

God's plan revealed!

During the season of Epiphany which lasts throughout much of January, we were invited to look at the ways in which Jesus is revealed to the world that he is born into, grows up in and ministers in.



Whether to the wise men who came from the East, to the prophet and prophetess who had been waiting for years in the Temple, or to simple Galilean fishermen, among many others, the revelation was the same. In front of you is God's Son, the Messiah, the living embodiment of God's love in action.

During this season of revealing the PCC also agreed our **Mission Action Plan**. This is something that we have been working on together in a variety of ways for about a year. I think it is very appropriate that we did this in the season of Epiphany. We have each seen God revealed to us in Christ, but through our **MAP** we are recognising that God wants to be known by all people, not just in our church but in every place in our parish. As Christians, as a church, we are called to look out for where God is in our parish and join him there. We are also called to help those around us encounter God in all his glory, to sense his everlasting love that is without limits. It is these things that underpin our **Mission Action Plan**. It's not about getting more people in to church so that St Martin's continues until the end of time. It's about seeing more people encounter God, some of whom might come and worship with us, but who all will see their lives being transformed in some way.

Our **Mission Action Plan** (which will be launched at our Sunday service on 11th February) is not a piece of paper to be filed away and forgotten about. It is important because it is our way of saying: "This is what St Martin's is about and this is what we are going to do – and in all of this, God is at the heart of our plans." It sets out what we believe that we as God's people in this part of Droylsden, as part of the Body of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit are to be like – and that this will be at the heart of everything we say, think and do.



*Bishop of Middleton
Rt. Revd. Mark Davies*



*Archdeacon
Venerable Cherry Vann*



*Bishop of Manchester
Rt. Revd. David Walker*

Over the coming months, we will start putting some of our thoughts into practice as well as discussing and praying about other aspects of the plan. Bishop Mark (Middleton), Bishop David and Archdeacon Cherry will each be coming to preach and preside at a service to help

us explore some of the most important parts of our plan further. Do put these dates into your diary as it would be lovely to have a full house to welcome them when they come to our 10:45am Sunday services on March 4th (Bishop Mark), May 20th - Pentecost (Bishop David) and 4th June (Archdeacon Cherry).

Please do keep our church in your prayers as we step forward into the future guided by our Mission Action Plan, that God will bless all that we do.