



Hoddesdon Methodist Church
Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon. EN11 9ED

Five Year Mission Plan

2018-2023

Progress Report - 22nd February 2018

At Hoddesdon our stewards have been asked to take up the challenge of preparing a ‘five year plan’ (FYP) for our church and it’s members with a view to growing our membership and ensuring that Methodism continues to be represented in our locality for many years to come.

Who

This will be achieved with the formation of a separate committee comprising of four or five church members, allowing the topic to be discussed away from the routine matters considered by our stewards and with complete focus.

Whilst our stewards have competed initial thoughts as to what the FYP will include the main emphasis will be on examining how we are seen by the local community and what the Methodist Church represents to them.

Why

We need to be more visible and to be seen to be leading our lives by the values adopted, expected and encouraged by the Methodist Church.

How

Our focus will start with the local people that use our Church premises but who are not members. We have many groups and organisations that come through our doors but who know very little of who we are beyond the bricks and mortar. There are thoughts of a social gathering with invitations to be sent to key members of these various groups.

There are plenty of examples of planning over the years by Methodist (and other) churches and we will draw on information already to hand that might be seen to be helpful in achieving our aims.

We do have funds in the Reaching Up Reaching Out Fund (RURO) from our previous project (2003-2009) and from our regular fund raisers such as Table Top monthly sales. We will look to draw on these resources to fund the proposals once accepted by our Church Council. There are many ways in which we could spend money - publicity, events, employment (mission/ youth worker etc.). Clearly whilst helpful money will not achieve our ambitions without a good FYP.

Objectives to be drawn from following

- Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
- Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support, care
- Become a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
- Make more followers of Jesus Christ

Priorities for the Methodist Church In partnership with others

Wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church as ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

- *Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer.*
- *Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide*
- *Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved*
- *Encouraging fresh ways of being Church*
- *Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible*

Actions

The initial thoughts have been shared with our Church Council in recent days, and I will seek further thoughts from our stewards at our March meeting ensuring that we have a clear vision as to what the FYP will be expected to achieve, with transfer to the new FYP Group in June.

All thoughts and outcomes will be shared with our membership at our Church Council meetings (July/Oct), and progress reports provided. Equally the thoughts of our members will be sought to ensure the widest set of views are gathered.

Final Report

To be delivered at October Church Council meeting.