

# REVIEW OF THE TWO RIVERS MISSION COMMUNITY MISSION STRATEGY

Below is reproduced the text of a letter from Rev Mike Clark and Rev Paul Bysouth addressed to all church members in our mission community.

Dear Friend,

We are delighted you are joining us on our Mission journey, but thought it would be appropriate to clarify why we are reviewing our Mission Strategy and the action plan that goes with it.

## WHAT IS THE MISSION STRATEGY?

The Mission Strategy for Two Rivers is about agreeing an objective and direction for us, as a Mission and as individual churches to define what we expect to achieve within the next three years (by July 2020).

## WHY DO IT?

1. Because God compels us to! For example: Matthew 28: 19 & 20, 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." There are a multitude of other Bible passages that instruct us to do this including Acts 2: 42 & 47, Luke 10: 36-37, Romans 12: 1-2, Ephesians 1: 17-19, John 13: 34-35, Matthew 4: 18-20, 9: 37 - 38, 13: 31-32, 1 Thessalonians 5: 15-17
2. Bishop Robert recently commented 'Staying the same is not an option'. Many of our churches have ageing congregations, dwindling numbers and expensive, ageing buildings. Unless we take positive action then we are on a steady decline, resulting in a decreasing church membership and the potential closure of some churches. We are not alone! This is a common issue across the Anglican church and rural communities. Diocesan funding will only be allocated to those churches that have a clear Mission and Plan in accordance with the direction it has already set.
3. If we are not clear what we aim to achieve, our limited, scarce resources will not be put to the best use. We have had some success and we want to build on this.

## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY?

The diocesan priorities have already been established as:

1. Growing in prayer
2. Making new disciples
3. Serving the people of Devon with joy

The common theme is GROWTH. Growth in our own spiritual lives and growth as God's church.

Two Rivers, and individual churches now should agree what we are doing consistent with these priorities for the next three years (to July 2020).

We have had two large meetings already with representatives from the Two Rivers churches:

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| 17 July 2017      | This reviewed what the Bible compels us to do and how we might align ourselves to its instruction. |
| 11 September 2017 | This meeting gave an opportunity to air concerns and clarify the process.                          |

It is imperative that you are briefed with the outcomes from these meeting and have reviewed these at your PCC. I have attached to this letter a list of all those who attended the meetings so that you can catch up with what has happened so far. There are also meeting minutes should you require them. Please contact me for a copy.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

Having discussed the meetings so far in your PCC's the next open meeting (November 6thth at 7.30pm at St Giles Village Hall) will be an opportunity to confirm what we are doing already, there is a significant amount of exciting activity already across Two Rivers and we can share this. We can then agree what each PCC feels compelled to do in the next 3 years, what leadership support is needed, and what may need to change to achieve this.

Next open meeting: 6 November at 7.00pm at St Giles Village Hall

It is important you attend and have your say, even if you feel that you need more support.

#### THEN WHAT?

We will summarise the outcomes into a draft Mission Action plan for the Two Rivers Community by the end of this year. This can then be used as a template for a corresponding Mission Action plan for each church. These plans are there to secure our direction, and from which, we can plan our activities, budgets and applications for funding. For those churches that need more support an individual meeting will be arranged.

Very best regards and every blessing,

Mike Clark and Paul Bysouth

Finish by 9.00pm!!!