

The Church of Scotland
PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH
GRANTON PARISH CHURCH

**LOCAL
CHURCH
REVIEW
ACTION
PLAN**

1. Congregational Action Plan

In all that we do here in Presbytery, mission is important to us. We want you to explore together under each heading aims and objectives for your congregation over a five year period. Once you have set your aims and objectives, tell us how these might be tackled and the timeframe for achieving them. It is important that you look at the resources required and any help you may need, this could be from neighbouring congregations, or Presbytery. This is a five year plan and we would expect to see a programme spanning this.

In the planning, we would like you to think backwards. We would like you to think not about where you are now and where you might go, but about where you would like to be, and how you might get there.

The Local Church Review is first and foremost, a local review. It is to do with your parish and the people you serve, not about the sort of church you think you ought to be, but about the sort of church your area needs. As a Presbytery, it helps us explore together how every congregation does the same things in their own way. The LCR process helps us to see how congregations achieve their aims and objectives, and this report is a first step on a journey, and in some areas, the continuation of a journey in other plans.

A plan of thought and action – where would you like to be, and how might you get there?

Please type in relevant box and it will expand to fit your text.

1.1 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Worship** initiatives.

Response:

- Increase the range and frequency of musical instruments contributing to worship within the next 3 years.

We have bought 'starter' guitars and are looking to teach some of the kids how to play. We are also looking to involve more of the people who have musical gifts.

- Increase involvement of congregational members in worship on an ongoing basis

We already involve a lot of people in worship which we want to grow. Being gift based means allowing those we identify as having potential worship gifts an opportunity to practice.

- Explore possibilities of additional worship opportunities

We have run evening services before. We want to look at mid-week services.

1.2 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Evangelism** initiatives.

Response:

As mentioned elsewhere we take seriously the need to equip our people for mission. We have used a variety of courses to do this and are looking to expand that portfolio. To these ends:

- We intend to increase the number of people we have trained in personal evangelism and what it means to talk about your faith in everyday setting's.
- Help those already through these courses to keep training themselves.

We also recognise the building is increasingly tired and it too needs to be made fir for purpose. Part of the thinking behind our refurbishment is to increase the capacity for community centred evangelism.

- Increase our evangelism opportunities by having a suite of buildings more fit for purpose in the 21st century.

1.3 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Service** initiatives.

Response:

The main area for development here is the planned refurbishment of our ancillary rooms. This will allow us to run a teaching kitchen and to again be part of the Benthany night shelter program.

It is also time to revisit the way we do pastoral care and we expect to do this over the next 2 years.

1.4 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Discipleship** initiatives.

Response:

We view discipleship and evangelism as being closely tied together; they inform each other.

Having said that we are intending to review our use of Alpha as a discipleship tool and instead use it as an overt evangelism tool. There are other options for discipleship such as the new Pilgrim Course from the CoE. This will happen in 2016.

We will continue to develop the housegroup/prayer triplet model and seek to get more people involved as they become part of the congregation.

1.5 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Fellowship** initiatives.

Response:

The Social Group are in the early stages of planning a pilgrimage trip to Iona and this should be delivered in 2016.

We will continue to offer events that bring all ages together where everyone is welcome and there is a place for everyone.

We will continue to use the coffee after church as a fellowship building opportunity.

We view our fellowship as what might be called 'soft evangelism' where an increasing number of non-church people are attending. We will seek to draw these people further into church and into exploring their faith.

1.6 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop your **relationships with the wider church**.

Response:

Session have given permission for the Minister's name to go forward as the next convenor of the Mission and Discipleship Council. We recognise this will have an impact on the life of the congregation.

We are part of a new initiative of OLM training along with Drylaw and Crammond. This will continue to develop over the next few years.

We will continue to develop our relationship with Christian Aid and Tearfund as we are able to respond to their various programs.

1.7 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new ways to equip your **ministry team** and encourage more people to take up **leadership roles**.

Response:

We already take this seriously.

1.8 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new initiatives to maintain and enhance your **property/properties** so that they better support the delivery of your mission and vision.

Response:

The proposed refurbishment will be a significant challenge for us. It will require a church wide effort in terms of fundraising and getting behind the vision. We hope to achieve this in the next couple of years but are realistic in that it might take longer.

1.9 Tell us what plans you have to promote **stewardship**.

Response:

We already visit every two years.

We also make this a part of becoming a member at Granton where everyone who wants to join receives a visit from the ministry team to talk about their gifts and from the finance group to talk about their contribution.

We aim to continue and increase practicing a gift based approach to ministry/membership/discipleship/evangelism as espoused by our values.

1.10 Tell us what plans you have in support of the **Plan for Presbytery**.

Response:

Granton has had a heavy involvement with Presbytery both through its Minister/MDS/Presb Elder and the use of its premises. We have a positive view of Presbytery and expect to continue to do so.

1.11 Tell us what plans you have to sustain and improve how you **communicate**.

Response:

We will:

- continue to adapt online access to the church website according to mobile technology advancements
- improve our visual identity both within the congregation and to the wider community
- continue to promote our Vision and Values
- provide a Prayer Request function on the website

1.12 Any other **actions/goals/aims** you would like to share?

Response:

We would like Presbytery to reconsider our status as reviewable. The original reasons for this tenure no longer exist. The congregation itself has also grown and moved on and we would like this to be taken into consideration.

Through all of these actions/goals/aims we seek to embody our values. Although not expressly mentioned in each one they should all be read in their light.

- Equality is based on who you are not on what you have
- Everyone is valued and everyone has gifts that can be offered to God
- True community brings with it respect across the generations and cultures
- Everything we do is rooted in Jesus Christ

It is also worth mentioning that we try and foster a culture of review. Whatever goals are outlined here will be constantly looked at to see if they are still relevant to who we think God wants us to be and what we think God wants us to do.