

Chinley and Buxworth Mission Action Plan 2015.

The Churches and the Community

The Parish of Chinley and Buxworth is situated in the High Peak and has a population of approximately 2800. It consists of the villages of Chinley and Buxworth together with several hamlets and farms. Chinley is the larger village, being situated on the main railway line between Sheffield and Manchester and therefore attracting commuters to live in the village.

Our age profile broadly matches the Diocesan average with a fairly even spread. About 50% of households in the parish consist of couples; in addition about 10% of households are single parent families. About a quarter of households are single people, half of whom are over 65. About a quarter of households have dependent children.

Unemployment numbers are very low. About 40% of working age people in the parish work in managerial / administrative / professional occupations. Of those working, over 70% work full time.

Chinley and Buxworth Parish is part of a Mission and Ministry Area which includes the Parish of Hayfield. The Parish consists of two churches about 1.25 miles apart, St. James' in Buxworth and St. Mary's in Chinley. The main services are held at St. James on the first Sunday of the month and at St Mary's for the other 3 weeks. The parish has a modest but lively congregation which includes a few young families.

There is an 8.15 am Holy Communion at St James' twice a month and Evensong once a month. During term time, a small group of children aged between 3 and 11 meet for Sunday School during the main morning service. Once a month, at St Mary's, an All Age service takes place where the children and their families join with the rest of the congregation. There are small midweek services at both churches and a fellowship group meets weekly in a home.

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is currently 65. The number who attend church on a Sunday averages 37 adults plus 4 children. The main service average of 34 adults is depressed by attendance at the All Age service which is 25 plus 5-6 children. Average attendance for the 8:15 am Holy Communion and Evensong at St. James remains at seven.

The parish has been able to pay its Parish Share in full each year and to achieve its goal of giving 10% of its income to missions at home and abroad.

The initial MAP of 2012 was regularly reviewed by the PCC and we have made good progress in many of the areas identified. This 2015 MAP is a full review.

The MAP Process

In formulating our 2012 MAP we formed Route Groups to engage the congregation in the process. To produce the 2015 MAP, we invited those on the electoral roll to make further comments on the 2012 MAP and offer any new suggestions. There were also some areas which arose during the MAP process in 2011-2012 which didn't make into the 2012 MAP which have been revisited. The ideas were discussed by the MAP group and PCC and this new MAP was formulated which will be forwarded to the Bishop.

A section of the MAP will be presented to the congregation on four different occasions as part of the Sunday Service. People will be invited to join an 'Ideas Group' for each of the four sections, where the outline proposals in the MAP will be discussed in greater depth and more concrete actions put forward. The PCC will then continue to discuss and implement the plan over the following months and years.

1. Mind the Gap

Church Vision

To provide activities which are engaging to those groups not currently prominent in our church Family.

Proposals for Young People

- Explore the possibility of appointing a Youth or Parish Worker on either a voluntary or paid basis
- Occasionally invite Uniformed Groups to be involved in the All Age Service and/or providing refreshments afterwards.
- Consider provision of a suitable Service for Toddlers and Carers – perhaps at the Community Centre
- Involve Children in the planning and presentation of All Age Services.
- Consider other ways of enhancing children’s ministry and provision for teenagers

Proposals for Men

- Pursue the proposal to start a Men’s group aimed at fringe members of the church and others – possibly focussed around a church maintenance working party, and creating interesting games and activities to be used at the various fetes and galas held in our villages.

Proposals for Older People

- Increase the reach or frequency of existing provision for older people such as the services at Welby Croft care home and supporting the village ‘Drop in’ at the Parish Room.
- Establish a ‘Visiting Group’ of people who can visit the elderly for general companionship to work alongside the Home Communion Team.

2. Music and Worship

Church Vision

To provide a variety of music and worship styles reflecting the range of backgrounds and tastes within the congregation, which nurture and inspire our faith and commitment to God.

Proposals

- New songs, which have been used effectively in the Informal Worship Service could be introduced to the wider congregation when appropriate.
- From time to time include a group of songs led by the piano or other instruments.
- Encourage people, especially those on the fringes of the church, to try different styles of worship such as the mid-week services and the Informal Worship service, by improving publicity and invitation.

3. Discipleship & Evangelism

Church Vision

To encourage every member of the church to grow in their relationship with God and to become confident in sharing their faith.

Proposals for Home Groups

- Explore the possibility of a day time group in addition to the current evening group
- Have a series of meetings on sharing our faith.

Proposals for Prayer

- Encourage more freedom in giving and receiving prayer by making the prayer ministry team more visible.
- Employ a greater variety of prayer formats such as praying through scripture, using different senses, music or singing.
- Include prayer about matters of particular interest or concern to those present.
- Encourage congregational prayer, especially from the children, as part of the All-Age-Service.
- Find opportunities to offer prayer ministry outside the church, perhaps at village events or , with permission, at village meeting places such as the café.

Proposals for Discipleship

- Continue to promote the use of Bible reading notes especially through testimony and magazine articles.
- Have occasional opportunities for testimonies and Q's & A's in a service.

4. Engagement with the Community

Church Vision

To provide and encourage opportunities for church members to engage with the wider community.

Proposals

- Build on networks begun in Buxworth to join in with village events and groups and offer help to them. In particular, could we become involved with the Toddlers' group?
- Continue to improve follow-up with baptism families.
- Improve publicity through Social Media.
- Consider opening the churches during the day.