

ANGLICAN PARISH OF SORRENTO AND RYE MISSION ACTION PLAN – 2009 – 2015

The Mission Action Plan has been developed during 2008 – 2009 within the Vestry of the Parish and through congregational meetings and extensive consultation. The process has helped us to focus our attention on who we are and what we believe we can do together as a Parish. It is likely that the priorities and directions listed herein will change with time, whilst the values that guide us are likely to remain steady for a longer period. Thus we should review the plan on a regular basis, perhaps on a five year cycle.

OUR PURPOSE (MISSION STATEMENT)

Following Christ, Nurturing Community.

THE VALUES WHICH GUIDE US

The image of the Tree of Life has been our parish symbol since 2002.

The words which accompany it are values which shape the character of our parish and speak of who we are. They also underlie and give direction to all we do in fulfilling our core purpose.

The Tree of Life

- The Tree of Life is a strong scriptural image which encompasses the whole of Biblical history. The Tree of Life is planted in the midst of the garden at creation (Gen. 2.9). It reappears in John's vision of the new creation in Revelations (Rev. 22.2), "with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

The Tree of Life is a living, growing symbol for our parish:

- Organic, not static, responsive to changing seasons and times.
- Grounded and earthed in a specific place - ie the southern end of the Mornington Peninsula.
- Part of the whole ecology of its local context – in relationship with its particular environment and community.
- Open – not a closed image.
- Natural links to scripture and faith – the tree that bears good fruit (Mt 7, Lk 6), parable of mustard seed (Mt 13), the cross of death becomes the tree of life, etc.

- **Hospitality**

Reflecting:

- the welcoming and embracing love of God for all.
- the abundance of God's generosity.
- the scriptural imperative to welcome the stranger.
- a foretaste of God's eternal banquet – symbolised in Eucharist.

- **Creativity**

Reflecting:

- the creative action of God – ourselves as co-creators with God.
- the creativity of all people in their unique and varied ways – all have something to contribute.
- our constantly changing world – nothing is static – always need to explore new ways.

- **Spirituality**

Reflecting:

- our need for relationship with God and to keep connected through prayer to the one who is the source of our life and growth.
- something much broader and deeper than a particular religion or religious practice.
- people's need to be in whatever place they are and to explore from there.
- our connection with people of all faiths and none.
- Jesus' example of prayer, time apart and knowledge of scripture.
- the need to build on the foundations we have in scripture and tradition.

- **Justice**

Reflecting:

- the mission of Christ expressed in Luke 4 – “The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor... to proclaim release to the captives...recovery of sight to the blind...to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.” As followers of Jesus, this is our mission too.
- God's particular concern for the poor and marginalised.
- the equality of all people.
- the call of our baptism to serve God's world and be bearers of grace and hope.

- **Healing**

Reflecting:

- our call to live out and express God's love for others.
- the Church's call to be a community of love, support and growth.
- Christ's ongoing mission of healing.
- God's reconciling work in the world – ourselves as instruments.
- God's desire for all people to grow into wholeness and to taste the abundant life offered.

Shaping our Life

While most of our programmes and activities can be grouped primarily under one of these characteristics, all five values can, for the most part, be applied to everything we do.

For instance, we can ask:

- *Hospitality*: How hospitable is this activity / group? How open and welcoming are we in this? How is this an opportunity for celebration and community?
- *Spirituality*: How does it reflect God's presence? Does it point to a greater reality? Does it inspire us to something more? Does it call us to live more deeply?
- *Creativity*: Is it creative and open to new ways and expressions? Does it encourage people to use the gifts they have in creative ways?
- *Justice*: Is it just? Are resources well-used and does it offer a place for everyone? Does it consider the needs of those less fortunate? Is it attentive to the needs of the earth?
- *Healing*: How does this provide an opportunity for healing? Does it foster relationships and reconciliation? How does it support people at all levels of being human?

PRIORITIES AND DIRECTIONS 2009 / 2015

To build up the parish for its future ministry and mission.

1. BUILDING OPEN, NURTURING COMMUNITY:

a. Parish:

Goal 1: To build community amongst young people in the parish.

Actions

- Develop a youth project in consultation with young people.
- Implement informal services including:
 - Contemporary service: 1st Sunday of month at 10.30am at St Andrew's.
 - Family service: (for baptisms especially) 3rd Sunday of the month at 10am at St John's.
 - Sundays@5: last Sunday of the month at 5pm at St Andrew's – using the labyrinth.

Goal 2: To celebrate our parish community and care for each other.

Actions

- Incorporate newcomers through:
 - Vicarage lunches / Happy Hours – linked with a parishioner for follow-up.
 - Development of Welcome Team.
 - Social events.
- Develop lay Pastoral Care through use of Pastoral Partners programme for Pastoral Care team and leaders of parish groups.
- Give particular attention to our Patronal Festivals for 2010.

b. Local

Goal 3: To make connections with families and young people.

Actions

- Connect with local schools through:
 - KidsHope and other possibilities at Rye Primary.
 - Drama group to connect with Sorrento Primary.
 - Involvement of school music groups in parish activities.

- Develop existing programmes eg. Friday Club, playgroups, JackanAndy's, Emergency Food Relief by:
 - Training for leaders initially through Pastoral Partners programme.
 - Celebration and support for volunteers.

Goal 4: To support and nurture people in need in our community.

Actions

- Research community needs
 - Develop a short survey
 - Train a small team of people to carry out research.
- Make creative use of our property
 - Partnership programmes such as Community Kitchens
 - Development of St Andrew's gardens
 - A drama group at St John's
 - Concerts
 - Planning for participation in the Rye 150 celebrations at St Andrew's

c. Wider

Goal 5: To listen and respond to our wider community.

Actions

- Continue links with the Parish of Elmore.
- Continue our involvement with the Interfaith Network through:
 - Spirituality Café
 - Supporting other Network activities
- Adopt a specific mission project.
- Learn more about a specific justice issue eg. Indigenous issues, Mental Health.

2. DEEPENING INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE SPIRITUALITY:

Goal 1: To share the love of God with one another and the wider community. (*Find a new language to relate and communicate.*)

Actions

- Develop children's education through:
 - The Sunday morning programme.
 - After-school programme for Advent
- Involve schools and community groups in services.
 - Invite school music groups to participate in special services.
- Build ecumenical links within our local community through:
 - Shared worship / study groups.
- Examine the feasibility of an extended ministry at St Andrew's Beach through:
 - Occasional services at the Recreation Hall.

Goal 2: To develop our parish as a centre of faith / spiritual exploration in the community.

Actions

- Establish study groups / small groups for learning about faith and spiritual growth.
 - Develop study and discussion group programme for 2010.
 - Implement yearly course on basic Christianity.
- Implement Baptism preparation sessions on 3rd Sundays.
- Develop St Andrew's as Centre for Spirituality through:
 - A programme of Quiet Days starting in Advent.
 - Developing the use of the labyrinth.
 - A meditation course for wider community.

3. DEVELOPING SHARED LEADERSHIP:

Goal 1: To enable and support lay and clergy leadership in their various roles and in the goals set for the parish.

Actions

- Establish small teams of young people to be involved in developing worship services.
- In consultation with young people, develop a youth group project.
- Celebrating and supporting volunteers, through:
 - A beginning of year celebration.
 - Training for leaders.
- Extend lay Pastoral Care through:
 - Pastoral Partners programme.
 - Parish seminar on a pastoral issue in 2010.

4. MAINTAINING OUR HERITAGE – SUSTAINING OUR FUTURE

Goal 1: To provide for and maintain the infrastructure required to implement and sustain our life and mission in this community.

Actions

- Complete the restoration of St John's.
- Explore options for fund-raising and maintaining financial sustainability.
 - Run a stewardship programme within the next 2 years.
- Develop overall plan for St Andrew's site and implement when feasible.
- Prepare and implement a routine maintenance programme for all parish properties.
- Continue to review the operation of Jackanandy's.