



The Church of Scotland
Presbytery of Edinburgh

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW



ACTION PLAN

Slateford Longstone Parish Church

1. Congregational Action Plan

When responding it would be helpful to have in mind the acronym **SMART** often used when goal setting. The acronym **SMART** is interpreted in different ways depending on context; in church circles it often interprets as:

- **Specific** – State clearly what it is you plan to do.
- **Measurable** – How will you measure full completion or staged completion?
- **Applicable** – Why are you doing this?
- **Resourced** – Do you have the people and the money to carry out the task?
- **Time-bound** – By when will the aim be achieved?

SMART aims and goals are ones that can be easily monitored and steps taken to manage progress and communicate and celebrate success.

SMART Goal example – *Replace current central heating boiler which is no longer easily repairable and extremely inefficient in performance and in running costs; Property Team to take professional advice and invite tenders for consideration and approval by Finance Committee; project to start early in 2013 with work being carried out in the summer months of 2013; new boiler, pipework, radiators and all controls to be fully working by the middle of August 2013.*

It is suggested that you may merely draft some outline Goals for discussion with your LCR Visiting team. It may well be that the Team themselves will offer some suggestions of Goals that you might tackle. Do not feel that you must offer a Goal in every section.

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

1.1 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop (in SMART goal format) new **Worship** initiatives.

Worship Committee will explore adding another weekly service of worship, in either an afternoon or evening – this will need to be considered alongside Messy Church

Worship Committee will also explore introducing more variety in style of worship: this should be done after the Mission Audit

Make fuller use of members in worship: this can be undertaken as soon as possible, and will involve members in a variety of ways, particularly prayers and children's talks

1.2 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop (in SMART goal format) new **Evangelism** initiatives.

Engagement with the community to be developed by undertaking a mission audit, following guidelines from the Mission-Shaped Ministry materials. This should be done by a sub-committee of the Kirk Session and completed by the end of 2013

The Kirk Session should appoint an elder to be responsible for visiting newcomers to the parish. This has been referred to the Pastoral Care Team for action

The secondment of young families from other churches to help change the age profile of the congregation should be pursued, with the help of Presbytery's Mission Resource Committee. Details still to be worked on

1.3 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop (in SMART goal format) new **Service** initiatives.

Another attempt will be made to identify someone willing to be a contact person for Fresh Start; their responsibility would be to establish a collection point, then arrange for uplift from time to time

The Hutton Trust and congregation should go into partnership with the Trussell Trust Food Bank which is currently being established in south-west Edinburgh. With the help of volunteers Slateford Longstone could be a satellite distribution centre, probably opening for a few hours once a week

1.4 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop (in SMART goal format) new **Discipleship** initiatives.

The availability of Bible reading notes should be publicised in worship services as soon as practicable. Those who do this should be users of the notes. It needs to be explained what these are and how to use them. Publicity will also go into each edition of Kirk News

There is a need for some kind of group for older teenagers and young adults who have varying levels of contact with the church; leadership is key and there are no obvious candidates

A Messy Church initiative should be explored, possibly by experimenting with it as a development of the TakeAway club. Mike Frew could research Messy Church as part of study leave during 2014

1.5 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop (in SMART goal format) new **Fellowship** initiatives.

A group of two or three should look into re-starting the Food and Faith men's group, but the purpose and aims need to be more clearly defined

Another Lent Course should be held in 2014, with the possibility of one or two new Cluster Groups starting as a follow-up

1.6 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop (in SMART goal format) your **relationships with the wider church**.

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- 1.7** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop (in SMART goal format) new ways to equip your **ministry team** and encourage more people to take up **leadership roles**.

Moral and spiritual support to be given to Rita Welsh in undertaking the Ordained Local Ministry training

Mike Frew to undertake study leave during 2014, focussing on emerging church and Messy Church

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

The Congregational Board must appoint a property convener, at the very latest by the date of Mike Frew's probable retirement in 2016

A feasibility study on the possible disposal of some of our buildings and remodelling the remainder should be done. No timescale at present, but it is becoming increasingly urgent

- 1.9** Tell us what plans you have (in SMART goal format) to promote **stewardship**.

The Stewardship Seasons, which are on a three-year cycle, could be strengthened by the planning committee holding a planning meeting, well before the next season in February 2014

- 1.10** Tell us what plans you have (in SMART goal format) in support of the **Plan for Presbytery**.

The recommendation in the Presbytery Plan that we should have a better understanding of the parish will be achieved by undertaking the mission audit

- 1.11** Tell us what plans you have (in SMART goal format) to sustain and improve how you **communicate**.

The church Facebook page will be updated on a monthly basis by a volunteer

Publicity on the church premises could be improved by having a notice board facing out from the main entrance. Congregational Board to consider this at its next meeting

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

Response: