



The Parish of
St Mary the Virgin
STANWELL
&
St Matthew
ASHFORD

PARISH MISSION ACTION PLAN 2023-2026

MISSION STATEMENT

St Mary's and St Matthew's as part of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, the body of Christ, seek to take seriously and act intentionally upon the mission Christ gave to that Church:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”

Matthew 28:19

MISSIONAL PLAN STATEMENT

St. Mary's, Stanwell, and St. Matthew's Ashford is an Anglican Parish, in the Catholic Tradition, located in the north of Spelthorne in Middlesex. Rooted in our Baptism and centred in the Mass, we share responsibility for the mission of our parish and the universal Church. Blessed by our legacy of faithfulness and commitment, we reach out to include the diverse population of our neighbourhood. We seek to deepen our faith in all stages of our lives, to bear witness to Christ's teachings in the secular world, and to serve the needs of others.

The Parish Mission Plan is composed of five Key Areas:

- ✠ **Unity – (Inclusion, Outreach, Integration)** are key characteristics of a vibrant parish. As the Church is one in faith, in worship, and in the sacraments, and unified by the bond of charity, so must our parish be. We will continue to strengthen bonds and sense of community and reach out to all those who seek Christ in their lives. All are welcomed to join in our journey of faith and service.
- ✠ Our faith is meant to be lived. **Spirituality and Faith Formation** help each of us find ways in which we can better live our faith as servants in the example of Jesus Himself.
- ✠ **Service** is an active expression of living our faith, sharing our resources with those in need, both within and outside of our parish.

- ✘ In the Eucharistic **Liturgy**, Jesus Christ comes to meet us. It is incumbent upon our parish to invite, engage and enable everyone to participate authentically and intentionally in this Sacred Liturgy.
- ✘ **Stewardship** is giving back to God what He has given to us. It includes discerning our gifts through prayer, sharing our time, talent and treasure, and growing in our understanding of what it means to be a servant.

✘ **UNITY - (INCLUSION, OUTREACH, INTEGRATION)**

Goal 1: Use every opportunity to integrate parishioners into extra-liturgical activities.

Action 1: Hold four Fellowship Sundays annually – drawing both worshipping communities together.

Action 2: Build a First Friends program that welcomes new parishioners individually and host a dinner annually to gather new parishioners as a group.

Action 3: Continue and develop our major parish social events.

Action 4: Explore adding two smaller social gatherings annually, considering events that are family friendly.

Goal 2: Develop and implement a systematic approach to increasing parish participation in all areas, including formation groups, social events and service projects.

Action 1: Create a constant contact weekly email to those who wish to receive it.

Action 2: Create and implement a personal approach to register new members after weekend Masses on a regular basis.

Goal 3: Support the parish Youth Ministry.

Action 1: Establish and maintain an intentional Youth Ministry which ties into the life of the parish.

✘ **SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH FORMATION**

Goal 1: Develop and nurture small group programs that meet regularly for fellowship, study and prayer

Action 1: Develop a sustained Book Club and Bible Study.

Action 2: Encourage small groups that examine and practice various aspects of the faith.

Goal 2: Conduct lectures and discussions of catechetical and theological topics

Action 1: Develop a programme of lectures and discussions of catechetical and theological topics at least twice each year.

Action 2: Consider lectures and discussions of topics of special interest to younger audiences.

Action 3: Conduct a periodic program of Question and Answer sessions with the Ministry Team that considers Church doctrine, including topics that may be considered controversial.

Goal 3: Educate parishioners about resources that help us to live our faith and offer models of positive spirituality

Action 1: Create a Spirituality and Faith Formation page on the parish website and update annually.

Action 2: The Ministry Team to work with the parish priest to select external educational and spiritual development websites and resources.

Goal 4: Enhance opportunities for parents to grow in their role as the first teachers of the faith.

Action 1: Develop programming for baptism preparation and consider offering parenting courses in partnership with an outside body.

✦ SERVICE

Goal 1: Identify, communicate and implement opportunities for service, with a focus on local engagement

Action 1: Evaluate service projects annually to create the list of service projects beginning in Advent of each year.

Action 2: Research opportunities for local/neighbourhood involvement.

Action 3: Establish and maintain regular communication school groups to support our youth involvement in service.

Action 4: Support the marginalised and lonely, those in care homes and those in need.

Goal 2: Develop and implement a systematic approach to increasing parish participation in all areas, including formation groups, social events and service projects.

Action 1: Create a constant contact weekly email to those who wish to receive it.

Action 2: Create and implement a personal approach to register new members after weekend Masses on a regular basis.

✦ LITURGY

Goal 1: Strengthen our understanding and live out the importance of the Eucharist during Mass and in our daily lives

Action 1: The Ministry team to consider a parish mission with a focus on the Eucharist.

Action 2: Establish a lecture series on the Eucharist.

Goal 2: Develop the liturgical practices of the parish.

Action 1: The Ministry Team with the Parish Priest to spend time in prayer together looking at what other liturgical practices we might offer across the Parish.

✦ STEWARDSHIP

Goal 1: Foster the understanding that our gifts are from God and are to be shared.

Action 1: Communicate regularly that Stewardship as the sharing of Time, Talent and Treasure by all members is essential to the vitality of our parish.

Action 2: Provide information about Stewardship efforts on the parish website and update at least annually.

Goal 2: Continue to identify the gifts, talents and interests of parishioners so that all might participate more fully in parish life.

Action 1: Conduct a parish-wide census that establishes updated contact information and identifies talents and interests in ministries.

Goal 3: Continue to develop our use of Communications and Technology.

Action 1: Develop a model communication program that considers the needs of different audiences and employs current methods of communication.

Action 2: Evaluate and respond to the changing technology needs of the parish.

Goal 4: Strengthen relationships and regular communication among the FBP and Stewardship and Fundraising committees, to support the effective use of parish resources.

Action 1: Conduct at least one annual meeting between the two in the Spring to discuss new pastoral plan actions and the upcoming parish budget.

In addition to this document, it is envisaged that the PCC will work on a document of Church Health, using our Lord's own word in the Corporal Acts of Mercy and the Spiritual acts of Mercy as their guide.

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY



What are the Corporal Works of Mercy and how can we live them out?
by Deanna Bartalini

1 FEED THE HUNGRY

So many people in our world do not have enough food. Ways we can help include: not wasting food, donating food to food banks, cook/serve for a soup kitchen, donate money.



2 GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

Being thirsty is not just about wanting a drink. It is also about having clean water that you can drink and use for cooking and cleaning. We can help by not wasting water in our homes, donate money to a clean water project, carry water bottles in cooler in our car to give to homeless people.



3 SHELTER THE HOMELESS

Many people live on the streets or in their cars instead of a home. We can donate supplies to homeless shelters like pillows, sheets and blankets; cleaning supplies and food.



4 VISIT THE SICK

It is never fun to be sick, even with a cold, is it? We can take time to be kind to those who are sick by visiting them, calling them, sending a card or gift. This lets them know we are thinking of them so they will be less lonely.



5 VISIT THE PRISONERS

Even though they are in prison; they are still a person to treat with respect. Not everyone can actually go to prison to visit but we can pray for them and donate things to the prison.



6 BURY THE DEAD

No one really likes to think about death, especially of the people we love. If we know someone who has had a death in their family, it is nice to tell them that we are sorry the person has died. You can send a card to let them know you are praying for the person who died and for them too.



7 GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR

Giving alms is another way of saying help the poor. It can be money, food, clothes, toys, books, time or anything else that people need. It is important for those who have all they need to share with those who do not.



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THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



What are the "Spiritual Works of Mercy" and how can we live them out?
by Deanna Bartalini

1 INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

Ignorant means someone who doesn't know something. All of us are ignorant about something! For example, I can't fix my car when it breaks down because I am ignorant about car repair. Some people don't know about Jesus or his mother Mary or the Church or what Communion is or why we go to Mass on Sunday so it's our job to teach them because we know. Remember though, to always teach with love, like Jesus.



2 COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL

Counsel is to give advice or help and doubtful means you are not quite sure about something. So when a friend asks you if God really knows everything or if Jesus loves us it's okay. Then you can tell them Yes! God does know everything and Jesus loves everyone. Doubting is not a bad, it means you are thinking and wondering. If you have a doubt, talk about it with someone you know will help you. And if someone talks to you, remember to be kind, like Jesus.



3 ADMONISH SINNERS

Admonish is a fancy word that means to warn a person and sinners, well, those are people who commit sins. And that is pretty much all of us! Sometimes though, we notice a person doing something wrong, like being mean or lying or taking something that isn't theirs. We should speak up and tell the person to not do the wrong thing but to do the right thing.



4 COMFORT THE SORROWFUL

When someone is sad, it is a good thing to try to make them feel better. Most of the all it takes is to listen to the person or a smile or some flowers or saying "I love you." It's not hard, but many times we are so busy or a bit selfish that we don't pay attention or make time for other people. Make time to share your love, like Jesus did.



5 BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY

Bear means to deal with, wrongs are when people hurt or annoy us and patiently means we don't get angry or yell or get back at the person. This is not easy but when we learn to control ourselves we learn that most times, people are not being mean on purpose. They might be having a bad day or didn't sleep or are sad. So if we are nice when people are not so nice, then maybe it will help them have a better day.



6 FORGIVE OFFENSES WILLINGLY

This is a bit like Bear Wrongs Patiently except that now not only should we not get back at the person, we should also forgive them. Which means we have to not hold on to what happened to us but let it go so we can be friends again.



7 PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Prayer is one of the most important and powerful tools we have in life. Prayer helps us know more about God and teaches us to go to God first because he will always help us and wants what is best for us. Pray every day for the people you love and those you don't.

