

St Ninian's Mission Action Plan Summary

June 2015



<p>God's call to growth.</p> <p><i>Having thought about the challenges for each strand, discern your overall strategic response.</i></p> <p><i>(i) what is your vision of the way of life God is calling you to?</i></p> <p><i>(ii) what values do you need to have for this growth to happen?</i></p>	<p>The very name of St Ninian's suggests that our church is a Missional community which is prepared to let some of our traditions go in order to move out into the community to offer love and service and in so doing, healthy relationships develop in which the Good News of the Kingdom may fall on open ears and hearts. This is not a duty – this is a joyful and grateful response to God's work of salvation in us! We take inspiration from Saint Ninian. We believe that every member of St Ninian's has a unique and vital role in this joining in with God's mission and that God has given us exactly the resources and skills we need to get underway and God will continue to inspire and provide.</p> <p>The building itself is situated next to Bruce's Well and the ruins of a Lazar House. St Ninian's part in mission is therefore bound up in the healing and restorative nature of salvation. We aim to embark on God's mission to be part of the transforming of lives – not just to increase the number of people attending on a Sunday. We see ourselves like the well – a source of the Spirit flowing through us into the community, bringing life, joy, refreshment, healing and purpose. We continue to gather to worship on Sundays and in our groups so that we can be equipped (with skills, knowledge and faith), challenged to deepen our discipleship and grow together as family to try to model non-judgemental and loving community.</p> <p>We hope to continue to learn from the Mission Shaped Church approach and take on board the 5 Marks of Mission, namely:</p> <p><i>To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom</i> <i>To teach, baptise and nurture new believers</i> <i>To respond to human need by loving service</i> <i>To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation</i> <i>To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.</i></p> <p>and to draw upon the resources of the MAP Leadership Groups.</p> <p>Nothing can be achieved without God's blessing and so we continue to be a community which has its focus on God and prays without ceasing.</p>
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Note: We have been working on Mission for the last two years and so some of the activities named below have been in the planning stage for some time, and others have already begun!

Actions: <i>small achievable steps which gradually build into something bigger</i>			Who	When
1.		Themed outreach services. Involve linked groups – New Brownie Unit and Ayr 137 ATC Squadron. E.g. Pet blessing, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Mothering Sunday. Well planned and publicised. With follow-up activities publicised at each event.	Rector, music teams and vestry, hospitality helpers and volunteers to assist with services	As appropriate throughout the year. Started 2014.
2.		Friday Open Church. The Church and Hall open with hospitality, a listening ear, a welcome for people and their dogs, and offering the use of toilets. Possibly refreshments outside in summer. Church well located beside cycle path and popular dog walking route to the beach.	Anne Pilley, Johnny Morris, Alison McDonald, Liz Marsden & additional volunteers as numbers grow.	Already launched late autumn 2014
3.		Children's Community Choir and Drama Group. Advertised at local primary schools and arising out of us working with the Brownies, working on their music badge and culminating in them singing at Christingle service.	Susanne Preston, Heather Lennon and volunteers (1 definite at present)	Starting small in February 2015
4.		Reviving St Ninian's' Healing Ministry Teaching and training in groups, reviving Sunday evening healing services once a month and also discerning and planning outreach methods.	Rector and ReSource (See www.resource-arm.net) and volunteers to be trained and to pray for healing	Autumn 2015
6.		Formulating policies and processes to support the various initiatives; identifying volunteers (or teams) to provide practical support to the leaders.	Rector, Richard Wiggins & subgroup of leaders above	Spring 2015

There are many openings for people to serve and for people to explore and develop their gifts. St Ninian's needs everyone to be part of this, and even if you feel you can't be involved practically, you are needed just as much to pray for all the initiatives, the people running them and whilst the activities are taking place.