



## **St Augustine of Canterbury Highgate**

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***Diocese of London, Edmonton Episcopal Area,  
Archdeaconry of Hampstead, Parish 20/03***

# **MISSION ACTION PLAN**

## **BACKGROUND**

St. Augustine's, Highgate, is a small Anglican Parish serving the community around the lower part of the Archway Road, London, N6.

Perceived to be a desirable residential area, there is a largely transient population which is ethnically diverse and which spans the socio-economic spectrum.

This wide diversity is reflected in the membership of the Congregation.

St. Augustine's is in the catholic tradition within the Church of England and this is evident in our worship and teaching.

On Sundays, Morning Prayer is said by a small group at 9.15am and the Parish Mass follows at 10 a.m. There is a said celebration on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and a Sung Mass, often with a choir, on major Holy Days. A bulletin is always available at the porch door giving information about service times and events.

We are a friendly and open community and welcome new members. Currently, we are starting a "Mums and Babies" group in the crypt of the Church and have plans to re-develop our halls for pre-schooling and outreach to the local community.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**We are committed to enabling St. Augustine's to be an open, welcoming and functioning Church of England Parish Church.**

### **OPEN**

- ❖ We will find ways of making our church more open and accessible, to the local neighbourhood both in terms of the building and the worshipping community.

## **WELCOMING**

- ❖ We will continue to attract and welcome new members into our congregation, which is blessed with rich diversity of age, gender, orientation, ethnicity and ability, and do our utmost to support them.
- ❖ We are also committed to supporting those in our community who are fragile or vulnerable because of mental health issues and dependencies.

## **FUNCTIONING**

- ❖ We will seek to make the best use of our buildings and resources to meet the needs of our church and parish.
- ❖ We intend to re-develop our church halls for educational purposes and as a multi-use facility for the local community, and thereby to unlock the potential income
- ❖ We will endeavour to recognise and liberate the God-given potential present in our members.

## **PRIORITIES AND PROGRESS CHECK**

### ***WORSHIP and PRAYER TEACHING and LEARNING; NURTURE and GROWTH CARE and SERVICE***

#### ***WORSHIP and PRAYER***

- ❖ To identify and train a pastoral team to share with the priest, the responsibility for worship, prayer and liturgy, and to provide a forum for those considering ordained or lay ministries to the Church  
**(Team identified. Monthly meetings begun May '06)**
- ❖ To establish house groups so as to pastor the parish more effectively and create a more informal and local presence of the church in the community.  
**(Beginning Autumn 2006)**
- ❖ To look at new forms of services and music so as to offer a broader range of worship  
**(Regular Taize-style worship introduced. Pastoral Team to study Common Worship and to keep abreast of proposals for revision of the Missal and Divine Office)**

- ❖ To keep the church building open as much as possible for private prayer and meditation.  
**(Regular Saturday bookstall to be introduced, in the short term, and longer term planning for regular opening hours)**
- ❖ To deepen our life of prayer and intercession  
**(Intercession board introduced, new book of the departed purchased and written-up, new intercessors added at Mass. Further exploration of free and shared prayer. Special suicide project: see *Care and Service*)**

### **TEACHING and LEARNING; NURTURE and GROWTH**

- ❖ To welcome new people into the life of our church and to nurture and encourage them into the Christian Faith  
**(First families with small children already established. Other new members have joined.)**
- ❖ To establish the Emmaus Course as a way of introducing new people to the faith and to deepen the faith of existing members.  
**(Preparatory meetings held May & June '06. Launch 2007)**
- ❖ To welcome children and young people and to provide a safe and secure environment in which they can grow as Christians.  
**(Creche to be established. Mums and Babies Group to begin 9/06 Older children and teenagers are more of a challenge for us and we do not have an answer as yet.)**
- ❖ To continue to commend the Edmonton Christian Studies Course as an opportunity for people to grow as Christians and to help discern appropriate ways of exercising their ministries as Christians.  
**(First Reader to be Licensed 09/06. Three people currently on CSC and one more joining in Autumn '06)**
- ❖ To continue working closely with our neighbouring Anglican Parishes and to play a full part in *Churches Together in Highgate*.  
**(Regular meetings, new website, monthly informal Sunday evening worship together)**
- ❖ To continue working closely with other local faith groups, and to play a full part in the recently-formed Archway Road Residents & Business Association (ARRBA) in partnership with Haringey Council.  
**(Several meetings held in 2005/6 New Archway Road initiative launched 06/06. St Augustine's features in accompanying brochure)**

- ❖ To identify and train new Eucharistic Ministers, Readers at Mass, Intercessors, Sidespeople, Servers and Ministers of Welcome and Hospitality.  
**(New Ministers of the Eucharist Commissioned and trained for church and home/hospital visits. New servers, readers, intercessors and sidespeople have been added)**

### **CARE and SERVICE**

- ❖ To create the following groups in order to implement our vision effectively:
  - Pastoral Team **(Done)**
  - Standing Committee **(Done)**
  - Fundraising Committee **(Done)**
  - Worship and Events Group **(Done)**
  - Hall Development Committee **(Done)**
- ❖ To encourage members to give generously of their resources and to use their gifts and skills effectively.  
**(New Treasurer appointed 03/06. Area Finance Officer coming to PCC 07/06 and preaching 10/06)**
- ❖ Mindful of our proximity to the Archway Bridge which is associated with regular suicides and suicide attempts, we will make this a particular focus of prayer and will work in partnership with other local agencies, (e.g., Haringey Council, Haringey Mental Health Trust, The Samaritans) to assist those who are suicidal.  
**(Planning stage. Contact made with local agencies.)**
- ❖ To maximise the use of the halls and release potential income.  
**(Increase rent of workshop tenants in lower hall, serve notice on present sole user of upper hall and reclaim use from 09/06 . Redevelop entire halls complex, in the longer term, for educational & multi-purpose use. Initial meetings held with Archdeacon, Haringey Council and Peter Aiers. )**
- ❖ To continue to adapt our buildings to enable the disabled better access.  
**(Architect consulted & grants applied for from local authority)**
- ❖ Following the successful 4-year, roof-restoration programme, we will continue to undertake necessary works to maintain and make the best use of our buildings  
**(Quinquennial works underway. Halls redevelopment meetings held with Haringey Council, and Diocese of London.)**

- ❖ To replace inadequate 1920's electrical wiring  
**(Architect's advice sought, Archdeacon's permission granted. Work beginning 10/7/06)**
- ❖ To install a loop and sound system in the Church  
**(Survey undertaken 02/06. Site meetings – Spring '06. Estimates received. DAC contacted)**
- ❖ To establish a parish office, in the church crypt, to enable effective and efficient administration.  
**(Completed)**
- ❖ Clear out accumulated clutter from buildings and complete the filing and archiving of our paper records.  
**(Done)**
- ❖ To continue to provide opportunities and events for socialising that are open to both the Congregation and wider parish.  
**(Fundraising Committee has held successful events and is planning more)**
- ❖ To communicate regularly with people who live in our parish and to invite them to services and events.  
**(Regular letters to households. Parish diary published x2 yearly)**
- ❖ Erect new notice boards.  
**(Architect consulted. Designs submitted. Work in progress)**