

God's plan revealed!

On Sunday 11th February, we launched our Mission Action Plan. The gospel that day told of Jesus taking a few of his close friends to the top of a mountain. While they were there, Jesus was transfigured. Those looking at him saw him shining with a bright light and heard God speaking: "This is my Son, my Beloved. Listen to him!" This is just what we have been doing over the last year. We have been looking at and listening to Jesus to discern what God wants of our church here in our parish. The result of this is our new Mission Action Plan (MAP) and you can find a copy of this in the middle of this magazine.



Through our MAP we are recognising that God wants everyone to know that they are his children, his beloved who listen to Jesus. This desire is for all people, not just those 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 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.

The MAP includes a statement that states what we believe St Martin's Church to be and how we hope those around us would describe us:

**"Welcoming all and sharing God's love with all
in our community"**

To describe this in a bit more detail, we have come up with the following words:

At St Martin's

- you will find a warm, friendly, inclusive welcome
- we meet together to encounter God in different ways to help one another grow in faith
- we would like to transform lives by showing God's love to all in our local community and in the wider world.

Over the coming months, we will start putting this into practice and there are details of our priorities in the sheet at the centre of the magazine. We have also invited some of the senior clergy in the diocese to help us in this. Bishop Mark (Middleton) came to preach at our service on Sunday 18th February about nurturing faith and encountering God. Bishop David and Archdeacon Cherry will be coming in May and June to preach about transforming lives and welcome.

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.