



# Mission Community Action Plan

for

The Parish of St Andrew, Colyton with the Chapel of Ease of St Michael, Colyford  
The Parish of St Winifred, Branscombe, The Parish of St Lawrence, Southleigh  
The Parish of St Michael, Musbury, The Parish of St Giles, Northleigh

This Mission Community Action Plan outlines our priorities and direction over the next five years, replacing the previous Mission Action Plan which came to an end in 2021.

**Our vision** is to work together as a Mission Community seeking and sharing God's Grace. We wish to be a resource to our local communities and to the wider Church, faithfully proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord to those within our church communities and to those beyond. Our churches need to be not only friendly, but places where new friendships can be made and established.

**Our aim** is to build up the body of Christ as we work to maintain and grow our congregations, deepen our discipleship and make new disciples, and to serve the people of Colyton, Colyford, Branscombe, Musbury, Southleigh and Northleigh with joy. This Mission Community Action Plan presents our direction, purpose and priorities for the next five years as we seek to participate in, and share with others, the life of God. Our mission is:

***To be an authentic and encouraging presence in our communities,  
making known the love and mercy of God.***

*Ephesians 2. 4-10*

This plan provides a focus for continuing prayer, discernment and action as we grow together as disciples united as one Church, in one Faith, serving our one true Lord.

The Reverend Dr Steven Martin Rector  
November 2021

## About this Plan

The plan is the result of discussions between church members and members of the wider community which took place during 2021. Information and ideas were gathered during the Mission Community Lent Course 2021 (which used the *Seven Sacred Spaces* scheme by George Lings as a springboard), which tied-in with the sermons in the Mission Community Online Services during Lent. Feedback was gathered from members of the churches. Conversations have taken place at PCC meetings, and during subsequent meetings between the Rector and nominated PCC representatives. The final drafts have been discussed at two dedicated Mission Community meetings, held in October and November 2021.

The plan is not arranged in order of priority: each action is a priority over the next five years. Actions are organised under seven headings (arranged alphabetically) and will be prioritised by the date by which we would like to see progress made in each case. The plan identifies people and groups within the parishes and wider Mission Community who will initiate actions, take the lead, and monitor progress. The plan is a working document which PCCs and the Mission Community Council will be referring to regularly. It is not 'set in stone' but aims to help us to avoid either over-estimating what we can achieve in a year, or underestimating what we can work towards over five years. The plan will change and evolve over the months and years as we face new opportunities and challenges.

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### Abbreviations

- MC Mission Community
- MCC Mission Community Council
- PCC Parochial Church Council

## Communication – making connections

*We wish to connect effectively with each other both within the Mission Community and with those beyond, sharing news and events, inviting people to share their life and faith with us.*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Develop website with resources and with engaging, attractive content.	MC	By early 2022	Rector/Charles Hill and Emma Laughton	Rector	MCC and PCCs
Develop weekly newsletter into sustainable format.	MC	2022	Rector and MC Administrator	Rector	MCC
Recruit a press/communications officer to share news and assist with social media and wider publicity.	MC	2023	Rector	PCCs	MCC
To create and develop ideas and resources to encourage visitors, regular and irregular churchgoers to keep in touch with us.	MC	2023	Rector	PCCs	MCC

## Discipleship – growing in faith together

*As a church and as individuals, we aspire to grow in depth and holiness and encourage new disciples.*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Establish a variety of House Groups across the MC to nurture those in the church community and new Christians.	MC	2022	Rector, with Robert Griffin	Rector	Ministry Team and MCC
To review social activities and social trips and ways of encouraging fellowship.	MC	2023	Rector and PCCs	Rector	MCC
To review courses offered and establish an ongoing programme of study benefice-wide for those exploring the faith and new Christians.	MC	Ongoing	Rector and Ministry Team	Rector	Ministry Team
To establish regular away days, prayer days and pilgrimages.	MC	Ongoing	Rector and Ministry Team	Rector	PCCs and Ministry Team

# Engagement – serving with joy

*Our vision is to be an active Christian presence across the Mission Community by engaging with people and organizations across the parishes.*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Establish a Pastoral Care Team to expand our Pastoral Care, recruiting people to assist with this ministry and effectively coordinating Pastoral Care.	MC	2021	Rector	Rector and MC Council	Ministry Team and MCC
Identify and train new school Governors for our schools.	Branscombe and MC	2022	Rector and school leaders	N/A	N/A
Develop work with the bereaved.	MC	Ongoing	Rector and Pastoral Care team	Rector	Rector and Ministry Team
Follow up weddings, baptisms and funerals.	MC	Ongoing	Jenny Male, Pastoral team and Rector	Rector	Rector and Ministry Team
To promote ‘Open the Book’ and increase the OTB Team.	MC	2022	Musbury and Northleigh groups initially	Rector	PCCs
To establish a group to minister to those with additional needs in local residential care homes.	Musbury	2022	Rev Ann Stuckey and team from Musbury	Rector	Musbury PCC
To support the work of the Mothers’ Union and how we engage with younger mothers.	Colyton	Ongoing	Christine Sansom	Colyton MU	Rector
To investigate how to engage with ministry to tourists and visitors.	Branscombe, Colyton	2023	Rector and PCCs	Rector and PCCs	MCC
To help those unable to get to church through lack of transport.	MC	2022	Rector and Churchwardens	PCCs	MCC
To support the work of Christian Aid through the local Colyton CA group	MC	Ongoing	Jane Dauncey and CA committee	Rector	CA Committee and Rector

# Participation – encouraging encounters with God and the faith

*We seek to build bridges into the communities we serve by inviting people to share the life of faith with us.*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Festival of Art, Faith and Music.	Branscombe	Autumn 2022	John Mason/Rector	Rector	Branscombe PCC
Establish a culture of invitation and hospitality.	MC	Ongoing	Rector and PCCs	Rector and PCCs	MCC
Plan more Festival Services at Southleigh.	Southleigh	Ongoing	Southleigh PCC	Rector and PCC	Southleigh PCC
Recruit new Junior Choristers and adult singers.	Colyton	2022	Nick Brown	Nick Brown and Rector	Colyton PCC
Invite more people into church/church groups for events other than services to encounter the worshipping community: including the re-establishment of Men's Breakfast and Community Café and develop new initiatives.	Colyton/Branscombe PCCs/MC	Ongoing	Rector and PCCs	Rector and PCCs	MCC
To establish a MC choir to sing at benefice services.	MC	2021	Rector and MC musicians	PCCs	MCC

# Resources – sharing gifts

*We wish to be a resource not only to our local communities but to the wider Church in the Diocese of Exeter and beyond.*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
To investigate creating a Pastoral Assistant scheme to resource ministry in our churches and support and encourage vocations in the wider church.	MC, based in Colyton	2023	Rector and Ministry Team	MCC	MCC
Shared Safeguarding Policies to make Safeguarding manageable and connected between churches. To recruit a team to spread the burden of administration.	MC	2022	Rector and PCCs	Rector and PCCs, Diocese of Exeter	MCC
Identify, train and resource new lay leaders.	MC	Ongoing	Rector and Ministry Team	Ministry Team	Rector and PCCs
To expand the provision and scope of our music scholarships to support the life of our choir.	MC, Colyton	2023	Rector and PCCs, Nick Brown and organists	MCC	MCC
Work out how best to use community Trusts: Thomas Howe etc.	Southleigh, Northleigh	2023	Rector and PCCs	PCCs	PCCs
Look at events and initiatives to recruit and teach new bell ringers.	MC	2022	Keith Smith, John Bass, Michael Ellis, Rector	Rector	MCC

# Stewardship and Governance

*We seek to use our gifts and resources to serve Church and society responsibly, sustainably, and to the best of our ability.*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Recruit a new treasurer and establish a team to share the load.	Colyton with Colyford	2021	Rector, Colyton Churchwardens	Rector	Colyton PCC
To prepare a Financial Strategy to bring our finances into balance by 2026.	Colyton with Colyford	2022	New treasurer, Rector and PCC	Rector	Colyton PCC
Every church to pay Common Fund share in full.	MC	By 2025	Rector and PCC Treasurers	PCC	MCC and Deanery Synod
To become less dependent on non-renewable energy and to improve our carbon footprint.	MC	2024	Phillip Ambler and Charles Hill	Rector and PCCs	PCCs and MCC
Look at what we can contribute to the wider church/world and plan charitable activity. Explore links with the Church of Melanesia.	MC	2022	Rector, Ministry Team and PCCs	MCC	MCC
Establish St Michael's Colyford as a separate cost-base.	Colyton and Colyford	2022	Colyton Treasurer	Rector	Colyton PCC and St Michael's Committee
Annual Stewardship and Legacy reviews.	MC	Ongoing	Rector and PCCs	PCCs	MCC
Increase participants in Planned Giving Scheme.	MC	Ongoing	Treasurers	Rector and PCCs	MCC
Complete Quinquennial works.	All MC churches	By 2026	Rector and Churchwardens, Fabric Committees	PCCs	PCCs
Restore the Drake Monument and plan lavatory/kitchen provision.	Musbury	2022	Rector and Churchwardens	Musbury PCC	Musbury PCC
Work out positive approach to succession planning for lay leadership roles.	MC	By 2023	Ross Willmington and John Platt	Rector	PCCs and MCC
To put in place two chapel wardens at St Michael's, Colyford.	Colyford	2022	Rector, Colyton PCC and St Michael's Committee	Rector	Colyton PCC

# Worship and Prayer

*We aim to provide everyone who comes to us with a chance to join us and feel at home as we worship. We aim to ensure that daily worship and prayer remains at the core of our service to God and life as a Mission Community.*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Maintaining a high standard in liturgical and musical offering, across different styles and formats.	Colyton, and across MC	Ongoing	Rector and Ministry Team	PCCs	Ministry Team and MCC
To develop special services to engage with those with little experience of the Christian faith.	MC	Ongoing	Rector and Ministry Team	PCCs	Ministry Team and MCC
To look at ways of investing in our musical provision for the next generation utilizing existing resources and building on them to develop a scholarship scheme.	Colyton and Musbury	2024	Rector, Musbury and Colyton PCCs.	Rector	PCCs
To encourage and develop young people in their faith through: music provision, engagement, confirmation preparation, Messy Church, social activities and Funday School.	MC, focus on Colyton	2022 and Ongoing	Rector, Linda Joy, with music leaders, Ministry Team	Rector and Ministry Team	PCCs and MCC
To ensure provision for families/children each week.	Colyton/MC	December 2021	Linda Joy and Rector	Rector	PCCs
Review approaches to Messy Church, Breakfast Service and other initiatives.	Colyton/MC	Early 2022	Linda Joy, Rector and Messy/Breakfast teams	Rector and Ministry Team	PCCs/MCC
Look at establishing a sustainable rhythm of worship across the Mission Community on Sundays and during the week.	MC	By 2023	Rector and Ministry Team	PCCs	MCC
Investigate Festival Church project.	Southleigh	2024	Rector and Southleigh PCC	PCC	MCC