

St Michael's Cornhill Mission Action Plan

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost”

St Michaels is a mission church. Brought back from the brink of extinction in 1998, the Sunday congregation is essentially a new and continually growing one.

Our mission is based on a very clear view of the nature of the Church, the state of Society and the position of the Church within it. Understanding these things we know what we need to do and why.

Our analysis

- St Michaels is part of the one holy Catholic and apostolic church - we are not part of a protestant sect.
- The catholic church has continued within the Church of England since the Reformation.
- A specifically English Catholic Christian spirituality and tradition continued to develop after the Reformation and is embodied in the King James Bible, Book of Common Prayer, music and architecture. It is the inheritance of the English people.
- Public doctrine in England has become radically anti Christian. This process has occurred very rapidly since the “Second Enlightenment” of the 1960s. In consequence society has lapsed back into paganism.
- The Church of England as an institution has not recognised the anti Christian nature of the new doctrine and has sought to accommodate itself to it and reinterpret Christian truth accordingly. The abandonment of the Book of Common Prayer was a key part of this accommodation and reinterpretation. It has led to accelerating institutional collapse.
- Our experience is that very many people either never accepted the new dispensation or have now seen through it. However when they, in consequence, turn to the Church they often find the secular doctrines that they have rejected presented to them as Christian truth.
We believe that our duty is to offer to them;
 - the authentic Catholic faith and sacraments;
 - the spiritual, musical and liturgical forms of English Christianity.

- We believe that Providence has responded to the European crisis of faith with the leadership of John Paul the Great and Benedict XVI. We should listen attentively to what they have had to say and respond accordingly.
- We know that the Gates of Hell shall never prevail against the Church.

Our Strategy

- Focus on the 11am Sunday Eucharist as the basis of Parish life and our mission.
- Offer excellence in liturgy, music and preaching. The use of the Book of Common Prayer, King James Bible and English Hymnal is central to this.
- Be alive to the mission opportunities arising out of our status as a City Church and develop our relations with the City and Livery companies, for example through our very successful revival of the City New Year Service.
- Develop our spiritual life through a Devotional Group.
- Spread our message through publications, lectures and special events.
- Recognise and exploit the opportunities for world wide mission provided by new technology, especially the internet.
- Serve the weekday City community through weekday services.
- Advertise commercially where appropriate.

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