

Mission Action Plan

St Michael and All Angels, Mill Hill



A COMMUNITY OF ABUNDANT LIFE!

Listening, **I**nclusion, **F**riendship, **E**ngagement

WINTER 2020

Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Mill Hill

**The Parish is set in Mill Hill in the London Borough of Barnet.
Mill Hill is a suburb of North West London on the edge of the green belt.
The parish itself spreads both sides of the A41.**

St Michael and All Angels Church is situated adjacent to the town high street and main transport hub of Mill Hill Broadway.

The social composition of the parish is predominantly professional/business and commercial, and is ethnically diverse.

**Our congregation reflects the glorious diversity of our local community.
We welcome all, irrespective of age, ethnicity, social background,
disability, sexuality, or gender.**

We believe all are equally loved and valued by Christ.

We worship in the Anglo-Catholic tradition with a strong emphasis on high quality choral and organ church music.

**We strive to ensure our worship is open, accessible and relevant to all.
We actively encourage and support our young people to take dynamic and important roles in our liturgy and life together.**

We seek to make the love of Christ known in our worship, welcome, discipleship, mission, outreach, and stewardship.

We hope that you will enjoy reading our Mission Action Plan and finding out more about our vision, objectives, and opportunities for the future.

“I came that they may have **life**, and have it **abundantly**.” John 10: 10

St Michael and All Angels Mill Hill (hereafter SMMH) is committed to Christ’s mission to bring abundant life to ALL God’s children through:

Listening to God, each other, and the diverse members of our community.

Listening confidently, compassionately, and courageously, especially to those who differ from us.

Listening through diligence in prayer to the still, small voice of God.

Listening in order that we may discern God’s will and launch Mission Action Planning effectively.

Inclusion of everyone in ways which are appropriate to them regardless of who they are, where they are from, who or how they love.

Where people feel excluded and expelled, SMMH is called to be a **community of safety and inclusion**, seeking to love others as equally and unconditionally as Christ loves us.

Friendship - We strive to be a **community of Christian friendship** in which commitment, kindness, and compassion characterise every aspect of our life together.

Engagement - Where individuals, groups and neighbourhoods are disconnected or disenfranchised, we seek to be a **community of engagement** seeking out new and imaginative ways of discipleship, mission, and outreach - working in partnership with other churches, faiths and service providers.

This Mission Action Plan reflects our recognition of the abundant **LIFE** Christ offers us now and how we are called to share this life in the future. It expresses our **vision, objectives, and opportunities** for our **Worship, Welcome, Discipleship, Outreach and Stewardship**.

All are welcome to make suggestions for our Mission Action Plan.

SMMH Parochial Church Council meets at least six times a year.

If you have anything you would like the team to discuss, please let any of its members know.

You will find photographs of PCC members on the noticeboard in the entrance to the church.

Please pray regularly about how God is leading each of us to develop and live out our mission.

Worship

Unashamedly traditional, radically inclusive, meaningful, and accessible to all

Values

- Traditional music (choral and organ) and Anglican Catholic liturgy are missionary tools
- Worship is the responsibility and the privilege of the whole people of God
- Beautiful, dignified worship should never compromise kindness or pastoral need
- Creative partnership with those worshipping in another language provides exciting opportunities
- High-quality children's church worship is a mission imperative
- Opportunities for alternative worship outside the Sunday Parish Mass enrich our life together
- Worship celebrates God's unconditional love, encourages us and sends us out to make known the love of Christ

Objectives

- Encourage and support our Director of Music, Gordon Whittard, in the continued provision of excellent church music; recognising that the quality of our traditional church music attracts many people to our church
- Enable our Youth Choir leader, Matthew Pope, in the continued development of our children's choir, weekly rehearsals and the opportunities for evangelism and musical education it provides
- Sustain the ongoing work of Martin Asamoah-Danso, Andrew Bevans and Heather Betts who lead our large and diverse sacristy team of children and adults in the inclusive yet dignified celebration of our worship
- Support those who lead intercessions and read lessons with regular workshops and training
- Inspire and train children to lead prayers, read lessons and to share their gifts, testimony and vision in worship
- Provide opportunities and support all people to use their gifts/calling in the worship of God
- To be sensitive to the gifts and talents of relative newcomers or those we may have overlooked or underestimated

Opportunities

- Provide more opportunities for worship in smaller groups
- SMMH is now partnered with Japanese Anglicans working in collaboration with Commission minister Yuki Johnson to evangelize together as joint members of SMMH through Japanese language services, home groups and an annual Japanese Sunday celebration
- The Bishop of London's Chaplain to the Nigerian Community, Venerable Dr Joe Ajaefobi, and his community worship alongside SMMH on Sunday afternoons providing specific support for Nigerian Anglicans
- We worship in partnership with Pastor Desire Mbayo for those who worship in French
- Sea Sunday, Christmas Tree Service, Messy Church, have proven appeal to those outside our regular community and there is the opportunity for further resources and publicity
- Our brand-new toddler and baby soft play space gives us a great safe place for Toddler Prayers/Godly Play worship activities
- We are actively seeking a Farsi language speaker to offer first language worship to the many Iranian Christians who are joining and being baptised/confirmed at SMMH

Welcome

“Christ has welcomed you, welcome others to the Glory of God” (Romans 15: 7)

Values

- Welcoming helps to keep everyone safe
- Our diversity is God’s diversity
- An open hand is a receiving hand
- We are St Michael and ALL Angels; when we show hospitality to strangers our church welcomes the angels we might entertain unawares (Hebrews 13: 2)
- Christ often welcomed others by making *Himself* the guest. “I must stay at your house today” (Luke 19: 5); when appropriate we can welcome by allowing people not just to be our guest, but *our host*.

Objectives

- Support and train our sidespeople who are the first point of contact on Sunday mornings
- Ensure everyone is aware of and has access to the obligations and duties outlined in our Safeguarding policy
- Maintain an ongoing disability audit to ensure that the church is an accessible space
- Be mindful of those with special needs, ensuring we do all we can to enable everyone to participate fully in the life of their church – consult and collaborate; realise that needs vary and everyone is unique
- Update and maintain our welcome area and ‘Who’s Who’ signage to a high standard
- Continue to offer unconditional welcome to those who may have been, or felt, excluded from other churches on account of their identity or association
- Maintain our regular electronic mailing list and monthly emails in accordance with GDPR
- Maintain our website, social media, signage, and publicity ensuring they are clear, up to date and attractive
- Actively support and welcome our Armed Forces and Cadet Forces
- Ensure our church building remains open in daylight hours for private prayer
- Continue to encourage members of our church to bring refreshments and food to share, and to celebrate occasions with their church family after the Sunday Parish Mass

Opportunities

- Develop better welcome packs/leaflets for new members
- Provide better opportunities for feedback from visitors and newcomers
- Improve our provision of refreshments at the end of worship with the installation of new facilities at the back of the church
- Further explore the safeguarding dimensions to welcoming - getting to know newcomers well to help us meet everyone’s needs in an appropriate way, and keeping everyone safer, particularly where they have support needs or safeguarding obligations

Discipleship and Mission

Naming and living the truth of Christ who, even in the midst of death, is working for life

Values

- To disciple others is every disciple's calling, regardless of their age or background (Matthew 28: 19-20)
- Jesus calls us to use our unique gifts, personalities and experiences to make His love known
- Kindness to ourselves and to others aids discipleship (as does a sense of humour!)
- Discipleship is the heart of what we do and want to achieve as a church
- Questioning is a gateway to discipleship and faith

Objectives

- *"Come Dine with Us"* enquirers' course centred around a shared meal and Christian instruction
- Uphold Eileen Reindorf and her team of existing Children's Church leaders in the continued provision of excellent Christian education of our children, ensuring that the curriculum coheres with the lectionary and liturgical season
- Support, train, and recruit home-group leaders
- Continue Saturday morning pop up café church for families who are using children's groups in Hartley Hall
- Pray the daily office in church, providing online resources for those who cannot attend
- Preach sermons that reflect everyday life
- Continue to invite members of the congregation to share their faith in life experiences outside the Church
- Lent courses and other short courses of Christian instruction offered through small groups (such as Mother's Union)
- Deliver our parish Christmas card to every home and business to let all our residents know we are praying for them, not just at Christmas but throughout the year

Opportunities

- On 26 June 2021 we celebrate the hundredth anniversary of SMMH. This important event in the life of our community gives us a great opportunity to welcome many into the life of our church
- Through home visits by the Vicar, Curate and Colin Izzard our LLM we continue to prepare a large number of people for baptism and confirmation
- Encourage people to explore their vocation to ministry
- To create a database of those who have been baptised, confirmed or married at SMMH in the last 10 years and to contact them on the anniversary of their event to let them know we will be remembering them at the service. Where people may have stopped attending this gives us an opportunity to reconnect
- Hartley Hall foyer is a great place to share the Good News with our local community
- Provide high-quality Christian literature and attractive advertising for church events in the Hartley Hall foyer and inside our church welcome area
- Advertise church events regularly across the parish, especially in supermarkets, doctors' surgeries, and schools

Outreach

“Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord”:

Supporting and being an example of Christ to the community around us

Values

- Praying for the whole parish and, where possible, serving everyone - not just those who attend church
- Confidence in our own beliefs enables us to work in creative partnership with those of all faiths and none
- Caring for others often means signposting and referring to the most appropriate care
- Realising we cannot “do it all”
- Doing what we CAN DO well

Objectives

- Continue to support Gillian Asquith in the administration of Hartley Hall and the opportunities our church hall provides for creative partnership with many local charities, community groups, families and children
- Support and partner with the local Night Shelter
- Collect food and other essentials for Colindale Food Bank
- Ongoing support of the Good Neighbour Scheme helping vulnerable and isolated elderly people
- Continue provision of assemblies, classroom teaching and church visits for local schools
- Maintain links with the local Jewish Community through Mitzvah Day and other community work
- Active participation with Community Action Panel and Neighbourhood Forums
- Remain engaged in the work of Churches Together
- Support the work of North London Hospice with fundraising and prayer
- Volunteer and support the work of children's uniformed organisations who currently use our church hall; the Sea Cadet Corps, Brownies and Guides

Opportunities

- Our centenary celebrations in June 2021 will provide an opportunity for a renewed history project and parish audit
- We are formally linked with Rail Pastors, and members of our church support patrols at Mill Hill Broadway Station, offering a listening ministry and support to those who are vulnerable and/or suicidal
- Our church Parent and Toddler group has provided support to local families for over 30 years. Recruitment of volunteers and wider publicity will enable us to expand this valuable outreach
- In 2015, the Vicar founded a branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) in the parish which now has 1,500 members. SMMH's creative partnership with Mill Hill U3A can be extended by inviting new church members to join the U3A and hosting a “getting to know SMMH” event specifically for U3A members
- Church members who volunteer for Age UK's men's cooking group provide a valuable point of connection with more opportunities for them to share the experience of volunteering with the wider congregation and expand volunteering opportunities to other community groups
- Continue our connection with Flower Lane Autism Service, invite FLAS to an “Explore SMMH” church visit
- Host a thanksgiving tea party for local community group leaders and volunteers
- Ask all local community groups, particularly those which hire Hartley Hall, if there is anything more SMMH can do to support their work

Stewardship

**Investing in people and maintaining property, finances, and administration.
Building for the Future. Alive in Christ Today.**

Values

- Church buildings are a blessing and we should care for them as such
- Maintaining church buildings is costly, but nowhere near as costly as not doing so
- Leave everything better than you found it; the buildings our children inherit are the ones we care for today
- Our care for the planet and our use of the world's resources honour God and those who come after us
- Paperwork and good parish governance are a form of prayer
- SMMH is part of a bigger picture! We are part of a diocese that stretches from Heathrow in the west all the way across the Olympic site in the east and from central London right out to Barnet and Enfield
- We can do more together than we can ever do alone. The Common Fund enables us to help fund work and worship in places where people contribute to the bigger picture in amazing ways but do not have the financial resources to meet the cost of ministry
- We are part of a global family and everyone is equal in God's sight

Objectives

- Maintain the church in line with our Quinquennial Architect's inspection
- Maintain the new Hartley Hall to a high standard
- Ensure there is an annual working budget as well as a long-term financial plan
- Have a financial strategy in place for the replacement of the church boiler and other likely items of major expenditure
- Give sacrificially and generously to Common Fund
- Continue our formal support to the work of Christian Aid and The Children's Society as PCC nominated charities
- Comply with all administrative duties, accounts and records required by the Diocese and Charity Commissioners

Opportunities

- Increase our support and awareness of global mission and charity, and find new opportunities for partnership
- Explore new ways of giving (e.g. text giving/church debit card reader)
- Preach stewardship as a means of giving our time, talents, and resources to the glory of God
- Increase information available for those who wish to give a legacy to the Church
- Claim our Gift Aid entitlement in full each year

Appendix One

Recent Achievements with reference to our Mission Action Plan

- Both the adult and junior choirs have seen increase in membership. Attendance at special services with augmented choirs is at an all-time high
- Our church hall continues to be very well run and profitably administered by Gillian Asquith financing the church's mission
- Matthew Pope is choirmaster of our junior choir and there has been a significant increase in attendance at rehearsals and the quality of music
- A greater number of people are leading intercessions, reading, and serving (especially children).
- Nigerian, French speaking African, and Japanese congregations are flourishing at St Michaels
- Sea Cadets Corp are attending church for Sea Sunday and special services
- The Church website is regularly updated by David Barton and is accessible and is of a very high standard
- Community worship events are attracting newcomers and have appeal to those who have not attended church before or are returning to church for the first time as adults – e.g. Christmas Tree Lighting

Appendix Two

COVID-19

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1: 7)

This pandemic motivates us to discover a new way of being God's people. Of being St Michael and All Angels and of being part of the body of Christ in Mill Hill.

- Worship services are uploaded online every Sunday and 2/3 weekdays
- Regular telephone support is offered especially to those who are vulnerable, elderly, or alone at home
- We are partnered with our near neighbours at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in the provision of boxes of food for those facing economic hardship
- When lock-down restrictions change we anticipate the possibility of increased economic hardship. We are in the process of discerning how we can expand the hardship box scheme into a Churches Together Food Bank
- Bereavement listening is offered by trained church volunteers via telephone as long as the normal bi-monthly meetings are suspended.
- We currently directly support the work of Colindale Food Bank with donations and referrals
- The PCC continues to meet via Zoom
- Prayer meetings and bible studies are planned via Zoom with participants that do not have internet access participating by telephone
- We are blessed with large spaces – without fixed pews - where social distancing measures can be put in place to increase safety at worship (such as spacing chairs 2 metres apart) when lock down restrictions change. We are committed to keeping everyone as safe as possible while attending worship and yet we recognize the emotional need of those longing to re-establish physical contact with others.