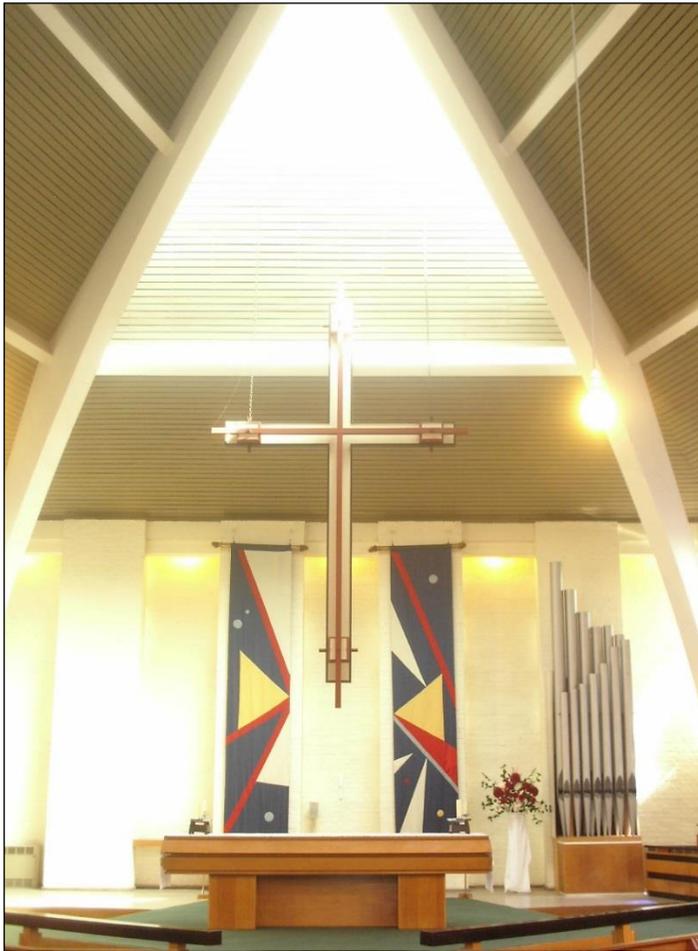




St Mark's Wimbledon



Mission Action Plan: 2019-20

St Mark's Wimbledon

"A 'Mission Action Plan' is a document which outlines the mission activities that a local church is going to do in the coming months and years. It is built on a clear sense of God's 'vision' for the church—what God is calling the church to be and to do. So a MAP provides exactly what it says on the tin—an action plan for mission." *(From 'How to do Mission Action Planning' by Mike Chew and Mark Ireland)*

Background

St Mark's has had a Mission Action Plan since 2014. For the past two years, this has been exclusively about the 50th Anniversary celebrations. Now these are behind us, it is time to create a new one.

The Process

There are four stages to forming a MAP:

1. Review: Understanding both our church and the local community
2. Choose: Choosing our priorities and goals for the coming period
3. Plan: Working out how exactly we are going to achieve these goals
4. Act!

Prayer

Central to the whole process is prayer. We held a special Taizé prayer event on 13 January 19 with Revd Nils Bersweden specifically to pray for our church and the MAP process, and the Church Committee in particular have been encouraged to continue to pray.

Stage 1: Review

We held a day away at the Kairos Centre in Roehampton on 16 March 19. This was open to the whole church. We looked at both our geographical and church community:

Our Geographical Community (Hillside Ward)¹

1. We are an international community:
 - The top two countries of birth are: UK (58%), South Africa (5%), Eastern Asia (not China or Hong Kong) (3%), India (3%), Ireland (2%).
 - The regions of birth are: UK (58%), Other Europe (15%), Middle East and Asia (13%), Africa (8%), Americas and Caribbean (4%), Australasia (3%).
2. 79% white, 21% black, Asian and ethnic minority.
3. We are healthy: 90% have good or very good health.
4. Average age is 39 years. 50% of people aged 25-44.
5. We have the smallest population of 10-14 year olds in the borough (265 children).
6. 1/3 of households have one person.
7. 1/3 of households have one family with no dependent children.
8. Well-educated: 65% have a degree or equivalent.
9. 79% economically active, 21% inactive.
10. The top three occupations are:
 - Business, research and administrative professionals
 - Business, finance and related associate professionals
 - Functional managers and directors
11. 62% of people live in flats, 22% in semis.
12. 56% Christian, 27% no religion, 8% not stated, 4% Muslim, 3% Hindu, 1% Jewish, 1% Buddhist.

Our Church

At the away day in March 19, we looked at the survey of church members that was conducted in the autumn of 2018. There are some 'health warnings' in interpreting this data:

- We have no way of knowing what proportion of people filled in the survey
- This is a snapshot only.

- As the number of respondents is relatively low, the margin of error is relatively high (ie just a few people could change the results significantly).

A similar survey was completed in 2014; these results are shown in *italics*.

- 62 respondents (*2014: 76 respondents*).
- 83% of people find the service good or very good (*2014: 85%*).
- 98% of people find the service welcoming (*2014: 93%*)
- 90% find the sermons good or very good (*2014: 87%*).
- 84% find the musical content of the service good or very good (*2014: 74%*).
- 81% find the choice of hymns good or very good (*2014: 72%*).
- 88% find the intercessions good or very good (*2014: 80%*).
- People value silence in the intercessions, and some would like more.
- People feel they are growing in their spiritual lives.
- Only 6% of people feel that the church makes too many demands on their time, and no one feels the church makes too many demands on their money. These figures are lower than in 2014.
- The Notice Sheet, notices in services, and talking to others are the most used ways of communication.
- One third of respondents had a pastoral need in the last year. Of these 57% received pastoral care from St Mark's and 94% found this care very useful or quite useful.
- 94% find our children and young people's provision good or very good (*2014: 83%*).
- 14% of respondents hadn't been to any social events in the past year. Of those that went, 72% said they were quite enjoyable or very enjoyable.
- While one person thought we had too many socials, and 69% thought we had the right number of socials, 29% thought we had too few, which indicates that there might be an appetite for more.
- The average age of adults who responded has risen from 54.2 years for the 2014 survey to 57.6 for the 2018 survey.
- The proportion of women in the congregation has decreased to 61% (from 72%).

¹ The points in this section are mainly from a community profile drawn up by Paula Thorvaldsen.

- St Mark's is less ethnically diverse than in the 2010 survey (however, the survey did not break down 'white' into different nationalities).
- Of those people who work, there has been a shift to more part-time workers than full-time.
- People say that their pattern of church attendance has increased (Q3), but fewer people come weekly to the 10 am service (Q1: from 46% to 40%). This could indicate a turn over in people, ie different people are now coming.
- More people drive to church (31% of the respondents compared to 21% in 2014).
- There is some appetite for having a teaching programme that is different to the lectionary.
- People are very happy with the time of the main service on a Sunday (10 am).

At the March 19 away day we also ranked St Mark's according to 'The Healthy Churches' Handbook'. This research-based guide isolates seven characteristics of healthy, growing churches. These are listed here, together with how the people at the away day scored St Mark's on a scale of 1 (low) to 6 (high):

Healthy Church Marker	St Mark's Score
Energized by faith	3.5
Outward-looking focus	3.0
Seeks to find out what God wants	2.9
Faces the cost of change and growth	3.1
Operates as a community	3.3
Makes room for all	5.1
Does a few things and does them well	3.7

We also pooled our views on the strengths of our church and what is holding us back.

Stage 2: Choose

What we are about

St Mark's: The Church at the Heart of Wimbledon
Our mission statement, purpose, and reason for being here:

- To be enriched by the love of God
- To extend the welcome of God
- To express the compassion of God

Having looked at all the information from Stage 1, those at the away day chose three priorities for our church for the coming period:

1. Increase fellowship and discipleship
2. Raise the profile of the church and communications
3. Better resourcing (people)

Stage 3: Plan for Autumn 2019 to Autumn 2020

The away day had a preliminary sharing of ideas of how to achieve these priorities. This was taken further by the Church Committee, which decided on the following:

Actions	Who	Completed by when
1. Increase fellowship and discipleship		
(a) Re-start evening home group	Charles Esdale	October 2019
(b) Start a new day-time fellowship and discipleship group	Nick Wolff and Wendy McTernan	October 2019
(c) Activity group(s)	TBA (dependent on goal 3 being achieved)	Spring 2020
(d) Annual retreat day	Clive Gardner	June 2020

Actions	Who	Completed by when
<p>2. Raise the profile of the church and communications</p> <p>(a) Make the website brilliant.</p> <p>(b) Reviewing signage</p> <p>(c) Weekly news emails</p> <p>(d) Improve Links with business community (posters, fliers, social media)</p>	<p>Francis Pindar et al</p> <p>Alex Youel</p> <p>Vicar's Administrator</p> <p>TBC (dependent on goal 3 being achieved)</p>	<p>November 2019</p> <p>Jan 2020</p> <p>November 2019</p> <p>March 2020</p>
<p>3. Better resourcing (people)</p> <p>(a) Hold a discipleship and volunteer campaign</p> <p>(b) Advertise ministries and volunteer opportunities in services</p>	<p>Clive Gardner</p> <p>Alex Youel</p>	<p>19, 26 January and 2 February 2020</p> <p>TBC</p>

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