**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 2024*  (to be reviewed October 2025)

This plan builds upon the Mission Plan set out in 2019.

**1.Easter and Christmas Journeys** Since 2014we have, with other village churches, invited 7 - 8 local schools and the village Preschool to Easter and Christmas Journey, held in our church building. Between 150 and 250 children attend each journey.

Plans and bookings for 2024 are underway.

**2. Afternoon Tea** Monthly afternoon teas events were started in 2019 to provide an opportunity for people to meet together and socialise. These are held in the main worship area of the church. The events attracted 30 -36 guests regularly. The teas continue to be popular, although numbers have declined due to illness and infirmity, with numbers now averaging 20 -25.

**3. Weekly Coffee Drop In** The informal Drop In averages between 4 – 10 attendees, and for some it provides a valuable chance to meet and chat together.

**4. United Services** The Methodist Church continues to take a full and active role within the Sutton Bonington Churches Together activities, hosting united Anglican/Methodist Services, co-ordinating and hosting some of the Village Christian Aid activities.

**5. Special Events** Guests at the Afternoon Tea and Drop In events are invited to ‘special services’ at Christmas, Harvest, Mothering Sunday etc.

**6. Pre-school Playgroup** The playgroup could be invited to another event – eg Harvest to reinforce the link made at Christmas Journey.

**7. Church Social Events** Plans for these informal coffee and cake events stalled when Dennis retired. Something similar could be reconsidered. A Church fellowship social event was suggested, possibly in the New Year.

**8. Themed Learning** These plans were also put on hold, but the annual United Churches Lent Group is well supported.

**9. Village Activities** The Methodist Church continues to play a prominent part in Village Activities: (i) **Village Show –** at this major event SBMC organises an opening act of worship (ii) **Pumpkin Trail –** church has illuminated pumpkin with cross (iii) **Christmas Card –** active within SBMC to produce a card for every household (iv) **Palm Sunday Walk**

**10. Church Profile** We try to raise the profile of the church by: \* Using Village News \* Using church notice board and other village notice boards \* Advertising events on social media when possible \* Using quality publicity materials

The above Mission Plan seeks to meet the aspirations of the Mission Statement, making use of limited resources and relying heavily on the enthusiasm and commitment of those who serve SBMC.