West Berkshire councils with roughly a quarter lying within West Berkshire. It consists of mixed housing stock with older housing to the eastern side and newer housing in the west. We have three small local shopping areas, a large Waitrose supermarket and a small light industrial area. There are four primary schools and an early-years centre within the parish. The parish has a sports centre and some attractive and well used open spaces with children's play areas.

The parish consists largely of middle-income households. There is a small area of greater income deprivation, comprising approximately 20% of the overall parish. The age profile for the parish is broadly in line with the average for England and Wales.

As with many such areas there is a level of loneliness amongst older residents.

Approximately 40% of the congregation live outside the parish. However, many of them have historic links with the church.

Following years of discussion and intensive planning, St. Mary Magdalen's now has a significantly improved disabled access and a new toilet. This gives us the opportunity to serve the community more effectively using both the Church and Hall.

Our Mission Action Plan has been developed to help us focus our work in the next few years. It does not list everything that is important about our church life, or everything that we do. It is meant to help us see what God specifically wants us to focus on in the next few years in our particular place. After talking together, we have identified three themes: Building, Outreach, and Faith. We have then identified some key things we're going to try and do under each theme.

What we do now

- Sunday 10am Sung Eucharist
- 3rd Sunday Healing Ministry (includes laying on of hands, currently postponed until such time as the PCC and congregation feel comfortable at re-instating post-COVID)
- Wednesday 10am Holy Communion (due to restart Aug/Sept 2022)
- Baptisms, weddings & Funerals
- Ministry to residents in residential care (inc. Communion at the discretion of the Priest depending on COVID restrictions)
- Home Communion (Currently at the discretion of the Priest depending on COVID restrictions)
- Pastoral Care
- Service for All Souls

As a church we strive to be open and welcoming. We share in people's joy and sorrows with the Good News of Jesus Christ through Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

The Five Anglican Marks of Mission



Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.



Teach, nurture, and baptize new believers.



Respond to human need by loving service.



Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.



Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Faith is a journey

With prayers, worship, nurturing, outreach and partnership working, St. Mary Magdalen's Church will strive to meet the needs of its parishioners and, with the help of God, make a positive difference to the lives of those in need in the local community.

As we mentioned at the start this Mission Action Plan is not exhaustive and will develop over a period of time being reviewed bi-Annually (every two years) by the new PCC after the APCM.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

(Matthew 28:19 (NIV))

THEME THREE: OUTREACH

What it means

As well as caring for each other, we feel we should reach out to the wider community to show God's care and compassion outside the immediate church family. Because we are not a large congregation we will need to work in partnership with existing groups outside the church, building on our existing connections (e.g. as we did with the 'Flanders Field' remembrance initiative).

Short-term (by Spring 2023)

- Organise one event (? Macmillan Coffee Morning) designed to bring people together in the building for a specific good cause, to demonstrate the space we can offer and that we are a willing partner.
- Organise one service with refreshments, perhaps on a weekend afternoon, to welcome back baptism families (a major point of contact with children / younger adults / those in middle age).
- Open the Church for a Coffee morning / drop-in and chat after the mid-week service

Medium-term (by 2025)

- Consider how we reconnect with schools / nurseries / uniformed organisations.
- Consider whether and how we can offer other residential homes the pattern of worship and care we already offer at Riverview.
- Consider how events and worship can be more inclusive of people with additional needs, eg. visually impaired, Dementia, physical challenges.

What we want to do

In line with the Five Marks of Mission St. Mary Magdalen's Church wants to

1. To proclaim the Good news of the kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We believe St. Mary Magdalen's is a place where people can feel safe, be real, and live well. We want to use the building and the skills of our volunteers to reach out to the wider community in service. However, we recognise we are a small congregation and so will need to build on partnerships we already have as well as look for new links. We believe that over time we can become a real asset to the community and a witness to Christ's love in the world.

Our Mission Action Plan has been developed to help us focus our work in the next few years. It does not list everything that is important about our church life, or everything that we do. It is meant to help us see what God specifically wants us to focus on in the next few years in our particular place. After talking together, we have identified three themes: Building, Outreach, and Faith. We have then identified some key things we're going to try and do under each theme.

THEME ONE: FAITH

What this means

Our faith in Jesus Christ is the core of who we are. Sharing this faith is the core of what the church is for. So, we need to be growing in our own faith, and finding ways we can share our faith with others.

Short-term (by Spring 2023)

- Publicise existing opportunities for exploring faith more widely and regularly using noticeboards / notices in church / social media.
- Following discussion with our existing families, restart the monthly service for families or something similar.
- Arrange a simple service based on community need (for instance a time to reflect after the pandemic, remembering those who've died and giving thanks for those who care for us).
- begin using the eco church process as a tool to increase our environmental awareness

Medium-term (by 2025)

- Organise a Parish Retreat
- work towards eco church bronze award

THEME TWO: BUILDING

What it means

We want our building to be more open for more of the time and for more reasons, so we bring more people together. We hope they will at least have a positive experience of the building, but also a chance to engage with prayer, spirituality, and Christian hope.

Short-term (by Spring 2023)

- We will have printed material available on the noticeboards / leaflets about (1) how to pray; (2) how to explore faith; (3) how to give to the church; (4) history / guide to the building.
- We will identify someone responsible for keeping our noticeboards / publicity up-to-date and relevant.

Medium-term (by 2025)

- We will have more groups and events using our building, and will use those connections to invite people to worship and church activities.
- Improve the sound and video quality and options for use during services and meetings