

**The Presbytery of England
and the Channel Islands Presbytery Plan
Annual Review 2024 by Jersey: St. Columba's Presbyterian Church**

We can gain greater insight into this relation between Christ's ministry, the church and mission by learning from John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." Amen

Jesus' teaching is that Father, Son and Holy Spirit incorporate us into their divine life. Being rooted in Christ by the Spirit and tended by the Father, only then can we bear fruit. One of the fruits, is mission – working with Christ to bring people to faith. That we resemble Christ in our hearts and minds and actions is non-negotiable. Only then we will have inspiration, motivation, courage, and wisdom to lead in successful mission. If we do not, our mission will falter.

In examining the Five Marks of Mission we examine the purpose of the Church, how the ascended Christ works upon and within the church to achieve this, how Christ's action in worship leads to missional fruit and what the relationship between worship and mission should be.

Worship, teaching, and the sacraments precede mission theologically, temporally, and practically, and mission is contingent on them. To be clear, mission is not the root of the Church but its fruit.

The purpose of the church is to help people become Christlike and to engage in mission. Here we have the integration of worship, love, service and witness. The church is called to create Christ-like people, to help worship the Father like Christ did, to know and to speak the truth like Jesus did, to love like Christ and serve and witness like Christ. Mission is part of being like Christ. Mission begins with worship. When we are acted upon by Christ in worship, we learn more about the truth, we grow in love and obey God in more aspects of our life. Only then can we be successful in mission.

Because service and witness are essential aspects of being like Christ, they are non-negotiable for the church, and must be taken seriously. If we ask people to serve and witness to non-Christians, yet do not properly teach or nurture them so that they become like Christ, four things will happen, and this is what we need to safeguard against.

1. Hearing the call to mission and not being moved by it.
2. Church members begin missional activities indistinguishable from any secular charity, not being shaped by Christ through worship and teaching, will serve in unhelpful ways.

3. Without abiding in Christ, people burn out.
4. If worship is neglected, we lose one of the most important tools for mission that we have.

The missional inactivity of congregations is both an indication of their lack of health and a tragedy for their neighbours.

The Five Marks of Mission are a good description of mission, but they do not list everything the church is called to be or do. Therefore, we treat the marks, just as marks as a description of mission, they are not the marks of the church itself.

The purpose of the Church is to help people become like Christ by worshipping God, our Father, loving their neighbours, and serving and witnessing to them in Christ's name. This love is grown, shaped, and sustained by the Spirit through worship and prayer, as it is principally through these that Christ and the Spirit act upon us, transforming us into the likeness of Jesus. To supplant worship with mission, or to place mission before it, will only weaken mission, and harm both the Church and the world.

Mission is not the root of the church but its fruit. Our neighbours will not taste that fruit unless we cling to Christ worshipping the Father in Spirit and in truth.

Proposal: Discuss

- The Five Marks of Mission are markers of a description of mission. They are not the marks of the church itself. They are unsuitable for informing specific decisions about resource allocation and in themselves do not do the work of prioritisation.
- Aligning our new group remits to the Five Marks of Mission as a flexible structure.
- Time proposal for final document to be sent to Presbytery is the 10th of May, 2024, at the latest.
- The Code of Practice is not relevant as we are not in Scotland.
- The current Presbytery Plan – reduce from 7 ministries to 4 by 31/12/24.
- All charges are category A – life beyond five years.
- Our AMBA (Asset Management Building Audit) rates 68%.
- Our church building is underutilised.
- Our tenure will be reviewed on the 31/10/2027.
- The Lund Principal helps us engage with our ecumenical partners. CTJ.
- Our mission project examples, current and future.
Current Plan – to be developed and updated and sent to Presbytery.

Current Plan

9.12 Jersey St Columba's

9.12.4 Mission Project Examples

9.12.4.1 The congregation in Jersey are active ecumenically with partners within Christians together in Jersey. The Church is open at appropriate times of the day to allow the local community to come in for quiet reflection. Members of the congregation are on hand if required to provide support.

9.12.4.2 The Church community actively support local charities in both financial and physical assistance, this includes the foodbanks and refuges for survivors of domestic violence.

9.12.4.3 The congregation provide support to the local care home, visiting weekly to provide a Church service to the residents.

9.12.4.4 The Kirk Session are currently exploring how they will initiate an “Alpha course” as the continue to strive for growth.

Activity: offer sheets to note points collecting creative information towards St. Columba’s Renewal, Revitalization and Redevelopment becoming an emotionally healthy church as to sustain effective ministry in a changing world.

- Identity and morale
- Spiritual health
- Emotional health
- Financial health
- Relational mission (zeal to fulfil the Great Commission)

Examples of current ministry	Possibilities for ministry over next year
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MEANINGFUL WORSHIP	MEANINGFUL OUTREACH
TRYPRAYING CAMPAIGN	BEREAVEMENT COURSE
LENT BIBLE STUDY	SPIRITUAL FIRST AID COURSE
ENHANCED FACEBOOK AND NEW WEBSITE	CASCADING CONVERSATIONS EXPLORING FAITH
ADVENT AND EASTER MESSAGES	ECO-CONGREGATION POLLINATOR PATCH
EASTER APPEAL	MESSY CHURCH FOR YOUNG FAMILIES
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN SOUPER SUNDAY	ELDER'S ANNUAL MISSION AWAY DAY, MANAGING EFFECTIVE CHANGE
NEW OUTREACH WITH FREEDA AND HM PRISON LA MOYE	REFORM AND TRAIN PASTORAL TEAM
SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY	FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE
GRACE FOODBANK	HEALING MINISTRY
NEW SERVICES OF WORSHIP REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS, HOLY SATURDAY	COMMUNITY RESEARCH LINKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JERSEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN
SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN AID CROSSREACH, POPPY COLLECTION, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE, SHELTER TRUST, SYRIA	POSSIBLE CHURCH TWINNING AND FAITH SHARE ANOTHER CHURCH ABROAD
HYMN SINGING ONCE PER MONTH	FURTHER BIBLE STUDIES
MONTHLY WALK	PRAYER GROUP
THY KINGDOM COME CAMPAIGN	ECUMENICAL WORK/STUDY

Introduction to our presentation and report to Presbytery

The Kirk Session of Jersey: St. Columba's is grateful for the opportunity to review the annual mission plan through the draft recommendations and through the reaffirmation of Presbytery's nine commitments. We note, however, that much of the Code of Practice is, for the most part, not relevant for the Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands and thank the Presbytery Planning Committee for developing a more relational, inclusive plan.

With optimism, we are reassured hearing of the commitment from the Presbytery Planning Committee moving towards a sustainable future where mission remains at the heart of everything that is done. We would suggest, however, that worship, teaching and the sacraments are included alongside mission because these precede mission theologically. Mission is not the root of the church, but rather, it is the fruit of the church. Mission begins with worship which inspires, motivates, grants us courage and wisdom to lead in successful mission.

In examining the Five Marks of Mission, which are 'marks of the church', and not the whole of the church, we shall align our Kirk Session new group remits with these 'marks' as a flexible structure. We agree that these markers are unsuitable for informing specific decisions about resource allocation and in themselves do not do the work of prioritisation. The purpose of the church is to worship and glorify our triune God, to help people become Christlike and to engage in mission.

Therefore, we have pleasure in presenting the review of our current work and future plans for worship, teaching, the sacraments, mission which are realistic and achievable and await your comments.

9.12 Jersey: St Columba's response to the Annual Presbytery Plan (2024) towards renewal, revitalization and redevelopment becoming an emotionally healthy church as to sustain effective ministry in a changing world.

9.12.4 Mission Project Examples

9.12.4.1 Identity and morale:

Current: building up and supporting our congregation in their faith, so that they will have the confidence and knowledge to share their Christian belief with others by word and action, in order that they too might also come to faith. Hymn singing once per month, monthly walk, church is open between Easter to September for quiet reflection, enhanced facebook and new website, social media Advent and Easter messages. Maintenance of church buildings.

Future: cascading conversations exploring faith, elder's annual mission away day managing effective change, community research linking with the Government of Jersey Health and Wellbeing Plan, ecumenical work/study with Christians Together in Jersey. Reintroduce light refreshments and some pastoral support when the church is open from Easter to September. Annual review of the effective care, maintenance, refurbishment and, where appropriate, redevelopment of church, halls church flat and the manse.

9.12.4.2 Spiritual health:

Current: meaningful worship, Trypraying campaign, Lent Bible study, Thy Kingdom Come campaign.

Future: spiritual first aid course, cascading conversations exploring faith, faith in older people talks, further Bible studies, prayer group.

9.12.4.3 Emotional health:

Current: supporting Christian Aid, Crossreach, Poppy Collection, Royal British Legion, St. John's Ambulance, Shelter Trust, Syria project. Occasional midweek social, friendship and craft group.

Future: bereavement course, elder's annual mission away day managing effective change, reform and train pastoral team, healing ministry.

9.12.4.4 Financial health:

Current: annual Easter appeal, launch of our first stewardship campaign.

Future: review supporting Christian Aid, Crossreach, Poppy collection, Royal British Legion, St. John's Ambulance, Shelter Trust, Syria project or other needy causes. Create and annual budget for our Kirk Session groups. Apply for appropriate grants.

9.12.4.5 Relational mission (zeal to fulfil the Great Commission):

Current: new outreach with 'FREEDA' women's refuge, new outreach with HM Prison La Moye, school chaplaincy, Grace foodbank.

Future: meaningful Christian education, outreach and nurture, eco-congregation pollinator patch, messy church for young families, possible church twinning and faith share with another church abroad. Ensuring that we follow God's vision integrating enthusiastic worship, witness and nurturing people through meaningful worship, teaching, the sacraments and mission because we seek to inspire all people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.