



**Stained glass window in St Mary's Aberfoyle depicting Mary with Jesus**

## **St Mary's Aberfoyle - Mission Action Plan**

After reviewing congregational life and seeking to determine community needs, a meeting of the congregation was held at Kinlochard on 29th October 2011. At this meeting it was agreed that two Marks of Mission should be our priority in the next three years.

**Mark 7. Sharing faith by confident and sensitive evangelism: witnessing to God's presence and power**

**Mark 4. Reaching out to children and young people: because mission-shaped churches seek to engage with children and young people.**

In a number of meetings since October, some with our Casting the Net facilitators, we have shaped this Mission Action Plan, which was then approved by Vestry at its meeting on 18th January 2012. This Mission Action Plan will be both a living and working document: modification will be required as time and events unfold. We must be ready to develop it in response to the needs of our communities and be prayerfully open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit. We pray for God's blessing upon our endeavours.

### **Prayer**

*Spirit of God*

*Make us open to others in listening,*

*Generous to others in giving*

*And sensitive to others in all we say and do*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord*

*Amen*

Approved by the Vestry: 18 January 2012  
Vestry Review: Six-monthly

Congregational Launch with Bishop: 5 February 2012  
Congregational Review: Spring 2015

## Mark 4 - Reaching out to children and young people, because mission-shaped churches seek to engage with children and young people

<b>Our Actions in Mission (AiMs)</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By When</b>
4.1 Advertise ecumenical youth worship, Thirsty, in Gartmore	Out, Up	Karen Gaskell, James Gardner	March 2012
4.2 Children choose final hymn for the services they are in church	Together	James Gardner, Jean Sykes	March 2012
4.3 Children help prepare posies for Mothering Sunday	Together	Jean Sykes	Day before Mothering Sunday, annually
4.4 Invite all baptismal families to an annual service e.g. on Mothering Sunday with simnel cake	Out	Melanie Grosse	Mothering Sunday, annually
4.5 Organise an activity with the children to create an ornamental Easter Garden outside on the bank or in the Church Room	Together	James Gardner, Melanie Grosse, Barbara Carruthers	Good Friday, annually
4.6 Ensure baptism families are informed about Godly Play when their children are of eligible age	Out	Rector, James Gardner, Barbara Carruthers	April 2012
4.7 Report on the work of the Child In Need Institute, Kolkata, (CINI) to Vestry and agree how the church will support their work for the coming year	Out	Susan Forsyth	April, annually
4.8 Organise a sermon slot for charities such as CINI, CYP, Chesney Trust each year	Out	Rector	May, annually
4.9 Encourage teenagers to attend Glenalmond Summer Camp	Together	James Gardner	Summer 2012
4.10 Send cards on the anniversary of baptisms	Out	Melanie Grosse	June 2012
4.11 Vestry to assign a member to provide support for all work with children and young people	Together, Out	Vestry	July 2012
4.12 Review church address list and determine the age and location of all children and young people to identify 'audiences' for different activities	Together	Vestry children's lead, Rector	Summer 2012
4.13 Develop a Face book page for young people that links in with the church website and includes links to other SEC Youth Networks, including Glenalmond.	Together	James Gardner, Mark Seymour, Vestry children's lead	Summer 2012

<b>Our Actions in Mission (AiMs)</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By When</b>
4.14 Report on the work of the Callander Youth Project (CYP) to Vestry and agree how the church will support the development of the Bridgend Youth Hub building	Out	Nick Cooke	August, annually
4.15 Develop pew bags containing activities for children of specific ages	Out	Vestry children's lead, James Gardner	September 2012
4.16 Children design a Christmas card	Together, out	Children	September, annually
4.17 Engage with parents and older children (aged 11-16) on our church list to understand how deeper relationships may be formed with them and create an action plan (e.g. to organise activities such as Christian film discussions, social trips, link up with youth network at Dunfermline, forum to ask questions about faith using resources such as Youth Emmaus, Living Stones, Roots etc)	Together, out	Vestry children's lead Parents of teenagers, James Gardner, Rector	Autumn 2012
4.18 Children help decorate church for Harvest	Together	Carol Seymour and flower arranging group	Harvest, annually
4.19 Report on the work of The Chesney Trust (TCT) to Vestry and agree how the church will support their work for the coming year	Out	John Dymond, Bill Richardson	October, annually
4.20 Children help decorate church for Christmas	Together	Carol Seymour and flower arranging group	December, annually
4.21 Children decorate the crib and Mary and Joseph figurines and model sheep travel around families, each family keeps a sheep and brings it to church on Christmas Eve	Together	Carol Seymour, Anne Winther	December 2012
4.22 Use prayer ideas suggested by Diocesan Children's Officer	Together	Rector	Summer 2013
4.23 Explore links with the Titus Trust	Out	Margie Stephen	Summer 2013
4.24 Gain accreditation as a Child Friendly Church	Out	Vestry lead	Summer 2014

## Mark 7. Sharing faith by confident and sensitive evangelism: witnessing to God's presence and power

<b>Developing confidence to share our faith</b>			
<b>Our Actions in Mission (AiMs)</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>
7A.1 Undertake a faith interview with a member of the congregation for each edition of the magazine	Together	Karen Gaskell	Spring, quarterly
7A.2 Provide the Scottish Episcopal Church leaflet in church and summarize in the magazine	Out	Karen Gaskell	Spring 2012
7A.3 Run 'Sharing Our Faith' as a Lent course after Church	Together, Up	Rector, Karen and Philip Gaskell	Lent 2012
7A.4 At the start of each Vestry meeting, one member shares something that is important in their faith to them (e.g. bible reading, poem, experience etc)	Together	Vestry	April, each Vestry meeting
7A.5 Promote attendance at Area and Diocese educational meetings	Up	Philip Gaskell, Barbara Carruthers	Summer 2012
7A.6 Develop a library in the Church Room	Up	Margie Stephen, Rector Karen Gaskell + others	Summer 2012
7A.7 Organise book study with congregation (e.g. The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg or other suggestions from A Frearson)	Up, Together	Rector	Late Pentecost 2012
7A.8 Trial running a bible study course before church with breakfast (possibilities include Emmaus, Exploring our Faith, Beta course from Cambridge, Living the Questions, etc) to see which timing suits people best	Together, Up	Karen and Philip Gaskell and others	January 2013
7A.9 Invite the Spirituality Group to organise a Quiet Day for Linkage	Up, Together	Rector, Margie Stephen	Summer 2013
7A.10 Run a bible study course before or after church – depending on response to previous actions (possibilities include Emmaus, Exploring our Faith, Beta course from Cambridge, Living the Questions, etc)	Together, Up	Rector, Karen Gaskell and others	Summer 2013
7A.11 Explore possibility of joint activity (e.g. bible study) with Aberfoyle Kirk	Together	Rector	End 2013

### Sensitive evangelism to our communities

Our Actions in Mission (AiMs)	Growth	By whom	By when
7B.1 Organise three events per year in church involving children and young people in welcoming, refreshments etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judy Urquhart talk – March 2012</li> <li>• Ukrainian accordianists – Summer 2012</li> <li>• Teleman ensemble – Summer 2012</li> </ul>	Out	Carol Seymour, Saffrey Miller, John Tilman	Ongoing
7B.2 Communicate information about Christian Aid and the annual collection in Aberfoyle in the weekly newsletter and church magazine	Out	Jean Sykes	May, annually
7B.3 Celebrate St Mary's patronal festival outside the holiday period with a guest supper	Together, Out	Rector, James Gardner	May, annually
7B.4 Songs of Praise service with wine and nibbles after, encourage people to bring friends	Together, out	Philip Gaskell, Rector	June, annually
7B.5 Restore role of Area Contacts and organise annual meeting of Area Contacts to agree activities for the coming year including worship, communications and social events	Together, Out	Rector, Vestry Chair, Area Contacts, Barbara Carruthers	Summer, annually
7B.6 Promote the Church Open Group (COG) to encourage fellowship	Out	Barbara Carruthers	Summer 2012
7B.7 Investigate use of accessible buildings in Aberfoyle for church fellowship meetings	Out	Barbara Carruthers + others	Summer 2012
7B.8 Issue personal invitations to those on the fringes using Back to Church Sunday official material, encourage them to come back to Harvest Festival	Out	Vestry Secretary/ Area Contacts	September, annually
7B.9 Improve communications with other churches in our areas to promote joint advertising of ours and their events	Out	Rector, Karen Gaskell Barbara Carruthers	Autumn 2012
7B.10 Publish St Mary's recipe book	Out	Barbara Carruthers, James Gardner	Summer 2013
7B.11 Develop action plan from Eco-Congregation audit including activities for children	Together	Anne Winther	Autumn 2013
7B.12 Encourage attendance at Holy Trinity, Stirling for a healing service	Together, Out	Rector, Karen Gaskell	Autumn 2013
7B.13 Explore with sensitivity the need and scope of a ministry of healing	Together	Rector, Margie Stephen, Karen Gaskell	Summer 2014
7B.14 Organise discussion group with a keynote speaker for a wider audience than just church members	Out	Rector, Vestry	Pentecost 2014