

Mission Action Plan for Aldridge Parish Church

Three Words for APC

Building – Growing – Praying

We want to spiritually build disciples and we want to physically build and improve our facilities

We want to grow both in number and our community links

We want to be a place where people can worship in spirit and in truth

The Church

We are part of a team: Aldridge Parish Church, St Thomas Church, Tynings Lane Church, and the Hothouse. We are evangelical and open to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit. We long for people to meet with and discover the love of the Lord Jesus. We hope people will turn to Christ and be transformed. We hope people will be inspired and empowered. We want to have a community focus. There is an emphasis on preaching, contemporary worship, being a Church for all-ages, strong pastoral support, evangelism and overseas mission. Our average Sunday attendance is 300+ adults and 100+ children. We have various midweek activities and 500+ attend these events. The Church is growing at the moment between 3 to 5% pa.

The Context

Aldridge is a predominantly white, middle class town of 17000 although it has what Walsall MBC call 'pockets of deprivation.' There are four primary schools and two secondary schools. It's a Walsall suburb and is surrounded by industrial estates on one side and farmland on the other. People tend to work locally or commute into Birmingham. The housing is traditionally 1960 and 70s 3 bedroom semi-detached or bungalows although more recently larger detached housings, two bedroom flats and retirement complexes have been built. There is a 1960s shopping centre which is in need of renewal. Those who have lived in Aldridge a while tend to call it 'the village.'

The Ministry

There is a staff team of 9 which includes: the rector, the curate, the youth worker, the children's worker, the pastoral worker, the church growth worker and three part time administrators. The list of what we do is as follows:

9:30am and 11:15am Morning Worship (repeated services), 6:30pm Evening Worship, 10:30am Wednesday Worship

Monthly Prayer Event and fortnightly Prayer Breakfast and various other prayer groups to support mission partners

Children's work: Crèche; Bubbles, Surfers, Extreme, Pathfinders, Divers, Cool Box mid week Group, Freezer Mid Week Group, Noah's Ark Toddler Group, Little Fishes Play Group, week ends away

Youth Work: Youth Fellowship, Squash, mid week Bible Study, Selestial worship event, summer camp and weekend away

Schools Work: Assemblies, G-Crew, Random, school lessons

Small Groups: Home Groups and Community Groups

Evangelism and Discipleship: Baptism Group, Alpha, Beta, Crafty Sew and Sews

Leadership: Growing Leaders

Prayer Ministry: Predominantly present during our main services and prayer events

Pastoral Care: Weddings, Funerals, visiting, Pop-in, Twenties, visiting nursing homes, services in sheltered accommodation and nursing homes, and once a term memorial service

Fellowship Advancement: High quality events such as Arts Fayres and Summer Fayres as well as fun harvest, Christmas and other occasional events

Women's work: Embrace, women's weekend

Men's work: Men of Aldridge, men's weekend

Community Activities: Hothouse, PROUD (A Down Syndrome Support Group), FIZZ (A worship event for those with learning needs), History Society, Probus

What we're working on (this is a liquid thing and is constantly adapting and changing, some things could take a few months to complete whilst others might take up to 5 years)

Building

- Get the new Church Rooms built
- Renew the interior of the Church

Worship

- investing in the 11:15am service by including a Crèche and a second children's group for divers and making sure that the music team is well resourced
- sorting an information / welcome point so people have easy access to information about how to belong to our church, give to our church, serve our church, and sort out pastoral events in the church
- growing our music team
- changing the all-age pattern and investing in it
- sorting a youth service / event to replace Selestial

- investing in Reel Faith and other alternative forms of worship
- making Wednesday worship more accessible by opening the church for longer and providing refreshments

Prayer

- making prayer ministry more accessible and growing it
- improving our prayer event and making intercessory prayer more visible
- build on the ideas formed from the Holy Trinity Brompton Prayer Training

Children

- finding and training more leaders
- changing the way we work our teams on Sunday mornings
- making sure they have at least two special events a year
- build on the contacts we've made at Cooper and Jordan School
- less but higher quality all-age service with a wow factor
- making sure there are good bridges between the groups so the children's passage through our church and into discipleship is clearly mapped out

Young People

- continue to grow what we're already doing
- building on the links we already have at Aldridge School
- start succession planning of youth worker
- sort out the issue of how to deal with 120 young people at Friday Night's YF

Alpha / Beta / Evangelism

- continue to run Alpha at least 3 times a year
- work out what's the best pre-Alpha course and run it
- discover and train new leaders
- continue to build and develop Beta
- make sure the movement from Beta to Small Groups works

Overseas Mission

- continue to review, develop our support of overseas missionaries
- look to support more justice orientated overseas projects

Leadership

- continue to invest in the CPAS Growing Leaders course
- transferring the leadership of this from the clergy

Pastoral Care

- sort out marriage preparation
- invest in our Baptism Course
- continue to hone and improve our bereavement care and caring for carers meals
- sort out the visiting to the residential homes in the parish

Fellowship

- make sure we do at least two events a year which bring our fellowship together for fun and outreach
- sort out proper coffee for after service fellowship
- Sort out a parish weekend away and also an Israel trip

Community

- make sure the Church is fully committed to Hothouse
- join up with Walsall Community Church in support Walsall Street Teams
- make sure we are more actively involved in the community
- undertake a community survey to find out their needs

General

- survey the whole congregation and get their thoughts on where we are at and discovering if we are meeting their needs and hitting their expectations
- Sort out finances so we can move from the hand to mouth place we are now and are able to enter a more visionary manner in dealing with our money