**Date- 29.11.24**

**Marlborough Square Methodist Church**

**“Sharing the love of Christ with all”**

*“Church with an Open Door”*

**Our Vision**

We seek to bring people into a relationship with God, through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, reaching out with God's love to the lost and hurting, whilst seeking to connect with people and serve in our local community.

We believe that God has put us in a unique position to bear witness to his love in the town centre community of Coalville, on Marlborough Square and we look to make the most of the opportunity to do so.

As a church we share our faith in welcome, worship, friendship and care, through working and fellowship together in a variety of church-organised and community-organised groups and activities, to offer conversation, support and prayer.

We aim to encourage everyone to follow Jesus, basing their life on him and learning from him, using their God-given gifts to help and serve, as the Spirit makes us more like him.

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*This Mission Plan is by way of review and setting of more specific actions out of the “Plan for Growth" agreed at Church Council in February 2020.*

**1. WORSHIP**

As a Methodist Community, worship is at the heart of all we do.

We aim to continue developing a variety of styles at our Sunday morning act of worship, sometimes more traditional others more contemporary, always friendly and informal. We enjoy singing both hymns and worship songs with mix of accompaniment including the pipe organ which is played regularly.

Holy Communion is a valued part of our rhythm of worship.

We run a monthly SMILEY Church, a craft and story based, family-friendly service which is widely advertised through our church magazine, posters, social media and our church Facebook page. Measure: We aim to provide at least 9 Smiley Church events within the next 12 months.

We aim to develop regular use of technology in the worship area.

Measure: to use funding from the circuit to install up to date A/V systems in the church building and to use video and sound in at least 1 in 4 services each month.

**2. EVANGELISM & OUTREACH**

**Saturday and Wednesday Café**

We run a café from the coffee bar at the back of the worship area with doors open to the street on Saturday & Wednesday mornings. It is increasingly busy and serves as a valuable point of contact and friendship for members and wider community alike.

Measure: take regular feedback from our users as to how their experience of using our café is and asking them how we could improve our café. Having an item in the church magazine with photos and comments.

**Relationship With Schools**

Harvest, Christmas and Easter services and other special occasions are held in the worship area. We will continue to build a close connection with Belvoirdale Primary and Marlborough Day Nursery and seek to make links with other local schools.

We provide a Christmas Journey, Easter Journey and “Open the Book” experience.

Measure: record if and when it happens.

**Special Events**

We run occasional special events such as concerts by some of the groups that also use our building during the week and exhibitions e.g. Knitted Bible. The worship area provides a larger capacity venue with good acoustics for groups’ concerts which are usually shared events with church folk.

We host a Memorial Service for those who have had funeral services at the church and others who wish to join in remembering lost loved ones, this in partnership with Co-op Funeral Services.

Measure: record when events happen (usually through the church magazine.)

**Fellowship**

A group from the congregation called “The Mission Squared” lead the way in our Social Events which are a key part of supporting and building our fellowship.

There are events such as Barn Dances, Suppers, Quiz Nights, Bowls Nights, Afternoon Teas and Lunches.

Measure: The Mission Squared group plan an event to take place at least every 2 months, recorded in church magazine.

**Churches Together**

We are very committed to our involvement with Churches Together and provide a regular venue for joint prayer. Our church is a key venue from which to base shared witness at times like Christmas & Easter.

Members also take part in the Food Bank team.

At the moment the CT has not got leadership so is not working well. The prayer meetings are still taking place.

Measure: to attend Prayer Meetings each month

**3. LEARNING & CARING**

We will continue to review and develop the pastoral care system of ‘**Pastoral Friends**’, so that all will know they have someone as a point of contact, support and friendship.

We look to encourage involvement and leadership, training people to improve skills and confidence for various roles and activities of the church. As a way of measuring our pastoral system we will provide some sort of training even if it be a discussion meeting where we share ideas, experience and knowledge before the end of our Church Year in August.[Obviously difficult to measure due to confidentiality!]

We aim to offer **prayer/study/fellowship** through a **short series** of 4 to 6 weeks Bible study activities, with opportunity for participation “in-the-room” and via ZOOM, to **help people grow as disciples**.

Measure: advertise bible study opportunities in church magazine.

**4. SERVING**

**In the Community with the Building and on the Square**

We serve a variety of community groups through their use of the building e.g. Brownies, Community Choir, CAOS, Musical Theatre School, Seated Exercise and local school and pre-school groups. We continue to work on developing these various relationships as part of our outreach work.

Measure: record use of building by user groups

MSMC is used by the National Forest Methodist Circuit with the Circuit office based in the church building.

There are occasional chaplain-style visits to the New Market stall holders and events.

Measure: photos and reports in church magazine

Being an Eco Church

We will continue to strive to meet the requirements of being an Eco Church. We have gained Bronze Award and now are looking towards the requirements of silver Award.

Measure: reports our achievements in church magazine and use the measures provided by Arocha to guide our success towards reducing our impact on the environment.

Our most immediate building priority is to address the repairs highlighted in our Quinquennial Report, to introduce new A/V system in the building and to continue to investigate the possibility of providing an Accessibility Entrance to the front of the building and to address suggestions provided by our recent Energy Report.

**Review Chart**

**SMILEY CHURCH** **On Target?** Yes/No  **Next step**…

**TECHNOLOGY (A/V) On Target?** Yes/No **Next step…**

**SCHOOLS On Target?** Yes**/**No **Next step…**

**MEMORIAL SVCE On Target?** Yes/ No  **Next step…**

**BUILDING On Target? Yes/No Next step…**

**ECO CHURCH On Target? Yes/No Next steps…**

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**Further Note from Elspeth**

**Good evening Mark,**

**I've realised that I haven't sent you our up to date, reviewed Mission Plan, so please find it attached.**

**In our discussion of our Mission Plan, we talked about how the Circuit could prehaps help with our future Mission plan aims.**

1. **At the moment we are running a very successful monthly Smiley Church and we run a well attended pre-school group, Little Sunbeams, on a weekly basis. We also go into school on a near monthly basis to deliver 'Open the Book' assemblies. We are aware that we are not reaching the Year 6&7&8 group of children. So our Mission opportunity would be to offer a 'once a week' After school club aimed at Yr6&Yr7&Yr8, a sort of transition group(Primary to Secondary school), Youth Club.We are very aware that we have not the people or experience to do this, but would suggest that the circuit could consider employing someone who did have the experience and ability to lead the running of such a group, and we could look to church members to support in delivering a weekly session.**
2. **As mentioned, we do go into school, regularly, to deliver 'Open the Book' assemblies, but we realise that we are no longer registered and having seen Ashby Methodist church apply for improved membership to the 'Open the Book' support and resources, we consider that we should do the same.  We do find that our pool of volunteers is not very big and wonder if we could join forces with other church groups that are also delivering 'Open the Book' assemblies. So we are asking for support in our work for this.**
3. **We run a well attended coffee morning on both a Wednesday and Saturday morning. During the summer months we would like to consider using the new Marlborough Square space for this, when weather permits. We understand that we would have to ask permission from NWLDC but want the Circuit to be aware of this and be supportive with our intentions!**

**I hope you find this a useful and a reasonable response to the challenge that the Circuit has given us!**