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WINCHESTER



## Avon Valley Partnership

# Action Plan

**Our Vision: To live the mission of Jesus**

**Our Aim: We are here to share the love of God by knowing Jesus and making him known to others**

This leaflet sets out our action plan for the coming three years. As you read this leaflet, we hope you will be excited and inspired for the future plans for our communities. However, you may also feel a little daunted, too...these are ambitious plans. We're not expecting everyone to be involved in everything in this plan, but we would like to know what is catching your imagination.

As you read these plans, if you are energized about any of these ideas, if you passionately want to see something happen, or if you think you may want to support any particular item, please let us know.

Talk to any of the Action Plan Working Group, or any of the ministry team.

Fun as it has been across our churches coming up with these exciting ideas for mission in our communities, the aim is not just to have a plan. The adventure starts as we all get involved in helping to make these plans happen, and seeing how the Holy Spirit directs our paths.

# Growing Authentic Disciples

In the Avon Valley Partnership we want to achieve:

*more opportunities for us to deepen our faith, to pray together and gain confidence in what we believe. We will encourage more people to be involved in planning the prayer and worship in our communities*

But we will give ourselves continually to  
**Prayer**  
and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

## Partnership

- Undergird all we do with prayer, develop regular opportunities for prayer and bible study:
  - Arrange two or more events or courses in the year to offer people the opportunity to reflect on their faith journey and engage with questions about faith / theology / bible / prayer (*Short-term*)
  - Create opportunities for congregations to discuss sermons they have heard (*Short-term*)
  - Make sermons more accessible, by publishing some sermons on the website (*Short-term*)
- Each year provide at least one course of lay training, to develop specific forms of ministry:
  - First training planned – baptism visitors (*See Benefice Baptism Policy, January 15*) (*Short-term*)

## Fordingbridge

- Plan a greater variety of forms of the Eucharist, including Celtic and other liturgies, (especially during Ordinary Time), plan to include times for prayer ministry - either through a termly worship meeting or through staff meeting (*Short-term*)

## Breamore

- Meet as necessary to plan special services, choose hymns etc (*Medium-term*)

# Living Generously

In the Avon Valley Partnership we want to achieve:

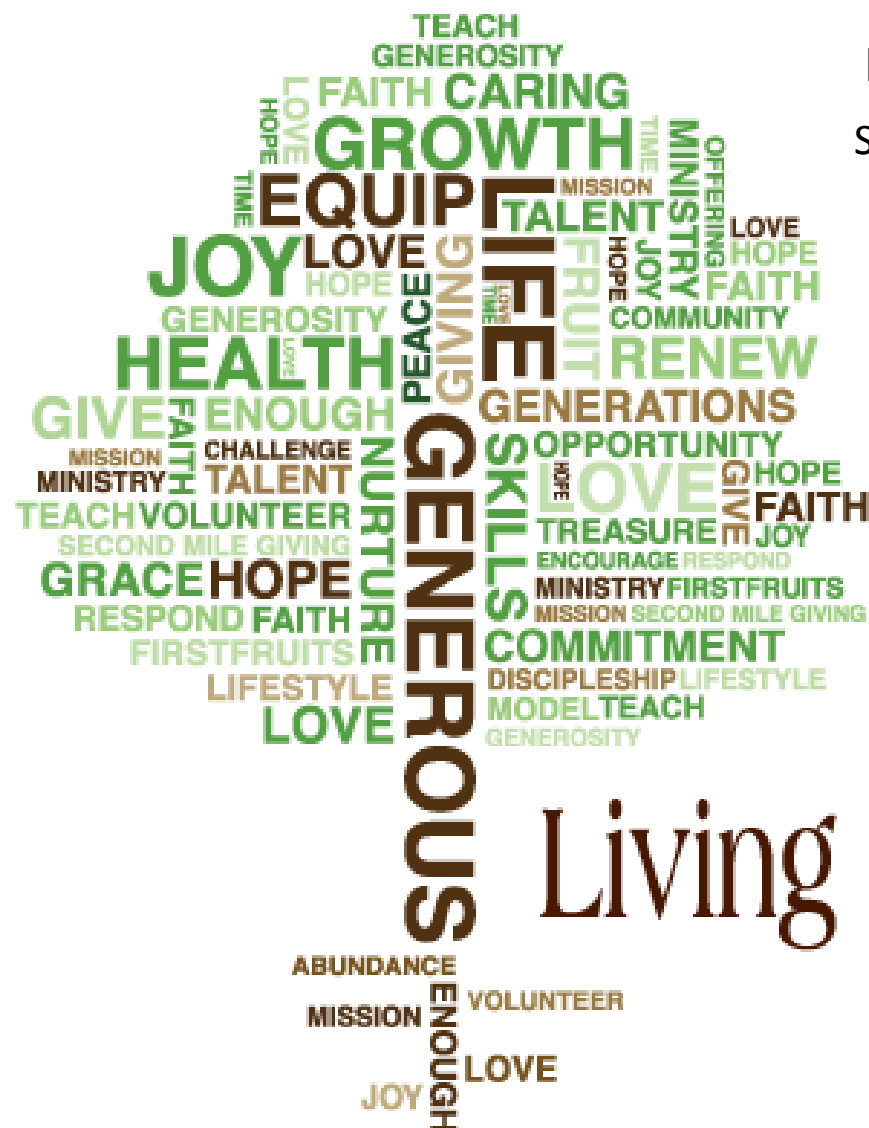
*generous giving; using people, buildings and resources wisely  
to invest in our mission locally and in the wider church*

## All Parishes

- Regularly (at least annually) teach about stewardship, of money, time and talents, starting in September 2015 as a way of expressing our commitment to share in supporting the ministry of the local and wider Church  
(Short-term)
- Promote the Parish Giving Scheme, as a way to encourage regular, planned giving
- Move to have a Costed Maintenance Plan (based on the Quinquennial Report), so that we are better able to budget for care of our buildings, support for ministry, and support for wider Church and other good causes  
(Medium-term)

## Hale, Woodgreen, Breamore

Set up a 'Friends' of St Mary's, Hale, St Boniface, and St Mary's, Breamore, to encourage wider participation in the life of the Church  
(Medium-term)



# Living Generously

—1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (NRSV)

# Re-Imagining the Church

In the Avon Valley Partnership we want to achieve:

*a continuing development and communication of our existing strengths, whilst engaging with the local communities to explore new opportunities*

## **Partnership (either together, or as separate Parishes)**

- Develop a 'Communications Group', to oversee our internal and external communications, in print, digitally, and in the media, and develop new ways of getting the message across (*Medium-term*)
- Increase the 'faith content' of the website – sermons, prayers, articles, links, etc. (*Short-term*)
- Ensure we promote our regular worship and pastoral care, as well as special events (*Short-term*)
- Train Sidespeople (or separate 'Welcomers') to improve the quality and sensitivity of our welcome to visitors to Services (*Short-term*)
- Hold Gravetalk sessions at least annually in the Partnership (*Short-term*)

## **Breamore**

- Strengthen links with Breamore school and school families:
  - further regular school events and services in the church (*Short-term*)
  - lay people being more involved in the life of the school (*Medium-term*)
- Develop coordination and communication of Village events and special services across church, school and hall, to strengthen church and community relationships (*Short-term*)

## **Hale and Woodgreen**

- Begin a monthly after-school club at Hale Village Hall for primary-aged children and their families (*Short-term*)



## Godshill

- Investigate the possibility of the Church being kept open, so that it can be a place of prayer and visits outside of Service times (*Short-term*)
- Trial a monthly midweek meeting in the Village Hall for a short service with a few hymns, reading and prayer, followed by a wider coffee morning, to gather Christians and others in Godshill (*Short-term*)

## Sandleheath

- Continue discussions about governance and structures at Sandleheath, to enable all members of the Uniting Church to have a voice in the running of the Church – but to achieve this without a huge amount of complicated structures! (*Medium-term*)

## Fordingbridge

- Trial a monthly after-school group for primary-aged children and their families from October, to continue the excellent work Puddle Ducklings does with pre-school children (*Short-term*)
- Trial an additional 10.30 Sunday Service, to give another opportunity for informal worship, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, in the North Chapel, beginning with coffee, etc., as the shortened 9.30 Eucharist ends (*Short-term*)
- Consider employing a part-time Children and Families Worker to grow our work with younger people, and see whether this might be financed by a group of generous supporters (This might be a Partnership post) (*Long-term*)
- Develop a Men's Ministry – Men's Breakfast (possibly in conjunction with other Churches), or other Men's Group or activity (*Medium-term*)
- Have a weekly banner outside the Church advertising next Sunday's Services (*Short-term*)

# Transforming Society

In the Avon Valley Partnership we want to achieve:

*a better understanding of the real needs within our communities, and how we can help; encouraging active engagement in our local communities by supporting the foodbank and showing our concern for the environment*

## Partnership *(either together, or as separate Parishes)*

- Create a group to review the needs of the community, understand existing local services, current church involvement and identify specific gaps / needs in the community – e.g. single parents, parenting courses, carers, elderly people, etc. *(Medium-term)*



## All Parishes

- Work with other community partners to reduce the environmental impact of our activities and buildings. To focus this effort we will aim to:
  - Gain at least the Bronze Award of the Diocesan Environmental Scheme within 12 months *(Medium-term)*
  - Achieve at least the Silver Award within three years *(Long-term)*
- Encourage people to join the team for the new Fordingbridge and District Foodbank *(Short-term)*
- Explore the possibility of a community 'Clean up the Forest' Day/Week *(Medium-term)*

## Fordingbridge

- Explore the possibility of a mini-recycling centre at St Mary's (Similar to that at Hyde Garden Centre) *(Medium-term)*

This is our plan for mission within our churches and communities. If you have any questions, or things that you would like to see, please talk to us... it is our living plan, and we want to ensure it really reflects our priorities for our communities.



A huge thank you to our Action Plan Working Group who have been developing these plans, and will continue to work across the partnership as we move these plans forward.

## **Action Plan Working Group**

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# How did we get here?

There have been so many good ideas rumbling, that we wanted to put our thoughts together and map out our key areas of mission for the next three years. Across the benefice, the Action Plan Working Group has been working to help us all identify and create this plan.

Our first steps were to review the current situation in our churches and communities, and to identify the areas of need and opportunities available to us. During May questionnaires were available for everyone across the Partnership to be involved in this process and at the end of May we had our benefice vision day.

As a result, we are now in the planning phase. This leaflet is our Action Plan. This is not set in stone, it is a living document that will change over the coming years. Its aim is to help us to "Live the Mission of Jesus" together in our communities. We will be finalising this plan during the Autumn, and then we move into the action phase, as we start making these plans reality. Over the coming three years, we will continue to work with this plan, reviewing it to fit with the developing needs of our churches and communities.

As you consider these plans, and work out how you would like to be involved, you may want to use this prayer.

Glorious God  
you have taken hold of us  
and made us your own.  
In the power of your Spirit,  
give us grace to press on in your purposes,  
loving one another,  
learning together,  
and living the mission of him who calls us onwards,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen