

Rector's Report



If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

INTRODUCTION

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heaven's eternal days.
William Rees, 1876



Here is love, vast as the ocean,
The Mission we are involved in is something much bigger than us. It goes before us in the work of God in the world and ahead of us in God's Vision of a greater future for us and his world. It is motivated by Passion and Prayer



We love because he first loved us.

How much we love others relates to knowing how much God loves us?.

How much do we desire that others are captured by what captured us?

It is good news to us. We are called to share it with others

The process of Mission Action Planning (See Mission Action Planning: What is it?) is helping us clarify: Our Mission, Our Vision, Our Values, Our Priorities, Our Plan.

At our PCC Away Day last July, we set 3 Priority Goals:

OUR PRIORITIES: with reference to our Mission Statement

1. Going Out: As Christians...

Physical presence:

Jesus said "Go..." (Matthew 28)

**Where are you going to go to?
Where is your Frontline?**

The City beyond Bermondsey?
The Community around you?
The Children and others among us?



Actions

In the next Year:

- Establish a relevant pattern of "children and young people" friendly worship at St Mary's. Take advantage of Training opportunities for children's Leaders.
- Prepare to Press out- Find our Frontlines. Intentionally relate (with the help of others) to people in our parish and beyond...

2. Worship (exploring the "Otherness" of God):

Worshipping together in Bermondsey. We are seeking to live for the glory of God, by following Jesus...

Spiritual presence: This Priority is about Worshipping God as his people in this place.

The psalms tell us that God is present in the praises of his people. Many of us would testify to our own experience of that. We are here to proclaim the presence of God in this place, as generation after generation have done for over a thousand years.

As a worship song asks:

What does it sound like when you sing heaven's song?

What does it feel like when heaven comes down?

What does it look like when God is all around?

Although we may not put it this way or realise it, when we worship, we are recognising the reality of the Spiritual realm. We also therefore recognise the need for regular prayer:

In and out of church, in homes and in groups, for our church and community, for ourselves and others .

Actions

In the next Year:

- Increase real opportunities for Prayer including Freedom Prayer.

3. Building: In the reality of God's world.

Fruitful partnerships: We are not only the oldest building in Bermondsey, but also the oldest Christian Community. Not only are we physically present, but we are “**Here for Good**” (See Vision Statement) and as such we are seeking to build Fruitful partnerships, both with other Followers of Jesus as well as with outside organisations and charities who wish to contribute positively to the community.

We want to make the best possible use of the resources God has given us (and that includes the building itself) for the sake of his Kingdom.

Actions

In the next Year:

- Establish St Mary's as a venue for the Robes Project (Winter Night Shelter for the Homeless in South London)

CONCLUSION

All of the above Actions require committed people- It is our intention to set up a steering group and Coordinators to ensure action is taken in each area. Please pray about how God wants you to be involved.

All of the above need people of Passion, who believe in the Vision that we are here for God and **Here for Good!**

Let Jesus be our inspiration:

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Philippians 2:5-8 (MSG)

Charlie Moore:

Holy Week 2015

