

# Zion Mission Plan

## Approved Review 23 March 2025

### 1. Purposes

The Mission Plan for Zion Church has been drawn up for the following overall purposes:

- To share Christ with those outside the Church
- To develop and enhance Christian worship in response to the circumstances of today
- To contribute to community well-being and cohesion through an improved level of service to the local community and also through greater use of the Church's building for community led events and meetings.
- To strengthen the Christian community of the church through learning and caring for one another.

However, it has to be recognised that the human, financial and physical resources of the Church are limited, and therefore it is not possible to do all the things that the church would like to do. So for this review, priorities have been re-assessed. Actions to be taken are in accordance with that reassessment and are within the resources of the church (together with grant aid which can reasonably be anticipated). The Plan will then be reviewed in a further two years (or earlier, if the need or opportunity arises). Outcomes from the Neighbourhood Family Worker initiative (see below) will be central to that review.

### 2. Priorities for new activities or initiatives are:

The **First Priority** of the Mission Plan is to: **Develop Contact with, and Services to, Young People and Families**. This has emerged as the new top priority following recent a consultation of the congregation.

The **Second Priority** is: **Service and Mission to Older People** This can be pursued immediately as in recent years it has been the purpose behind many of the church's existing activities.

**A Further Priority** is to **Widen and Diversify Worship**, so that worship opportunities are offered which are convenient or relevant to different groups of people.

### 3. Existing Activities

The Plan provides for the continuation of existing activities including those introduced by the original Mission plan (and shown in italics):

- **Worship** – Sunday worship (streamed on YouTube), *preaching plans, monthly Thursday morning worship, quarterly 'café church' and additional 'parade services' with uniformed youth groups attending.*
- **Learning and Caring** – Fellowship Groups, Pastoral Care, Prayer Chain, After-service Coffee, *'Special Congregation Days' and occasional relevant courses eg 'Talking Jesus in 2024 and 2025.*

- **Service** – Cameo, Drop-in, Meet and Eat, Holiday at Home, Shoebox collection, (children's) Extravaganzas, Knit and Knatter, *Christmas Fayre and other occasional 'fun days'*.
- **Evangelism** – Use of Zion church website and social media, *Carol singing in care homes or other communal places*. (Other activities mentioned above are also be seen as 'evangelism' eg café church, parade services)

**See the glossary below for descriptions of the above activities.**

## **4. New Activities**

The main thrust of the reviewed plan is the appointment and work of a 'Neighbourhood Families Worker'. The initiative is seen as having the potential for furthering all the four callings of the Methodist Church. It is the sole new action proposed by this review and it is expected in turn to lead to new connections being made with the neighbourhood.

### **Neighbourhood Families Worker**

**Purpose:** In summary, the purpose of the post is to enable Zion to rediscover it's neighbourhood and build relationships and to pioneer new Christian work for the present age and neighbourhood.

In more detail, the purpose of the appointed worker is:

- To reach out into Zion's neighbourhood through existing and new initiatives
- To foster relationships with the schools local to Zion
- To enable people to explore faith issues, and become part of the Zion church family.
- To encourage and supervise church volunteers
- To network with other lay workers with a similar purpose

**Person Responsible:** The implementation of this proposal is the responsibility of the Zion leadership team.

**Timescale:** To be appointed in 2025, following confirmation of necessary grant aid, and a successful recruitment process. Scheme to run for a three year period and then be subject to assessment and review, with the possibility of a further 2 or 3 year period.

### **Fruit:**

- Greater use by the neighbourhood of existing church based activities, and the establishment of new activities, groups and events.
- Regular contact with schools, with children becoming involved in church based or sponsored activities.
- An increase in the number of people attending the various activities of the Zion church family.

## 5. Activities in the Original (2023) Mission Plan not Carried Forward

The activities indicated below were included in the 2023 Mission Plan, but are not carried forward by the review. The reasons for this decision are given in each case. These provisions are therefore deleted from the revised Mission Plan.

- School garment exchanges – this was not implemented due to the large time inputs required and the limited prospects for success
- Establish a Mother and Toddler Group – this can be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Worker initiative, rather than as a 'stand alone' item.
- 'Freedom in Christ' and 'Alpha' courses – this provision is replaced with the more flexible, 'occasional relevant courses eg 'Talking Jesus in 2024 and 2025.'
- Outdoor Worship Services – these proved to be ineffective in attracting interest or participation from the neighbourhood
- Outdoor Carol Singing – replaced by the more flexible, 'carol singing in care homes or other communal places'.
- Draft a Publicity Policy – completed

## 6. Glossary

- **Preaching plans** – a programme of themed services eg on 'Alpha' ( carried out in 2023)
- **Monthly Thursday morning worship** – a short service attached to the Drop-in (coffee morning)
- **Quarterly 'café church'** – a relaxed, informal time of worship, around tables, with drinks and refreshments served.
- **Additional 'parade services'** - with uniformed youth groups attending – eg Mothering Sunday
- **Prayer chain** – a group of people who pray for individuals particularly in need of, and requesting, prayer
- **Special Congregation Days** - major events, once or twice per year, where maximum attendance is encouraged
- **Occasional relevant courses eg 'Talking Jesus' in 2024 and 2025** – the type of courses to be offered to church members and/or the wider community will need to vary over time. So 'Alpha' or 'Freedom in Christ' are no longer specified and the wording of this provision has been made more flexible
- **Cameo** – a social afternoon with puzzles, board games chat and refreshments (weekly)
- **Drop-in** – a morning for chat with refreshments (weekly)
- **Meet and Eat** – a monthly cooked lunch in the church hall
- **Holiday at Home** – a holiday themed event with lunch, over three days (annually)
- **Shoebox collection** – Parcels of Christmas presents distributed where needed (contribution to Rotary Club initiative)
- **(children's) Extravaganzas** – Activities for children during school holidays
- **Knit and Knatter** – a group meeting in a morning for knitting, other crafts, chat and refreshments (weekly)
- **Christmas Fayre and other occasional 'fun days'** – Social and fund-raising events with games, stalls and refreshments.