

## 2020 Vision and Action – progress to February 2019 and further plans to summer 2020

### Welcoming

Planned action [and lead team]	Progress to February 2019	Planned action to summer 2020
<p><i>1 Develop and sustain effective operation of all media(print/website/social media/audio/visual etc) and the personal and follow-up support required. [Comms.]</i></p>	<p>Crosswind remains our main contact with our congregation.</p> <p>The website has been re-designed and is proving to be an essential part of our communication strategy. Our Facebook page links with the Monthly Prayer Calendar on a daily basis therefore giving our users daily contact with the Kirk. It is also used to pass on information from other church and non-church groups eg BB, GB and LYPP.</p> <p>The Music and Worship team improved advertising of services using banners, posters, flyers, Facebook and webpage. As a result the congregation are better informed and there is improved attendance at joint services. Good atmosphere when Church is full.</p>	<p>The new camera and screen technology for the church has continued to be a source of frustration but the decision has now been made for the implementation of this project to proceed.</p> <p>When the new technology is installed the Music and Worship team will explore and optimise its use. This will improve the worship experience in Church and support sermons and prayers.</p>

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<p><i>2 Develop and maintain good “welcome disciplines” for all services, groups and events held in the Church, in Cross House and elsewhere. [Door duty teams Evening managers All group leaders.]</i></p>	<p>The Duty is now styled “Welcome” rather than “Door”, but there is a sense that we could still improve our game.</p> <p>Members of Music and Worship team have welcomed and spoken to parents who were less familiar with Church on eg Mothering Sunday and Pentecost. This helped to make people more comfortable in Church and more likely to come back.</p> <p>See also the <u>Property team’s contribution</u> in the annex.</p>	<p>Arrange for young people to join the Welcome Teams at the church door, starting with special services.</p> <p>Develop a fuller range of techniques for spotting and engaging new non-members who come to worship.</p>
<p><i>3 Warmly welcome all new and potential new members, and visitors, and engage with each to the level that is appropriate.[Fellowship]</i></p>	<p>There has been no new members’ lunch for a couple of years as there have not been enough new members to make it viable.</p> <p>Sunday refreshments are now in the church between services, and are popular.</p> <p>The handbook for new members has still not been produced.</p> <p>From last October to this May our new “Connect” initiative has made contact with 18 people, some single and some couples. Some have engaged with us, others not. Feedback has been very positive. The resumption of vestry hour has produced a further baptismal couple.</p>	<p>Finalise and produce an attractive new handbook/welcome pack for new members.</p> <p>Have a variety of services which may be accessible to different groups</p> <p>Support the ‘Connect’ initiative</p>

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### Evangelising

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<p><i>1 Devise and implement a programme of initiatives to reach out with the Good News to those who are not members.</i> [Mission &amp; Outreach]</p>	<p>We have introduced 2 new types of worship in Seedlings and Time of Stillness, and also Singalong for Memory. Many non-members have attended. Pub Theology – see below at Learning: action1. We have organised the annual Pub Carol Singing. The nature of the Enquirers' Class has changed and is now carried out through the use of Mission &amp; Discipleship materials. A booklet <i>What do we do here?</i> aimed at casual visitors to the church has been produced and is on display at the west door.</p>	<p>The Music and Worship team will maintain and improve the new areas of worship already introduced and attract more volunteers to assist. This will attract non-members as well as members and will give a choice of worship. The Mission and Outreach team asked Rev Amanda McQuarrie to come to speak to session about Path of Renewal. The outcomes of the resulting discussion will be fed back to Session in February. Overall Session recognised the need to make some changes as a congregation. Three members of Session attended the “Reimagining Church” conference. Feedback to Session in February.</p>
<p><i>2 Devise and implement a programme of initiatives to re-engage those who are members but do not attend worship or contribute to the life and work of the church.</i> [Mission &amp; Outreach]</p>	<p>The MOT oversees the book club, Chapters, which takes place monthly on a Thursday afternoon.</p>	<p>‘What we do Here’ leaflet - encourage elders to use on their visits. The Mission and Outreach team plan to continue with quizzes on various themes, including repeating the successful Tear Fund quiz which will take place again in November. The MOT would also like to work alongside other teams where our goals overlap, either to provide more manpower, or to add another dimension.</p>

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<p><i>3 Introduce a range of new activities to provide opportunities for others to engage with us and with the gospel. [Mission &amp; Outreach, also Fellowship]</i></p>	<p>The Men's Curry and Quiz Night which has been staged on two occasions received very positive feedback. We anticipate that this group will continue to meet through 2018.</p>	<p>We are currently discussing the possibility of establishing a Prospects group within St Michael's and have invited interested parties from Linlithgow and other Linlithgow churches to a meeting in February to assess interest in this.</p> <p>We will consider a Beer and Carols fellowship activity at Christmas 2019.</p>
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### Loving

Planned action [and lead team]	Progress to February 2019	Planned action to summer 2020
<p><i>1 Sustain a range of actions to address social need and social injustice, and tell the story of what we do. [Social justice]</i></p>	<p>Services focusing on homelessness have been held.            We have hosted an information evening for Safe Families For Children and invited a speaker to address the congregation.            We intimate training days for this organisation. 3 or 4 members of the Kirk have volunteered to be helpers.            We highlighted the issues around refugees.            The Kirk supports Bethany Christian Trust and the West Lothian Foodbank.            There has been a focus on Crossreach, the social care arm of the Church of Scotland, at particular services.            Cards are signed and sent to prisoners of conscience via Amnesty annually in advent.</p>	<p>We intend to build on progress to date.            We need to recruit from among the younger members of St Michael's by approaching the youth organisations.</p>

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<p><i>2 Develop a graduated range of specific pastoral supports [Pastoral Care]</i></p>	<p>We have developed a multi-faceted <u>bereavement service</u>. In conjunction with the ministers we offer a post bereavement visit. We also offer one to one <u>counselling</u> (in 2018, 5 people received this). We also have a <u>bereavement group</u> (Positive Pathways). The first cohort was so successful that after we ended it they still meet and do things together. A second group is well underway with 5 people currently involved. In total we have supported more than twenty people. We have also introduced an annual <u>service of memory and thanksgiving</u> which is well attended and we receive positive feedback about it - as we do about the delivery of <u>posies</u> to the sick and housebound, which we organise. Further initiatives have been the introduction of pastoral <u>support through prayer</u> after Sunday services, and the introduction of the <u>monthly prayer</u> calendar leaflets.</p>	<p>We are considering becoming involved in a community "men's shed" initiative as we have identified that men seem more reluctant to take up current provisions.</p>
<p><i>3 Develop a range of events for the church-family. [Fellowship]</i></p>	<p>"Brides of St Michael's", an in-reach and outreach project, was big success. Similarly the 2 Festivals of Christmas Trees involved great engagement and working with community groups.</p>	<p>We plan to make the Christmas Trees festival an annual one.</p>
<p><i>4 Develop ways to maintain contact with our young adults. [Fellowship]</i></p>	<p>The International team keep in touch with those who go abroad on service projects; but otherwise no progress.</p>	<p>The Music and Worship team will encourage and introduce Music@stmikes into mainstream worship, assisted by the organist. This will encourage more young people to join. We will develop the participation of music groups and of the whole congregation. Education/Fellowship/MOT will work on this with Trish.</p>

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### Learning

Planned action [and lead team]	Progress to February 2019	Planned action to summer 2020
<p><i>1 Implement a modular, multi-media programme of Christian education. [Education]</i></p>	<p><u>Bible at Breakfast</u>: Limited impact as topics relevant to members' lives were not suggested and therefore the minister or presenter had to decide on a topic. Discontinued.</p> <p><u>Understanding today</u>: Those who attended were very impressed with the presentations given and were able to look at issues from a different perspective. Numbers did not justify the large amount of time and effort required. Discontinued.</p> <p><u>Pub theology</u>: People from pub reluctant to participate. Discontinued.</p> <p><u>Bad girls of the Bible</u>: Highly successful discussion group that included regular church attenders and those not associated with the church. A real group feeling was developing were people got to know each other. Discontinued for lack of leader.</p> <p><u>Christian book review slot in worship</u>: Recently started and comments so far are very positive.</p> <p>Multi media is being used widely in youth groups.</p>	<p>As adults have not responded strongly to group study opportunities suggestions will be made for individual study that can be carried out at a time suitable to each person.</p> <p>Resources will be recommended that can be used by members and adherents to enrich their faith. These will take the form of Advent, Lent and year round Bible Study. The format will include books, apps &amp; web addresses.</p> <p>A 6 week programme for parents entitled "<u>How to get your children through church</u>" is planned for 2019/2020.</p> <p><u>Bad Girls of the Bible</u> – A contemporary look at bible study will start in April 2019.</p>
<p><i>2 Ensure that services are family-friendly and that</i></p>	<p>We have had <u>Family Communion</u>s when young people, GB and BB served and took an active part.</p> <p>We have introduced <u>joint and special services</u>. This brought the congregations together. Some special services have offered a choice of services at different times of the week. A special service led by young people introduced the Year of Young People.</p>	<p>There is more work to be done to improve Sunday Club's experience in Church.</p> <p>Achieving this will help to increase numbers and make children feel part of the service.</p>

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<p><i>preaching is accessible. [Worship, also Ministry]</i></p>	<p>We have introduced <u>school services</u> at Christmas and Easter. This has brought young people and parents into Church. We have maintained the Springfield <u>all age worship</u>, which offers less formality for those who prefer that. Sunday Club and Youth <u>leaders liaised with ministry team</u> about hymns and content of teaching. As a result children are more comfortable with familiar hymns etc. We introduced a <u>creche</u> in St. Katherine's aisle so that parents with young children felt welcomed. Baptisms were followed up by a dedicated Elder, and parents supported in Church by two Elders. <u>Baptismal families</u> felt supported.</p>	<p>We will arrange that young people are given more time and responsibility in Church services. Through this young people will have a closer relationship with older members of the congregation and work together with them.</p>
<p>3 <i>Continually refresh the junior church and our young people programme. [Education]</i></p>	<p>We re-named junior church "Sunday Club". A programme specifically for the St Michael's <u>Sunday Club</u> has been written for each of the last 3 years. Activities, and the groups formed, have reflected the needs and interests of the children. <u>Bible Class and Youth Fellowship</u> have also followed programmes that the young people have engaged well with. Use of the screen has enable the congregation to see the good work being done in Sunday Club. Numbers have remained fairly constant with many more on the roll than turning up each week. <u>In-service-day club</u>: This was an outreach to the community and we did indeed have children who did not attend St. M. learning about living as a Christian. Stopped when the youth worker left. <u>Seedlings</u>: Although this is church for tots some who attend have no church connection and therefore it is good that everyone learns that God loves them. It has proved to be very popular within the community. This has re-started with good numbers and should continue with the new Family and Youth Outreach Worker.</p>	<p>A <u>new programme for Sunday Club</u> started in August tailored to meet the needs of those who attend. A light breakfast is served then the programme begins. A screen is used to show pictures and video clips. There are also stories, songs games and crafts. I band is also being trialled. Finally the children come to church to share what they have learned with the congregation. These activities should encourage existing participants to continue and others to join. A <u>new format for Youth Fellowship (YF)</u> will include: Film Sunday, Sunday Brunch and 2 other meetings per month. The aim is to increase numbers in the YF. <u>In-service day club</u> will start in February 2019 to encourage children who do not normally attend church to learn about Jesus.</p>



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### **Annex – the main Welcoming actions taken by the Property Team**

#### Church

- Renewed the west Door internal entrance ramp and fitted new carpet; and carried out repairs on the stone floor to provide even surfaces for safe walking.
- New over-mirror lighting throughout the toilet pod.
- Installed new external Church floodlighting to light up the building so as to welcome all.

#### Cross House

- Improved lighting levels (and reduced energy consumption) by installing new LED lighting.
- Rectified fabric dampness issues (including removing fireplaces in, and re-decorating, Rooms 1 and 5).
- Renovated the Kirkgate Room and the Kirkgate Flat entrance, and decorated Kirk Hall ceiling and servery.
- Replaced chairs in the Adam Room with a more comfortable alternative. New seating for the Kirk Hall.
- Erected signage for the entrances of both the Kirk Hall and Cross House.

Manse - Internal decoration – 2 phases completed. Window etc upgrades planned.

Kirkgate Flat - Upgraded the kitchen and bathroom, new decoration and carpet.

#### General

- Established a monthly window cleaning contract for Cross House, Kirkgate Flat.
- Maintained the ground area around Cross House keeping it tidy and weed-free.

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