

# The Methodist Church in Weston

Mission Plan 2023 – 2024 (reviewed Autumn 2024)

*“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them”.*

## Introduction

This Mission Action Plan builds on the Mission Plan for Aston and Weston Methodist Church 2022 - 2023. The plan outlined the vision of the church after the pandemic, and the understanding that a church with two buildings was no longer sustainable. This led to the closure of the chapel at Aston.

This updated plan looks at the vision and mission of the church in the villages of Aston and Weston in light of the closure and subsequent merger with The Methodist Church in Melbourne.

As part of the review process, the Church Council reflected upon the current data available for the village of Weston and are currently engaging with the local community asking simply what they feel the church could offer and what they felt was missing from the village. All of this information will be part and parcel of updating the Mission Action Plan moving forward.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The plan below focuses on the four areas of the Methodist Church’s ‘Our Calling’ document.

## Worship

- We will meet for worship in the church at Weston on three Sundays each month believing this is important as the church seeks to be more visible in the community. On the fourth Sunday we will join with the larger congregation at Melbourne.
- We will share in a monthly communion service.
- We will continue to explore and develop less formal acts of worship alongside the traditional such as Café Church and All Age services involving members of the Girl’s Brigade.
- We will make our worship the best it can be introducing the use of technology.

## Action

### **Purchase audio-visual equipment.**

In recognition of the increasing number of LA services for each of the churches in the Circuit, a grant will be requested. This will enable the church to make use of a wider variety of resources, including the quarterly recorded service, when planning and leading these services. This will also enable and refresh a less formal style of worship.

Date: Autumn 2023

Deborah and Brian Stevenson to action

## Learning and Caring

- We will continue to engage in Bible Study fortnightly.
- We will join with the Church in Melbourne in Advent and Lent studies.
- We will continue to care for one another, ensuring those who can no longer attend worship are visited regularly, and by providing transport for those who are unable drive.
- We will pray for one another and support one another in times of difficulty.
- We will ensure Safeguarding procedures, training and DBSs are renewed when required and communicate with the Safeguarding Officer.

## Action

### **Attend Safeguarding Foundation Module.**

Date: Autumn 2023

All those requiring training - Stewards and Girl's Brigade leaders.

## Mission

- We will continue to support the work of the Girl's Brigade by encouraging the leaders in their work, recognising the impact of this, regularly inviting the girls and young women to worship and celebrating their achievements.
- We will regularly contribute to Chellaston Choice magazine which is distributed across the local area including the villages of Aston and Weston.
- We will hand deliver Christmas Cards to the people living in Weston inviting them to join us for worship.
- We will continue to hold a Saturday coffee morning on alternate months to engage with the local community in Weston.
- We will purchase new Notice Boards to advertise church activities and act as a 'Wayside Pulpit'.
- To ensure the new church noticeboard in Aston is updated regularly.
- We will begin a mid-week activity, taking into account the census data and the community feedback.
- We will continue to support Christian Aid, McMillan, Oxfam, Water Aid, Toilet Twinning and Christmas Shoebox Appeal.
- We will further explore the use of the building as a community hub and remain open to change.

## Actions

### **Christmas Card delivery**

Date: December 2023

Girl's Brigade

### **Purchase Noticeboards**

Date: Autumn 2023

Kay Jeffries

### **Aston Noticeboard**

Install and update the village notice board

Date: Autumn 2023

Deborah Stevenson and Daryl Dawson

### **Midweek Activity**

Date: Autumn 2023

Deborah Stevenson and Sally Ratcliffe

### **Explore Further Mission Opportunities**

Date: Autumn 2023

Stewards with support from Rob and Katie Hawkins

## Evangelism

- We will ensure a Christian presence in the village of Weston continues.
- We will use the 'wayside pulpit' to share the gospel of hope, love, and grace.
- We will run an exploring faith course such as START or Alpha.

## Actions

### **Purchase posters**

Advent 2023

Sally Ratcliffe

### **Lead a START, Alpha or similar**

Spring 2024

Sally Ratcliffe