

ST THOMAS AT CLIFFE WITH ALL SAINTS, LEWES

MISSION ACTION PLAN

A planning group was formed to draft a Mission Action Plan for St Thomas à Becket Church. After seeking God's help, the group considered the extent of the parish boundaries (including All Saints) and community profile, recognising that we are a town centre church with shops and commercial activities nearby, as well as residential streets with a significant number of retirement dwellings. The group felt that support and outreach to the elderly are an important part of our ministry. The frequent visitors to the church and their comments about valuing its quiet, contemplative atmosphere and the fact that the church is open for prayer throughout the day, are important considerations. The group considered these facts, together with the facilities and resources of the church, and the following have been identified as areas to develop in accordance with the diocesan ABC structure.

A Attending to God – worship and spirituality, Christian giving and stewardship (1st Year)

Stewardship/Charitable Giving: St Thomas has a strong commitment to keep the church open throughout the day so that parishioners and visitors have the opportunity to enjoy the peaceful, reflective atmosphere of the church. Mindful of this, the group have highlighted several stewardship issues to be addressed which include: reviewing the belfry area, keeping it “quietly welcoming”, and giving visitors the opportunity to view some of our charitable links (eg Family Support Work and Caring and Sharing) and find out other interesting facts about the church.

The PCC annually reviews the church's charitable giving in accordance with the PCC's agreed formula based on planned giving and collections.

Study Groups: The church monthly newsletters will detail St Anne's educational and fellowship activities (available for the benefice), as well as St Thomas' own Lent and pre-Advent Courses. Details will also be publicised in the church.

Library: Develop, publicise and maintain a small library of Christian books in the church for circulation, loan and visitors to enjoy, and to encourage discussion about Christian matters; to include consideration of the Bible Reading Fellowship notes.

B Building a Christian Community - Outreach and Mission (2nd Year)

Coffee and Fellowship mornings: Extend our present coffee and fellowship mornings to include a Christian enquirers' area with literature, where quiet conversation can take place with a member of the clergy. Also publicise the Saturday morning drop-in sessions for enquirers at St Annes's.

Young People: Identify and work closer with local families with young children and build on the church's existing Christmas Crib service and Carol Singing round the Parish, by organising special services for young people centred on the Easter story and at Harvest Festival time. Also publicise St Anne's monthly service for children on the first Sunday of the month.

Business Community: Promote and support Harvey's Harvest Festival Service and other links with the business community.

Flower/Art Festival: Arrange a Christian-themed Flower/Art Festival involving members of the local community. Arrange short organ recitals in the church during the day to attract local residents and other visitors.

Church Services - Publicity: Consider the publicity of the weekly services, especially festival services (eg Easter and Christmas) using the notice board outside the church and other means.

C Commending God's Love 3rd Year)

Pastoral Visits/Prayer in the Community: St Thomas already has a strong community spirit but intends extending its pastoral visits and prayer in the community and encouraging members of the parish to let us know if they are aware of anyone who may require a visit, has special needs or a prayer request. The monthly newsletter will include a paragraph highlighting this. A Prayer Circle has recently been set up.

The small working group will steer through the various action points and monitor our progress.