

Mission Action Plan

For St. James's Piccadilly Church
September, 2004

*Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative account of the things which
have been accomplished among us.' (Lk1:1)*

MISSION ACTION PLAN

The Parish of

St. James's Piccadilly

2004 to 2009

Introduction

A meeting of the entire community of St. James's Piccadilly was called on June 27, 2004 to discuss what the mission of St. James's is. The discussion started with what definitions people had for the word "mission". Our community feels the word mission was a double-edged sword. Some felt that the word had connotations of missionaries and corporate images and that it implied "a one-way street" rather than a dialogue. Some thought mission was synonymous with outreach. In fact, a number of people preferred the word outreach to mission. For others, the content of our message must be included in the definition. However, there were others who said that they could be missionaries for our mission statement.

The meeting then provided answers to the following questions:

1. Does St James's have "good news" to communicate? What is it?

The group tackling this question said that St. James's did have good news to communicate. They defined the good news as follows:

- St. James's Piccadilly stresses on inclusiveness and tolerance links our mission with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- St. James's Piccadilly is the challenge to our comfortable lives by facing up to diversity, social justice and the challenge of experiencing Christ in other people
- St. James's Piccadilly does not say what you must believe – it accepts a breadth of approaches to God
- An open approach to dogma and doctrine
- Offers an holistic way to Christ and a place where you can find a way to be the whole human being you can be
- Offers a community of like minds
- St. James's Piccadilly offers a setting to reinterpret and experience the Christian myth in a modern setting
- In line with Jesus' parable of the mote and the beam, our mission is to reach deep down inside ourselves as well as to reach out to others. Doing one without the other would be unbalanced.

2. To whom are we trying to communicate and to whom should we be trying to communicate?

The group answering this question said that if the Gospel is for those who are dissatisfied with or uncomfortable in the world we need to communicate with the whole of London. However, this group identified some groups of people not well represented at St. James's Piccadilly. That we need to target:

- Students – Possible to reach via welcoming fairs
- Young People – We are not clear how we might go about attracting young people
- Families with children – We are not clear how we might go about attracting families with children
- Black Christians – At the moment St. James's Piccadilly is not seen as a church for black Christians

The group said it recognised that to welcome any of the above groups some of the ways we do things might need to change.

3. Are we trying to grow our church? Or are we only concentrating on being openhearted and welcoming towards those who find their way to us? Is it possible for us to do both?

The group wrestling with this question felt that if we are the best church we can be then growth may result. They said we must aim to grow the awareness of our in the world outside. One possible way is by advertising in unexpected places. Another way is by giving our mission statement a higher profile on Piccadilly and Jermyn Street. The group said that they were proud of our mission statement but felt we fall short especially in connecting with the poor and marginalized. The group felt that scope of our Welcomers was much too narrow. Proposed to investigate widening the role of welcoming at St. James's Piccadilly.

4. There are people through London to whom our open approach to faith would appeal. How could we more effectively let them know that we are here?
5. How do we increase the diversity of people at St James's? Eg the mix of ethnicity, age, 'class', 'abled-disabled' etc

We will need to spend time engaging with those not well represented at St. James's Piccadilly to understand their perceptions in order to understand how to attract those who find what St. James's has to say is good news.

6. We already have good links with people who are spiritually exploring - through activities such as Alternatives. How do we capitalize on this?

Enter into discussions with the groups listed in the Place in the Community section of how we can mutually benefit each in the future.

The answers were discussed at the meeting and then forwarded to the PCC. The PCC has gone through the answers and has come up an initial answer on where the community feels the focus of the mission of St. James's should be. The PCC will report this back to the community. The PCC will then look at the current programme for St. James's and see how well it aligns with our mission. If there is any misalignment of our programme with our mission, the PCC will need to adjust our programme appropriately.

Summary of Parish Profile

St. James's Piccadilly is located on Piccadilly west of Piccadilly Circus. Its address is:

197 Piccadilly
London W1J 9LL

a. Place in the Community

St. James's Piccadilly considers itself a gathered community. It is a community gathered from all over the London area. Only two of our members actually live within our small parish boundaries. However, the church is very involved in the local community. We have strong links with the Royal Academy, BAFTA and the Jermyn Street Association. Our fundraising drive for the renovation of our building is building stronger links with the large business community in our parish. Several prominent members of the business community have agreed to serve on the business committee of the fundraising drive. Some businesses have been involved in our ministries. The Hauser & Wirth Art Gallery made a donation upon its opening to help with the replacement of our counselling centre, The Caravan (see below).

We define the local community very broadly. One reason is Jesus' definition of neighbour in the parable of the "Good Samaritan". Another reason is that because of our gathered community, all of London is our "local" community. Therefore, St. James Piccadilly tries to address the issues that affect all of London. Below are some of the ways we try to do this:

TAIZE: The third Sunday of every month we host two Taize groups, which includes people from St. James Piccadilly, from the area who have an evening service at our church.

PICCADILLY MARKET: The market is open from Tuesday to Saturday each week with antiques being sold on Tuesday and arts, crafts, knitwear and gifts being sold from Wednesday to Saturday. Most of our customers are local workers and tourists.

ALTERNATIVES: A group dedicated to exploring creative spiritual alternatives to ideas currently accepted in western thought.

REFUGEES: We support the work of the Bail Circle, a project of the Churches Commission for Racial Justice, and of BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees).

BLAKE SOCIETY: William Blake was baptised at St James' and is celebrated by the Society through lectures, discussion and visits to Blake sites.

CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY/GREENSPIRIT: We host Greenspirit, which is the Association of Creative Spirituality of the United Kingdom. It promotes creative spirituality through workshops, talks, nation wide groups and a Journal.

ST JAMES' CAFÉ PROJECT: Situated at The London Connection 12 Adelaide St WC2N 4HW, it is a day resource for young (16—25) homeless people.

THE CARAVAN DROP IN: 'The Caravan Drop In' is a service provided by The Centre for Counselling & Psychotherapy and operates from a caravan which has been provided by St James's Church. It has been here since 1982. Volunteers undergoing professional accredited

training offer counselling. It offers a core service of listening and emotional support, which can, by arrangement, evolve into counselling.

SPIRITUAL CINEMA: This exciting new project provides an opportunity for people to watch feature and documentary films with what might loosely be called 'spiritual' content, and reflect on them together. There will usually be talk about the "spiritual" dimension of each film and programme notes, and some type of simple meditation. Occasionally a director may talk about their work. We are planning an experimental season leading up to Christmas 2004 with roughly eight sessions. This project is being done in combination with Onion Projects.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM: We host a series of lectures sponsored by the Global Development Forum that explores the major issues in worldwide development. Usually held in October.

CONCERTS: St. James Piccadilly has a major concert programme that has concerts throughout the year. In 2004, there will be around 150 concerts. The London Festival Orchestra is our resident orchestra. We have a programme lunchtime concerts which mainly local residents and workers and an evening concert programme, which attracts an audience from all over London.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS: Our Associate Priest and one of our churchwardens serve as governors of the St. Anne's Soho School

WEB SITE: Our web site highlights the above activities. It also challenges visitors to think about spiritual issues and to interact with us.

CHANGING ATTITUDES: Changing Attitude is a network of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual members of the four Anglican churches of the United Kingdom whose goal is to have the Anglican Church fully accept, welcome and offer equality of opportunity to lesbian, gay and bisexual people. St. James's Piccadilly is registered as a welcoming church with Changing Attitude.

DRAMA GROUP: Our drama group has not only participated in the liturgy but it has been involved in the Drop the Debt campaign by appearing as a street theatre troupe at the G8 summits in 1998 and 1999.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: We sponsor a regular meeting of an Alcoholics Anonymous Group.

LESBIANS, GAYS AND BISEXUALS GROUP: The group provides support to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual members of the St. James Piccadilly community, with a regular schedule of discussions and social events attended by people from a variety of London Churches as well as from within our own community. St. James Piccadilly maintains a regular presence at the annual London Gay Pride march. All these activities are seen as Mission activities. A number of our now regular church members first attended St. James Piccadilly due to the visibility of the Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals group.

COMMON FUND: Contribution to common fund is above 100% of net costs

b. Population

There are only 819 people who live in our parish. There are only 31 children. Fifty five percent of the people are between the ages of 30 and 59. In living arrangements, 40.4 percent are single and 26.2% are married couples living together. A large majority are well educated (only 12.9 percent of parish has no qualifications) and well to do (weekly income in the parish is almost twice the English national average).

c. Ethnic Mix

Our parish is 85.1 percent white. We have 58.8 percent of those living in our parish born in the UK, 12.3 percent of the parish was born in the EU and 28.7 percent was born elsewhere.

d. Neighbouring Parishes

Our neighbouring parishes are St. Anne's Soho, St. George Hanover Square and St. Martin's in the Fields.

e. Ecumenical Partners

We are one of the founding members of the Progressive Christianity Network - Britain. This network of Christian churches (Anglican and non-Anglican) promotes and supports open Christian understanding. Our rector, Charles Hedley, is the vice chair of the Progressive Christianity Network - Britain. We are registered as a welcoming church with Inclusive Church UK.

Mission Statement

St James' Church is part of the Anglican Communion within the worldwide Christian Church. We understand ourselves to be called to –

- gather as a body, which welcomes and celebrates human diversity, including spirituality, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation
- to create a space where people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter and prayer
- to a common commitment to be in solidarity with poor and marginalised people and to cherish Creation

(We don't manage it all the time, so we try again)

Action and Priorities (*short/medium/long term*)

Commitment to worship, development of faith and the on-going nurturing, pastoral care, welcoming, etc.

- Improving our Welcoming
- Living our Mission Statement
- Connecting with more people who find what St. James's Piccadilly has to say is good news especially among students, younger people, black Christians and families with children

Future Plans

- A Christian community that looks like London that is living its mission statement spreading its flavour of the good news of Jesus Christ no longer hiding its light underneath a bushel.
- This community worshipping and working in a renovated building
- The site of St. James's Piccadilly is redeveloped so that we have other major sources of income besides the market that we can invest into living our mission statement.

Resources required

Time – Community members must be willing to commit the time to enter into discussions with organisations linked to us and those who would find what we have to say as good news especially among students, younger people, black Christians and families with children.

Budget

The current activities in this mission action plan require no budget. However, there will be a need to define a contingency to cover activities generated by the discussions that will need financing during the year.

Recommended Actions to Implement the Mission Action Plan

1. Pam Mills has written paper on welcoming based on discussions at the community meeting. Recommend that PCC discuss paper. PCC to either decide to implement the additional tasks suggested or to appoint a group to recommend the way forward in welcoming.

Steps to Take to Implement Actions	
1.	Pam Mills to create published version of Welcoming Paper
2.	PCC to Review published version of Welcoming Paper
3.	PCC Group to review welcoming at St. James in light of Welcoming Paper
4.	PCC Group to report back to PCC on decisions made by them
5.	PCC Decision on approaches to welcoming
6.	PCC assigns group to implement PCC decision
7.	PCC reviews implementation progress as often as necessary
8.	At end of implementation, PCC documents the lessons learned

2. Given the concern expressed at the community meeting that we may be falling short of living up to our mission statement, especially with the poor and marginalized. Recommend that the PCC ask the clergy team to create a programme on how we as a community can live up to our mission statement via sermons, workshops, study groups and retreats.

Steps to Take to Implement Actions	
1.	PCC discussion on living up to our mission statement
2.	PCC decision to direct clergy team to create "Living Up to Our Mission Statement" Programme including sermons, workshops, study groups and retreats. May include other PCC members.
3.	Clergy team to report to PCC on the programme created
4.	Clergy team to report on progress monthly at PCC meeting
5.	At end of implementation, PCC documents the lessons learned

3. In order to capitalise on the links with other spiritual explorers, recommend that the PCC appoint 2 to 3 people to liaise with the spiritual explorers we have links with. This liaison will be mutually beneficial because we will give as well as take. The group will ask the following questions:
 - a. How can our living up to our mission statement help you with your spiritual exploration?
 - b. How can your spiritual exploration help us live up to our mission statement?
 - c. What is the appropriate way for us to send an invitation to your members who find what we have to say is good news?

The PCC will need to prioritise the order we visit our fellow spiritual explorers.

Steps to Take to Implement Actions	
1.	PCC discussion on links to fellow spiritual explorers and how best to utilise these links to our mutual benefit by helping us to live up to our mission statement.
2	PCC decision on which spiritual explorers to include and prioritise the order of approaching the spiritual explorers
2.	PCC decision to appoint group to take this approach forward
3.	PCC group to plan strategy of approaching fellow spiritual explorers
4.	PCC approval of strategy
5.	PCC group implements strategy holding discussions with fellow spiritual explorers in order of the PCC priorities
6	PCC group to report back to PCC on progress at the end of discussions with each spiritual explorer
7.	PCC to decide based on PCC Group reports on what approach to take working with each of our fellow spiritual explorers
8.	At end of implementation, PCC documents the lessons learned

4. To look at how we attract more students/younger people/black Christians/families with children who find what we have to say is good news.

Steps to Take to Implement Actions	
1.	PCC appoints group of coordinators for this process
2.	PCC group asks questions (See Question Box) to students/younger people/black Christians/families with children who already members of the St. James Piccadilly community. They will also ask for referrals to other people to converse with about the questions.
3.	PCC Group to review answers received with participating members and modify the questions as necessary
4.	PCC Group invites other members of the community to discuss questions with their friends who are students/younger people/black Christians/families with children. Report answers back to PCC Group.
5.	PCC Group reports back to PCC at designated time (See Report Criteria Box)
6.	The PCC will debate and decide the next steps on our efforts to attract more students/younger people/black Christians/families with children
7.	At end of consultation, PCC documents the lessons learned

Questions	
1.	What attracted you and keep you coming to St. James's Piccadilly?
2.	Is there anything that you are aware of that would discourage other students/younger people/black Christians/families with children from coming to St. James's Piccadilly?
3.	Is there any part of our mission statement we need to live up to better to attract more students/younger people/black Christians/families with children?
4.	What changes would St. James's Piccadilly have to make in your opinion to attract more students/younger people/black Christians/families?
5.	In your opinion, is there a particular message that would attract students/younger people/black Christians/families with children that would find what we have to say is good news?
6.	Where are the best places and media to find students/younger people/black Christians/families with children who find what we have to say is good news?
7.	Are there any other questions we need to ask or areas we need to discuss in order to understand the perspective of students/younger people/black Christians/families with children?
8.	Would you be happy to refer us to other students/younger people/black Christians/families with children that we can discuss?

Report Criteria	
1.	The best ways of attracting students/younger people/black Christians/families with children who would find what we have to say is good news
2.	The message we would need to send to attract students/younger people/black Christians/families with children who would find what we have to say is good news based on the conversations held
3.	The best places and media to find students/younger people/black Christians/families with children who would find what we have to say is good news based on the conversations held
4.	The changes that St. James's Piccadilly would have to make to attract more students/younger people/black Christians/families based on the conversations held
5.	The probability of success based on the conversations held

Compiled:
 First Review on
 Second Review

Date: August 25, 2004
 Date: September 6, 2004
 Date: _____

By: Cornell Jackson
 By: PCC
 By