

Sutton Bonington Methodist Church Mission Statement

Sutton Bonington Methodist Church seeks to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to God and in service to our local community.

2021 Mission Plan - reviewed October 2023 **(to be reviewed September 2024)**

This plan builds upon the Mission Plan set out in 2019 which was implemented but adversely affected by the Covid Pandemic of 2020/21.

1. *Easter and Christmas Journeys*

Since 2014 we have, with the other village churches invited 7 local schools and the village playgroup to Easter Journey and Christmas Journey, held in our church building. Between 150 and 200 children attend each journey.

Plans for 2023 Christmas Journey are under way.

2. *Afternoon Tea*

December 2019 we started a monthly afternoon tea event to provide an opportunity for people to meet together and socialise. These are held in the main worship area of the church. We were able to hold a tea in January and February 2020 but then had to close down because of lockdown. The event attracted between 26 and 39 people, even in the early days, some of whom have few other opportunities to get out to meet other people. We restarted the teas in August 2021 with a good response from our guests.

The event continues to be popular and attracts 30 – 36 guests regularly.

3. *Weekly Coffee Drop In*

A weekly coffee drop in to begin in September 2021 using the worship area, which is accessed straight from the pavement on Main Street and have attracted one or two passers-by. Numbers remain small, but for some it is a valuable chance to meet and chat together.

4. *United Services*

The Methodist Church takes a full and active role within the Sutton Bonington Churches Together activities, in particular hosting Anglican and Methodist United Services. The Church co-ordinates and hosts the Village Christian Aid events in the Church.

5. *Special Events*

We are planning 'special services' at Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, etc to which the guests at the Afternoon Tea and Drop In events could be invited and Church members will be encouraged to invite friends and neighbours.

6. *Local Pre-School Group*

We plan to invite the pre-school group into the Church for a special event – maybe at Harvest to reinforce the link we already have through 'Christmas & Easter Journey'.

7. Church Social Events

We are planning events to which Church members/adherents could invite friends etc. These would be coffee and cake events with a 'speaker with a story to tell'. The first event was reasonably well attended and enjoyed by those who came along.

8. Themed Learning

Planning to develop a programme to include Preaching, Group and Individual participation. Preaching would involve Sunday worship, with groups could meeting in person or on zoom. This will include the ecumenical lent group.

9. Village Activities

The Methodist Church has always played a prominent part in Village activities.

- (i) **Village Show.** At this major Event SBMC organises an Opening Act of Worship
- (ii) **Halloween Pumpkin Trail.** Church has an illuminated Pumpkin with a Cross
- (iii) **Christmas Card.** Active within SBCT to produce a card for every household.
- (iv) **Palm Sunday walk.**

10. Church Profile

We aim to raise the profile of the Church within the village by:

- Using the various Parish newsletters
- Making good use of the Church Notice board and free to use notice boards in the village
- Having a regular presence on Social Media using the 'I love Sutton Bonington' and Circuit Facebook page.
- Using quality publicity materials

In summary, the above Mission Plan seeks to meet the aspirations of the Mission Statement making uses of the limited resources available, relying heavily upon the enthusiasm and commitment of those who serve SBMC.