

St. James by-the-Sea

A graphic illustration of four stylized human figures in a circle, holding hands. The figures are colored blue, green, red, and orange. The text "MISSION ACTION PLAN" is overlaid on the center of the figures.

**MISSION  
ACTION  
PLAN**

**2018**

(rev. 6/14/18)



*At St. James by-the-Sea we welcome and care for all people  
at every stage of their spiritual journey,  
and we seek to create opportunities for faith in God  
to be discovered, renewed and put into action.*

### The St. James Mission Statement

This document is the first ever St James "Mission Action Plan". It comes at a time in our church life when we find ourselves in a good and settled place. It feels like the right time to start to look ahead and plan for the future. We have been blessed with wonderful resources, in terms of buildings, people and finance. And with that comes a certain responsibility.... How would God have us use those resources for His glory?

This document begins to sketch out an answer to that question. The plan is not in its final form. In fact, it is in the very early stages and it will always be a work in progress. What it represents is the thinking that came out of the annual Vestry retreat in February 2018. We now offer it to the congregation for their consideration.

This plan is not exhaustive, it doesn't list all that we do, or plan to do, but it does identify various things for us to work on in the next five years.

I would pick out a couple of significant points. The first is that it has an "outward" focus. There is an element of confidence in this document as we look to reach out and consider those who do not, as yet, identify as members of our church. We have Good News to share and we want to be bold in our proclamation. We do not see decline as inevitable and we want to share all the good things that we can offer as a Christian community.

Secondly, I think that part of what will emerge over the course of the coming years is a growing sense of our identity. St James has a rich tradition of which it can be proud. It has a strong reputation in the village of La Jolla and further afield. And it occupies an important place in the life of the diocese of San Diego. My sense is that our renewed sense of identity will arise out of our willingness to live in to our heritage.

I commend this document to you for your thoughts and prayers. We will discuss it at a congregational meeting. And I am always happy to receive your comments and feedback. And, I think it almost goes without saying, that nothing that is mentioned in these pages is possible without your support and involvement.

Mark

*Rector, St. James by-the-Sea*

# **1. MISSION AND EVANGELISM**

**Mark Hargreaves**

We want to offer a gentle invitation to the wider community to find peace, meaning, hope and beauty in our church.

## **Objectives**

1. Worship in a refreshingly traditional style
2. Engage with the wider community through music and the arts and also through preschool and children's ministry
3. Be open and flexible in order to explore new possibilities to meet the needs of different groups
4. Open up our building as we seek to share our space with the community
5. Be inviting to seekers
6. Find a balance in activities designed for newcomers and those more suitable to longtime members
7. Begin a mission / field work ministry to the students of UCSD

## **Targets**

1. Start a monthly alternative service to connect with the midweek children's activities
2. Review our literature, and especially the service bulletin, with newcomers in mind
3. Develop a men's ministry
4. Having an occasional Games Night
5. Find a partner to work with up at UCSD
6. Continue learning about how we are to talk with others about our faith
7. Update newcomer webpage
8. Parish Pilgrimage and Choir Tour to the UK in August 2020

## **2. OUTREACH AND SERVICE (Outreach Committee)**

### **Martha Ehringer (Chair) and Outreach Committee**

To live out Christ's command that we love one another by engaging with people and organizations in San Diego County and beyond

### **Objectives**

1. Develop and recommend the annual budget of the Outreach committee to the Vestry
2. Identify, co-ordinate and support outreach efforts across the Parish and the Diocese
3. Develop particular links with partner churches of St. Mark's and St. Luke's

### **Targets**

1. Homelessness
  - a. St Marks- Weekly Food donations
  - b. Monthly Brown Bag Ministry
  - c. Support Episcopal Community Services by preparing an annual lunch and sponsoring an Art Therapy class
  - d. Support the Episcopal Church Center by working with the Shoe Tree project and quarterly dinners
  - e. Host Interfaith Shelter Network for two weeks
2. Military
  - a. Baby Drive - June
  - b. Back to School drive - August
  - c. Christmas Toy Drive - Nov/Dec
3. Refugees/Immigration
  - a. St Marks - tutor adult refugees in English and basic computer skills
  - b. Casa Cornelia - look to fund legal representation for refugees
  - c. Deepen link with Vida Joven - orphanage in Tijuana
4. Develop a coalition partnership with St Marks to support their work
5. Reach new people and shut-ins through Christmas Caroling groups and invitation to Festival Choir

### **3. USE/ACCESS**

**Rod Stark**

Increase the use of and improve access to St. James buildings making it a more welcoming place of worship and meditation

#### **Objectives**

1. Improve access to St. James Buildings
2. Identify sources of funding for improvements
3. Building and Grounds Committee determine needed improvements, review ADA requirements and develop plan to accomplish required modifications
4. Identify ways to increase usage of buildings by the parish and community at large

#### **Targets**

1. Install a curbside handicapped ramp, permanent or portable (Short Term)
2. Provide storage for walkers during services that does not block aisles (Short Term)
3. Review operating instructions and procedures for the sanctuary sound system, making changes if required to improve the quality of the system (Short Range)
4. Make communion rail/alter accessible to all (Long Term)
5. Make St. James chapel fully accessible (Long Term)
6. Install Elevator to provide access to all areas of the church (Long Term)
7. Undertake an organ project to support the congregational mission of St. James and open the sanctuary to new possibilities (Short Term)
8. Begin monthly lunchtime recital series; free to the public (to begin Fall of 2018)
9. Investigate potential solutions for St. James parking issues (Short /Long Term)
10. Vestry initiate discussion for potential future uses of St. James Hall (Long Term)

## **4. BUILDING COMMUNITY**

**Julie Castan**

Grow the St. James family by serving our current parishioners, and drawing in others

### **Objectives**

1. Enhance messaging to clearly articulate and describe the St. James mission
2. Explore new ways to draw people to our church community
3. Strengthen our financial base

### **Targets**

1. Evaluate current communication strategies and their effectiveness; identify opportunities to utilize alternate/additional options (social media, website, advertising, publications)
2. Review volunteer committees and align structure to expand participation
3. Develop a long term financial plan to sustain the parish over the next five years. Establish Legacy Committee and expand the stewardship committee to year-round
4. Include parish and community members in new Arts Calendar to promote music/arts ministries and events

## **5. EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**Rebecca Dinovo**

We want to offer a creative and flexible approach to formation and education with young people and provide lifelong learning and formation opportunities for adults

### **Objectives**

1. Develop a communication strategy for our children, young families, youth, and young adult ministries that keeps the congregation fully informed as well as those beyond our congregation
2. Develop a new worship service for children/families
3. Create opportunities for parents and caregivers to make connections with each other and provide mutual support
4. Develop and build on grandparent's/ inter-generational activity(ies)
5. Continue to develop and sustain our adult education and formation program to include offerings for both long time members and new members
6. Investigate the development of a St. James preschool
7. Offer ministry opportunities for young people in geographically diverse locations
8. Develop a broader community outreach for children, family, and youth

### **Targets**

1. Begin "Topsy Turvy" service in Fall 2018
2. Add a new cohort to the Formation classes in Fall 2018 and a Confirmation class in 2019
3. Build on the Cross Roots Bible study for young adults
4. Develop a young children's play group in late 2018/early 2019
5. Build on the newly begun "Rise and Shine" offering
6. Increase the use of social media and applications such as Next Door, Constant Contact, and Instagram for all youth/families/children's ministries
7. Explore partner links with others in the Diocese including the EDSD Youth Collaborative
8. Recruit local college students to participate as "choral scholars" in the parish choir

