

## Loughborough URC Mission Plan 2023-25

This plan builds on previous documents variously called action plan and mission plan. In the first section we set out our values, in the second section we articulate our aims and markers for 2023-25. In the third section we keep a checklist of various actions that we need to ensure happen at appropriate points through the year.

### 1 Values

We believe in the love of God expressed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, coming alive in the actions of love-shaping communities

#### *Inviting*

Like *Zacchaeus*,<sup>1</sup> we have found ourselves invited to join others intrigued by the way of Jesus and to live life knowing that whatever has gone before, there is a place for each of us within a Christian community. We live in partnership with a variety of friends and invite anyone intrigued by the way of Jesus you to join us in worship, in conversation, in action and in faith \*discovering God's invitation.

5 Marks of Mission: TELL, TEACH

URC Mission Framework: PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY, HOSPITALITY, CHURCH GROWTH,

#### *Including*

Like the lepers who thought they had to skirt the village<sup>2</sup> or the woman who thought she had to hide in the crowd,<sup>3</sup> we are thankful that we have been included in the diversity of God's people and seek to find our role within the breadth of God's love. We believe there is a place for everyone at God's Banqueting Table<sup>4</sup>.

5 Marks of Mission: TEND, TEACH

URC Mission Framework: HOSPITALITY, CHURCH GROWTH

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<sup>1</sup> [Luke 19:1-10](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Luke 17:11-19](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Mark 5:25-32](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Luke 14:15-24](#)

## ***Involving***

Like the first Deacons<sup>5</sup> we seek to involve our whole fellowship in decision making, community building and loving action. We believe that each voice matters and each action can inspire hope.

5 Marks of Mission: TRANSFORM

URC Mission Framework: IDENTITY, ECUMENICAL

## ***Invoking***

Like the story Jesus told of a persistent widow,<sup>6</sup> we invoke God in prayers that seek justice and with all who seek blessing<sup>7</sup> we call on each other to act in ways that create a world filled with fruitfulness, kindness and generosity.

5 Marks of Mission: TRANSFORM, TREASURE

URC Mission Framework: JUSTICE & PEACE: PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY, INTEGRITY OF CREATION

## ***Investing***

Like the response to the question, “Who is my neighbour?”<sup>8</sup> we seek to invest love, time, wealth in our communities. We believe in the goodness of people and the joy of serving one another.

5 Marks of Mission: TEND, TREASURE

URC Mission Framework: JUSTICE & PEACE, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

## ***Inspiring***

With all who travel from the sorrow of Good Friday to the hope-filled excitement of Easter Day<sup>9</sup> we are inspired to share the radical love of Jesus in our daily encounters. We believe that together we can be part of transforming our community to share in the good news of Jesus Christ.

5 Marks of Mission: TRANSFORM

URC Mission Framework: JUSTICE & PEACE, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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<sup>5</sup> [Acts 6:1-7](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Luke 18:1-8](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Matthew 5:1-14](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Luke 10:25-37](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Matthew 28:1-10](#), [Mark 16:1-8](#), [Luke 24](#), [John 20](#),

## **2 Aims & Markers**

### ***Inviting***

- ❖ By personal invitation and advertising through newsletter, social media, banners involve more people in the life of the church and community centre.
  - Eg By end 2025 have 10 new regular worshippers in church
  - eg by end on 2024 have created a new regular social opportunity
  - eg by end of 2023 have increased community use by 10%
- ❖ Invite congregation and community users to be involved in a social justice campaign
  - eg by end on 2023 involve Peace and Justice group in action
  - eg by end of 2024 be more aware of commitment to racial justice

### ***Invoking,***

- ❖ We will provide opportunities for prayer
  - Produce a monthly prayer calendar
  - Meet at least once a week maintaining a list of regular prayer topics (currently Thursday am)
  - Include prayer as part of all our decision making process
  - Aspire to another prayerful activity
- ❖ We will be active in creating opportunities for prayerful action
  - We will continue to support refugee communities
  - We will be engaged in food and fuel poverty issues
  - By end 2023 we will be a silver eco church

### ***Investing***

- ❖ We will provide safe spaces for loving action to be enjoyed
  - Support Ukrainian language classes
  - By end 2024 have conducted a same sex marriage and created opportunities for LGBT+ groups to meet together
  - A combination of paying and free user groups will maintain a sustainable community space for benefit of community
  - We will continue to encourage the use of Fairtrade products amongst our membership and maintain a Fairtrade stall

## ***Including***

- ❖ We will build a community that seeks to welcome all God's people with a particular bias towards the poor, marginalised and commonly excluded
  - We pledge to work to remove racism, not only from our communities and places of work, but also from our hearts and minds.
  - We will be a place where LGBTQ+ can explore their faith without fear of exclusion or conversion
  - We will develop outreach to 20-50 years olds seeking to develop faith alongside social justice
  - We will hold six social events per year and explore new ways of gathering together.

## ***Involving***

- ❖ We will create opportunities for the whole church community to develop the mission of the church
  - We will continue to hold 5 Church Meetings per year, an annual Church Away day and inform via Link newsletter
  - We will continue to hold 10 Elders'/Trustee Meetings a year and an Elders away day each year
  - By end of 2024 we will develop a Building users group to share our common life together.
- ❖ We will seek ways to listen to the needs of the local community and respond to their promptings
  - We will engage with local councillors
  - We will network with community groups
- ❖ We will never seek to do alone what we can do together
  - We will develop our links with Three Churches Partnership
  - We will work alongside our friends in Loughborough Church Partnership
  - We will be active participants in Loughborough Faith Network, Town of Sanctuary and Equality Action

## ***Inspiring***

- ❖ We will maintain a high standard and variety of worship and teaching,
  - We will celebrate communion once a month
  - We will support at least two regular bible studies per month and a regular fellowship group
  - Providing special services for festivals and other occasion
  - Providing training and opportunities for worship leaders, readers, leaders of intercessions and operation of audio/visual equipment etc at least once a year
  - Offering support for worship leaders, elders, choir members, belle-plate group members, organists, flower arrangers and distributors, those offering transport to services.
- ❖ We will Maintain our Mission and Outreach Group to keep our church aware of local, national and international issues and to co-ordinate our work.
- ❖ Encourage 3CP Peace and Justice Group to bring issues to the church for action.

### 3 Checklist

	Action	Date Reviewed	Person/Committee
<b>A</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
1	Church Meeting 5 per year	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Church Sec
2	Elders'/Trustees 10 per year	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec Elders	Church Sec
3	Elders Away Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan/Feb	Elders
4	Church Away Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep/Oct	Elders
5	Elders/Trustee Training	<input type="checkbox"/> as required	Elders
6	Safeguarding Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> January	Elders/Safeguarding Co-ordinator
7	Grievance Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> February	Elders
8	Health & Safety Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> March	Elders
9	Lone Working Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> April	Elders
10	CCTV Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> May	Elders
11	Succession Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> October	Elders
12	Mission Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Church Meeting
13	Produce Annual Accounts	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Treasurer/Elders
14	Produce Monthly financial update against budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	Treasurer
15	Produce Charity Report	<input type="checkbox"/> October	Michael Jones/Elders

16	Produce annual budget	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Finance Committee/Treasurer
17	Seek Grant funding as necessary	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Finance Committee
<b>B</b>	<b>Pastoral</b>		
1	Appoint a Pastoral Elder	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	
2	Maintain Elders' Pastoral Lists and Church Directory	<input type="checkbox"/> January	Church Sec/Pastoral Elder
<b>C</b>	<b>Communication</b>		
1	produce 10 newsletters p.a	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	editor
2	maintain website & social media	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Minister/Community Manager
3	produce Annual Report	<input type="checkbox"/> march AGM	Church Sec
4	maintain Noticeboards	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Margaret, Una, Hilary, Linda
5	Monthly information re: building Users	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Linda
<b>D</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>		
1	Maintain links with Melton Mowbray	<input type="checkbox"/> December	Church Sec/Treasurer/BM&F
2	Provide Reps to Synod Meetings & Committees	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Church Meeting

3	Be active members of LCP	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Church Meeting
4	Be active members of 3CP	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Church Meeting
5	Working closely with other organisations in the town that care for the community, eg Falcon Centre, ? Food Poverty Group, Equality Action Street Pastors Loughborough Council of Faiths Town of Sanctuary, Charnwood Child Contact Group	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	? Peter, Craig Daphne, Geetha Tony, Dilys Daphne Ruth, Helen, Una Tony, Dilys, David, Geetha
<b>E</b>	<b>Buildings</b>		
1	Employ Buildings Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	BM&F/Elders
2	at least 4 BM&F meetings pa	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	BM&F
3	maintain regular maintenance schedule and budget	<input type="checkbox"/> December	BM&F /Finance
4	Assess rents annually	<input type="checkbox"/> December	BM&F



5	review employment contracts	<input type="checkbox"/> December	Elders
6	annual manse inspection and maintenance schedule	<input type="checkbox"/> January	Alan & Geoff. (MMF)
7	Maintain Church Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	Phyllis, Alan, Hilary
<b>F</b>	<b>Mission &amp; Outreach</b>		
1	Annually review the list of partner organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	M&O
2	Support Eco-Congregation	<input type="checkbox"/> March AGM	M&O

## **URC Mission Framework**

### **1. Spirituality and prayer**

We will grow in our practice of prayer and spirituality, nurturing strength for our witness to Jesus Christ, and developing our discernment of where God is and what God is calling us to do by reading and studying the Bible and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **2. Identity**

The URC will be a Church where every local congregation will be able to say who they are, what they do and why they do it

### **3. Christian Ecumenical Partnerships**

We will be more confident in our identity, valuing the treasures of our tradition, discerning when to seek ecumenical partnerships, and when and how to seek the further unity of the Church

### **4. Community partnerships**

We will be a Church that is more active in the life of local neighbourhoods

### **5. Hospitality and diversity**

We will be a growing Church with an increasing membership.

### **6. Evangelism**

We will be more confident to engage in evangelism, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God with friends, families and strangers, through story and action

### **7. Church growth**

We will be a Church committed to becoming even more welcoming and hospitable, and embracing all people equally.

### **8. Global partnerships**

We will be a Church that is an active partner in God's global mission with other Churches around the world

### **9. Justice and peace**

We will be a Church committed to peacemaking and reconciliation that keeps faith with the poor and challenges injustice

### **10. The integrity of creation**

We will be a Church that has taken significant steps to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

## **5 Marks of Mission**

- **TELL** To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- **TEACH** To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- **TEND** To respond to human need by loving service
- **TRANSFORM** To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- **TREASURE** To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth