

STRETTON GRANDISON : FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

2011 -2015

1. TO LIVE AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM

NOW...*we have worship twice in the month, Holy Communion on both occasions. We have had to give up our Evening Prayer service because of lack of customers and sometimes lack of a priest. The church is open permanently and has a visitor's book which many people sign. There are leaflets explaining the history of the church and one describing the churches on the Preedy Trail, of which we are one. Leaflets explaining the marriage service are also freely available. Our jams and marmalades on sale are very popular and tempt many of the community to visit the church. All profits go to the church. The Hop Churches magazine is delivered free to all parishioners.*

POSSIBILITIES WE SEE FOR THE FUTURE...

- *Quiet days for worship*
- *Discussion groups*
- *Lay members leading services*
- *Taize services*
- *Songs of Praise evening*
- *Installation of a new Notice board at the entrance to the church car-park with details of services, the parish clergy, contact details for crisis groups and "What's On" "information*

WHAT WE COULD DO STRAIGHT AWAY...

- *arrange our noticeboards in the porch to keep them up to date.*
- *train for laity involvement in services*
- *reprint our service booklets and history leaflets*
- *Create a leaflet for all the parish explaining what building work is afoot at the church and how it aims to enrich the life of the church*

2. TO TEACH, BAPTISE AND NURTURE NEW BELIEVERS

NOW...*We have occasional weddings baptisms and funerals (more of the latter). And always greet the participants with welcomes, good coffee and refreshments. Visitors are led to enjoy the beauty and significance of our church if one of the PCC members is available at the time of their visit. We have a presence of a sort on the internet.*

POSSIBILITIES WE SEE FOR THE FUTURE...

- *A rota of PCC members to be guides for an afternoon at church.*
- *Attempt to retain contact with families from baptisms, and even funerals*
- *Create a discussion group on the meaning of church services and rites.*
- *Advertise wedding packages in combination with local caterers and wedding suppliers.*
- *Engage fully with the diocesan internet site and broaden our presence on*
- *the www.achurchnearyou.com*
- *More concerts, exhibitions and events to draw people into the church and to ensure a stronger community spirit within the church and the village of Stretton Grandison*

WHAT WE COULD DO STRAIGHT AWAY...

- *Organise a teaching session for PCC members and parishioners who would wish to act as guides to act as guides*
- *Ensure the new display panels are full of interesting and engaging pictures of church activities*
- *Revisit the web sites in order to update them*
- *Add more books to our library*
- *Advertise our library in shops and other venues.*

3. TO RESPOND TO HUMAN NEED BY LOVING SERVICE

NOW...*We try to keep in touch with people in hospital and grieving families too, although this is not always easy. Only by bush telegraph do we find out where loving service is wanted! We collect goodies for the community larder at harvest time and send a donation to the church in Mtwara each year. We have a small library of books and magazines for parishioners to borrow or exchange ...or keep if they wish.*

POSSIBILITIES WE SEE FOR THE FUTURE...

- *Forming a small group of visitors to sing community hymns and old favourites in homes for the elderly.*
- *Collect memories of the church at Stretton from older people who often enjoy talking about the way things were.*
- *Try to raise interest in the very old ancient Graves in the churchyard including our Romans and Anglo Saxons who were interred a year or so ago.*
- *To reach out in love to our neighbor whatever their beliefs or un-beliefs*

WHAT WE COULD DO STRAIGHT AWAY....

- *Try a neighbourhood doorstep enquiry about parishioners desires and wishes for the church in the future*
- *Create a prayer list for our inside notice-boards*
- *Reorganise the book shelves and add more magazines and books*

4. TO SEEK TO TRANSFORM UNJUST STRUCTURES OF SOCIETY

NOW...*We seek to help the church in Tanzania with gifts of money We support Christian aid and other agencies who give help and aid to those in distress through poverty, war or a result of corrupt governments.*

POSSIBILITIES WE SEE FOR THE FUTURE...

- *A stronger and more practical link with children in need especially on our own doorstep*
- *Inviting a speaker to share with our neighbouring parishes to talk about the work that Christian volunteers do in distressed areas of the world*
- *To celebrate the lives of those in our own community who quietly and generously give their time and love to people in need.*

WHAT WE COULD DO STRAIGHT AWAY...

- *Pray everyday for those whose lives are unimaginably hard and cruel all over the world*
- *Arrange an evening with those in our parish who have just returned from Tanzania to talk about the link with Mtwara*
- *Arrange a revolving display on the inside display boards showcasing the societies who help people in need*
- *Create a collecting box near the boards that will collect a "penny from heaven" from visitors*

5. TO STRIVE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION AND SUSTAIN AND RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH

NOW...*we celebrate harvest with special window displays and collections of produce for the diocesan larder. Most years there is a Harvest lunch as well. We strive to protect wild life wherever possible and to replace trees and plants with ones that will attract butterflies. The bats that visit our church every year are pipistrelles and are protected. A colony of wild bees recently made a home just under the clock in the tower. A footpath runs through our churchyard to the woods beyond and this is well used by ramblers and walkers*

POSSIBILITIES WE SEE FOR THE FUTURE...

- *Churchyard butterfly and beetle hunts for children*
- *Clearing the fence between us and the neighbouring field to allow more wild life friendly foliage to be planted.*
- *Our new kitchen facility will serve only home grown or ethically sourced food*

WHAT WE COULD DO STRAIGHT AWAY...

- *Pray for rain in Africa and not too much rain here*
- *Give constant thanks for our beautiful county and the gifts of the earth.*

6. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

