

Ashby Methodist Church

Mission Action Plan – June 2023

Mission Statement

Our mission is to glorify God: The God who charges us to share the ministry of Jesus Christ.

In fulfilling this mission we will:

- Live out as best we can the Good News of Jesus Christ, proclaiming it in words and actions.
- Care for and safeguard one another within the Church community, especially those who are most vulnerable; children, those with disabilities, those who are frail or elderly.
- Extend the caring network to those who have casual connection with the Church community.
- Work closely with other Christian denominations in Ashby.
- Contribute to the life of the National Forest East Circuit, and be faithful to the calls of the Methodist Church.
- Make the Church premises available to community groups, giving priority to those working with the vulnerable groups listed above.
- Be open to the Holy Spirit's prompting in outreach to the wider community, the nation and the world.

Preface

Ashby Church exists to worship God in relevant and exciting ways.

We believe we are called to share our knowledge and faith in Jesus with others.

The Methodist Church in Ashby de la Zouch has a small congregation of between 20 and 30 people, who are mainly retired. The congregation carry out significant acts of outreach within the local community and prayerfully strives to continue this outreach and grow our congregation.

Current Church Activities

- Sunday worship 10.30 led variously by a minister, local preacher and monthly by our own worship leaders.
- Lent study group

- Weekly coffee morning on Tuesdays.
- Women's Group once a month.
- Financial support for local charities via Sunday Coffee donations and special collections via All we Can for emergency appeals.
- Engaging with Churches Together at key times eg. Remembrance Sunday, Christian Aid Week and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- Organising and preparing an ecumenical fund-raising lunch during Christian Aid Week.
- Organising and leading a service of worship on the bumper cars on the Sunday morning of the annual Statutes Fair.
- We provide a venue for Ashby Arts Festival.
- Using Bible Society Open the Book resources we present assemblies in 10 local primary schools once a month taking a Bible story.
- In December we present the Christmas Journey to 240 year 2 pupils from 7 local schools.
- We provide rooms for Ashby Youth for Christ, both for everyday use and for Crackerteria in December.
- We maintain contact with the Brownie group meeting in our premises and have led Christingle services especially for them.
- We take a monthly service to one of the local care homes.

Mission Action Plans

In a mission planning service/meeting in November 2022, it was proposed:

- To continue our outreach to our local Primary Schools
- Increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love (Worship)
- Help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care (Learning and Caring)
- Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice (Service)
- Make more followers of Jesus Christ (Evangelism)
- Attract young people and families
- Make services appropriate for those who attend
- Be better at advertising what we do
- Have courage to go out and talk to those we meet

- Be better at communicating within the church.

Mission Action Points

Worship

We enjoy a variety of preachers including our own worship leaders and have opportunities to participate in the services especially when led by the worship leaders

Action Point - To enhance Sunday Worship experience for everyone.

Steps required: To carry out an audit of our technical equipment (audio and visual) and canvass the congregation regarding their ability to hear/follow the preachers/ worship leaders, with a view to updating equipment.

People responsible: Church leadership team and property manager.

Timescale: to start as soon as possible.

Learning and Caring

Our congregation and people who are on the fringes of the church are cared for by a team of pastoral visitors and supported in prayer by our Prayer Chain. In recent years we have been successful in organising house groups for Bible study to enhance members' understanding of scripture and for fellowship.

Action Point: To increase the number of house groups with groups meeting at different times of the day and possibly starting with an Advent Study.

Steps required: Identify possible resources, seek leader(s) and host(s) and publicise within the church.

People responsible: Church leadership team and volunteers

Timescale: to complete first 3 steps by end of October 2023 to allow time for publicising.

Serving

We support community initiatives such as Street Pastors and Food Bank through monetary and food gifts

Action points.

- To offer the opportunity of coffee and a chat to those living in retirement housing.
- To continue our donations to the Food Bank.
- To continue our support for Street Pastors

Steps required:

- To invite the residents of Bainbridge Court, Springfields and Prior Park to Tuesday Coffee.
- To reconsider offering our Tuesday Coffee Morning as a 'Warm Space'.

People responsible: Church leadership team and volunteers.

Timescale: October/ November 2023

Evangelism and Outreach

Our major evangelism is in our Open the Book and Christmas Journey ministry to 10 local schools and this we aim to continue. Since 2021 we have taken a service of worship to the annual Statutes Fair in Ashby.

Action point - To explore how we may increase our involvement with the schools that we visit for Open the Book

Action point - To further our outreach to groups that use our premises.

Steps required:

- Offer special services to our Brownie Group in their time.eg Parade or Christingle services.
- Further explore the possibility of offering premises and support to AYFC for a café style service.
- Advertise our regular activities plus special services for Christmas and Easter to the hall-users via flyers left in the hall and/or on the table in the entrance hall. (By September/ October)

People responsible: Church leadership team and volunteers.

Timescale: By September/October

We are committed to continuing the Mission Planning process

- We plan to gather information about local community needs (Community Audit) to further our service to the community in which we are placed. This may be done in consultation with Mark Dale.
- This plan will be presented to the congregation and everyone encouraged to participate in whatever way they are able to.
- The plan will be reviewed and updated at meetings of the stewards, Church Council, at our AGM and at ad hoc meetings with the congregation.