

Draft Zion Mission Plan

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 wellbeing 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 new initiatives, priorities have been identified and then translated into specific proposals for action. The Plan will then be reviewed on a 2 yearly basis (or as the necessity arises), in order to assess the effectiveness of the actions taken and to decide on any changes to be made.

2. Priorities for new activities or initiatives are:

The **First Priority** of the Mission Plan is to be: **Service and Mission to Older People**. This can be pursued immediately as it is already the purpose behind many of the church's existing activities. Also, further initiatives are now planned

The **Second Priority** is to **Develop Contact with, and Services to, Young People**. However, some measures proposed here will first need significant research and feasibility assessment.

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 as follows:

- **Worship** – Sunday worship
- **Learning and Caring – Priority 1** Fellowship Groups, Pastoral Care, Prayer Chain, and After-service Coffee.
- **Service – Priority 1** - Cameo, Drop-in, Meet and Eat, Holiday at Home. **Priority 2** - Shoebox collection, (children's) Extravaganzas

4. New Activities

These include both entirely new activities and also activities which the church has previously been involved in but are not current.

a. Worship – Priority 1

	Person Responsible	Timescale	Fruit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preaching Plan - a theme to be sustained by Sunday preachers over a period of time. Eg. A preaching plan could follow part of the sequence of Alpha topics during the period of an Alpha course.	Minister in consultation with Leadership Team/Church Council and local preachers	First half of 2023	Increased engagement of congregation in services, and integration with parallel church activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occasional less formal services - would be appropriate for people associated with Zion, but not as yet 'Church attenders'. Could be used in conjunction with additional services (see below).	Minister in consultation with Leadership Team/Church Council and local preachers	First half of 2023	Attendance by people not normally attending Zion's Sunday services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional worship on alternative days and times. Such services may be short and informal and perhaps co-ordinated with other activities.	Minister in consultation with Leadership Team/Church Council and local preachers	First half of 2023, following Alpha and 'Warm Spaces' initiative	Increase in total number of people attending services

Priority 2

	Person Responsible	Timescale	Fruit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional parade service(s) This would require participation from uniformed organisations, and perhaps take place on special days in the scouting/guiding calendar, or contribute towards 'badge work'.	Chair of Mission and Outreach Committee	Detailed discussions with uniformed organisations needed. End of 2023.	Greater co-operation and integrated working with uniformed organisations.

b. Learning and Caring – Priority 1

	Person Responsible	Timescale	Fruit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Congregation Days Members of the congregation are to be given several month's notice of two dates per year for a special coming together (including Church Anniversary). It is hoped to attract maximum attendance at the Sunday service, to be followed by a lunch.	Senior Steward	for 2023	Significantly larger than average congregation, increased feeling of Church family, and common purpose.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freedom in Christ Course (or similar). Such courses help members of the congregation in their faith journeys.	Stuart B	2024	A deeper, more confident faith and the development of bonds of fellowship between those completing the course.

c. Service – Priority 1

• **Fayres and Fun Days.** The community will be invited to occasional events eg, an Easter or Christmas fayre, or a fun day to celebrate and event (eg Coronation Day in 2023)

Person Responsible
Senior Steward/Leadership Team

Timescale
Starts with Easter Fayre 2023

Fruit
Increasing contact with the local community and community cohesion.

Priority 2

• **School Garment Exchanges.** Enable parents to donate and buy items of used school uniforms. This will need detailed exploration with, and participation by, local schools.

Person Responsible
Chairman of Mission and Outreach

2024

Timescale

Fruit
Aiding a significant number of parents to buy school uniforms at manageable prices.

• **Establish a Mother and Toddler Group.** It is unlikely that this could be a church project unless grant aid is obtained for staffing. It is therefore likely that this project would need to be led by a commercial concern or community group.

Chairman of Mission and Outreach

2024

The use of the church buildings as a community hub by providing a service to significant numbers of parents and children.

d. Evangelism – Priority 1

	Person Responsible	Timescale	Fruit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha – Holding regular Alpha courses. 	Stuart B	First course due to start 23.1.23. Then, courses will be held according to demand, once or twice per year. Commencing 2023	People being assisted in their search for God, or for a deeper faith.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Services – to be held on Woodville Road park (possibly twice per summer) 	Chairman of Mission and Outreach		Worship visible and available to the public, with some participation by non-church goers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor carol singing – to be held in the streets or otherwise away from the church 	Chairman of Mission and Outreach	Every pre-Christmas season	People in the community hearing the Christmas story through song and greetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a publicity policy – Efficient and widespread dissemination of information regarding the church's activities, services and available rooms for hire. 	Stuart B (Consulting Lyn J, Lesley M and Suzanne R)	Completed by June 2023	Increased knowledge and take-up of the church's activities and services by the community. Also increased use of Church accommodation by outside organisations.