

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 **(to be reviewed September 2022)**

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.

* We aim to resume these events as soon as possible.

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 have restarted the teas in August 2021 with a good response from our guests.

* At present we are hiring the Village Hall which is very much a 'second best' venue and we aim to get back to the Church at the earliest opportunity.

3. *Weekly Coffee Drop In*

Plans had been made to begin a weekly coffee drop in to begin in September 2021 using the worship area, which is accessed straight from the pavement on Main Street. It was decided to continue with the launch of this event using the schoolroom, at the rear of the Main Worship area. Numbers have been small so far, but are gradually growing, with a few people coming each week.

We intend to move this venture into the Worship area as soon as possible.

* Using the School Room is much less attractive to the passer by as it means walking around the side of the building to the rear.

4. *United Services*

The Methodist Church takes a full and active role within the Sutton Bonington Churches Together Activities.

Weekly worship can continue in the school room for our regular congregation, but we are less likely to attract the passer-by. It is not possible to host the regular United services with the Anglican Church and the Churches together services.

The Church co-ordinates and hosts the Village Christian Aid events in the Church.

*To host the CA Coffee morning we need to be in the Worship Area

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.

*This not possible until the Worship Area is useable.

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'.

*Awaiting Worship area availability.

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'.

*Plan to launch when we have the Worship area available.

8. Themed Learning

Planning to develop a programme to include Preaching, Group and Individual participation. Preaching would involve Sunday worship, Groups could meet in person or on zoom. Material will be provided for individual use in the home.

Plan to implement a trial Jan/Feb 2022

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 Trail.** The Church has a Nativity display and illuminations.
- (iv) **Christmas Card.** Active within SBCT to produce a card for every household.

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 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.

The greatest challenge facing SBMC today is the speedy repair to the ceiling in the Worship area of the Church so that many of these activities can resume(*) efficiently. One of the great attributes of the building is its location in the village, its flexible worship area and welcoming glass doors just off the pavement