

## St Alfred's Anglican Church

### Mission Action Plan 2011 – 2015

#### Context

With the completion of a major building project in 2009 we have reached the stage where we can dream about new possibilities as a church. God has planted in us a desire to be even more effective in the cause of Christ and have a wider impact than we've had up to this point. This Mission Action Plan is an attempt to articulate those dreams and desires.

#### Mission

Our mission is to help people become mature followers of Jesus Christ.

#### Values

As we commit ourselves to the future the following values will guide us.

Christ:	we will bring honour to Christ in all we do
Spirit:	we will seek the leading of God's Holy Spirit in all we do
Bible:	we will read and obey the Bible as God's Word and as the source of truth
Worship:	we will worship God personally and corporately
Prayer:	we will pray for the ministries and activities of our church.
People:	we will equip people and help them be actively involved in ministry and mission
Mission:	we will look for opportunities to introduce people to Jesus
Community:	we will participate in the Christian community both locally and more widely

(These values can be found in a more extended form on our web site [www.stalfreds.org](http://www.stalfreds.org) under the heading "Who are we?")

#### Vision

We will be a church so committed to the Lord Jesus that we are constantly looking to grow his kingdom by introducing people to Jesus, helping them grow as disciples, equipping them to use their God-given gifts, sending them out on mission and challenging them to love God wholeheartedly.

In short, we want to see people mature as disciples and released to extend God's kingdom.

This vision can be broken down into 5 key purposes each of which can be reduced to one word.

#### Belong

This involves introducing people to Jesus and helping them become members of God's church.

#### Grow

This is about helping people grow spiritually, learning to read and obey the Bible, deepening their prayer lives and growing as disciples of Christ.

#### Serve

This involves equipping people and encouraging them to use their gifts to serve others.

#### Reach

This is about reaching out to others with the love of God and proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

#### Love

This involves helping people love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. It is about worshipping God with all we have.

## Strategic Directions 2011 – 2015

### Belong

1. Train and equip small group leaders so that there is room for up to 500 people of all ages to be disciplined and cared for
2. Re-develop our web site as a primary communication tool, as a way into the church and as a means of extending our impact

### Grow

1. Grow the youth ministry by expanding the youth internship program (post-school), student leadership program (senior-school), and outreach programs (schools, camps, Friday nights, missions).
2. Appoint young adult interns/trainees as appropriate to extend our ministry among tertiary students and 20-30 year olds
3. Develop a by-appointment healing prayer ministry during the week.

### Serve

1. Establish a more coordinated way of training and equipping people for ministry
2. Intentionally use our expertise, people and facilities as resources to support other churches and ministries as together we grow God's kingdom and particularly as we respond to the Archbishop of Melbourne's vision for 2011-2013
3. Look for creative ways to bless our local community as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012
4. Engage with issues of poverty and justice both locally and globally

### Reach

1. Reach more children and families by growing our children's ministry and improving training for children's ministry leaders.
2. Grow the evening service to be a vibrant, missions-and-evangelism-focused young adult evening congregation serving upwards of 230 members; half of whom come through our children's and youth ministries, half of whom through outreach.
3. Begin a new families' congregation which is particularly geared towards the unchurched.
4. Explore a new ministry for students at Box Hill TAFE.

### Love

1. Deepen our corporate prayer and worship life
2. Extend our music and creative arts ministry

## Strategic Directions 2011 – 2015: Further Details

### Belong

1. Train and equip small group leaders so that there is room for up to 500 people of all ages to be disciplined and cared for
  - a) During the 2010 there were around 300-340 in small groups.
  - b) To grow the small group system will require both staff and volunteer leadership.
2. Re-develop our web site as a primary communication tool, as a way into the church and as a means of extending our impact
  - a) A complete overhaul of the web site occurred in 2010. Further work is planned for 2011.

### Grow

1. Grow the youth ministry by expanding the youth internship program (post-school), student leadership program (senior-school), and outreach programs (schools, camps, Friday nights, missions).
  - a) The aim is to continue to identify future young leaders who would benefit from training and supervised ministry experience and who would assist us to grow our youth ministry.
2. Appoint young adult interns/trainees as appropriate to extend our ministry among tertiary students and 20-30 year olds
  - a) We will look for suitably gifted and motivated young adults who want to minister to their peer group.
  - b) It is possible that such internees/trainees are engaged in part-time study and may even consider Bible college.
  - c) These will be formal supervised ministry roles with clear expectations.
3. Develop a by-appointment healing prayer ministry during the week.
  - a) This idea has been sitting with us for a number of years.
  - b) During 2010 a small team of people developed a policy which has been ratified by the Vestry/Board.
  - c) A small number of people are already trained to pray and have quietly begun this ministry.

### Serve

1. Establish a more coordinated way of training and equipping people for ministry
  - a) St Alfred's already provides training in many ministry areas.
  - b) A key commitment of staff is to put Eph 4:10-12 into practice, that is "to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up."
  - c) This goal therefore is articulating a desire to improve in this area so that God's people are trained and released to use their gifts.

2. Intentionally use our expertise, people and facilities as resources to support other churches and ministries as together we grow God's kingdom and particularly as we respond to the Archbishop of Melbourne's vision for 2011-2013
  - a) We have been very generous in this goal already (eg supporting other parishes, bushfire relief, coordinating training events, joint ministry with other Blackburn North churches, supporting schools and beach mission ministries etc etc).
  - b) The time commitment of our Senior Minister to be an Archdeacon and to be on Archbishop-in-Council is a significant contribution to the wider Anglican Church.
  - c) This goal acknowledges that St Alfred's is a generous church and that we wish to help in the wider kingdom work beyond our boundaries
  - d) We are also prepared to assist in the Archbishop's vision "to make the word of God fully known" especially as a key component of this is to help local churches to grow.
  
3. Look for creative ways to bless our local community as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012
  - a) During 2011 a small team could begin to research the local community and find areas of need that we could help with.
  - b) It may be that there are local groups who are resource poor or in need somehow (eg schools, kindergartens, elderly homes, crisis centres etc etc).
  - c) We are willing to put some financial resources into this from our local mission budget if we find that is needed
  - d) We won't be able to do everything so we will be prayerfully guided by God
  - e) We will do this as an expression of God's grace and kindness and a demonstration of God's love
  
4. Engage with issues of poverty and justice both locally and globally
  - a) Many people at St Alfred's do this in a variety of ways (some work in Christian agencies, many support Christian agencies, we have some church-wide activities)
  - b) Some volunteers may want to take up responsibility for coordinating this.

## Reach

1. Reach more children and families by growing our children's ministry and improving training for children's ministry leaders.
  - a) In 2011 we will employ a new Children's and Families Minister
  - b) The new minister will recruit and train volunteer leaders and build a positive and encouraging team culture
  - c) In future years we would like to see more teenagers and young adults involved in children's ministry and potentially the appointment of children's ministry trainees/interns
  
2. Grow the evening service to be a vibrant, missions-and-evangelism-focused young adult evening congregation serving upwards of 230 members; half of whom come through our children's and youth ministries, half of whom through outreach.
  - a) The evening congregation began in 2001 with a specific focus on young adults
  - b) Young adults are a key mission field and a demographic that is missing in many churches

- c) Doubling the size of the existing evening congregation will require leadership development, evangelism, prayer, small group development, pastoral skill, finances, strategic thinking and God's grace and favour.
  - d) We have made the first step in this process through the appointment of a full-time assistant minister in 2010
3. Begin a new families' congregation which is particularly geared towards the unchurched.
- a) We recognize that our morning congregation and associated Sunday school spaces are nearing capacity so if we want to reach more families we are going to have begin a new congregation
  - b) We are particularly keen to create something that would attract not-yet-Christian families
  - c) There is no clear plan what this would look like: it could be a "fresh expressions" congregation or a church plant or a congregation meeting on site in a different time slot
  - d) We are unlikely to start on this till 2012 at the earliest
4. Explore a new ministry for students at Box Hill TAFE.
- a) Box Hill TAFE has about 40,000 students enrolled in over 400 courses
  - b) A significant proportion are international students
  - c) At this stage there are no formal plans, just an idea; to move forward would require some volunteers possibly through 2011 beginning to research what Christian ministry, if any, is happening and to seek God's guidance on what we could do
  - d) We see this as a significant cross-cultural mission field on our doorstep

## Love

1. Deepen our corporate prayer and worship life
- a) Over recent years we have gradually introduced prayer for healing services, more extended prayer meetings before Sunday services and mid-week prayer – we will continue to explore how we can strengthen this corporate prayer life of the church
  - b) We will continue to review corporate worship services to ensure that people are both edified in their faith and can encounter the true and living God
2. Extend our music and creative arts ministry
- a) In 2011 we will appoint a staff member to oversee these two areas with the aim that this minister can help us worship God through music and in other creative ways
  - b) This new role will also contribute to the previous goal of assisting us to deepen our corporate prayer and worship life
  - c) In the first instance this new role will focus on the morning congregation but under God the position may grow to allow time to help with the evening congregation or any further congregations

The Senior Minister and staff team will oversee the implementation of the Mission Action Plan but it will require the involvement of many others at St Alfred's if these aims are to become a reality. Progress will be reported to the Vestry/Board throughout the year and reported to the AGM. We acknowledge that all of these aims are attempted under God's sovereign direction and to bring glory to name of Jesus Christ.