

## ***What does the future hold for Our Action Plan?***

Each year the achievements of 'our future' actions from the previous year are incorporated into 'our present' and new future actions added, ensuring a continuous cycle of achieving - developing - reporting. All sounds complicated? All looks complicated? Not really, and assistance is always close at hand. Parish Council has responsibility for Our Action Plan to ensure it continues to be a visual image of how our parish excels and shows our shared parish vision for the future - available for everyone to see.

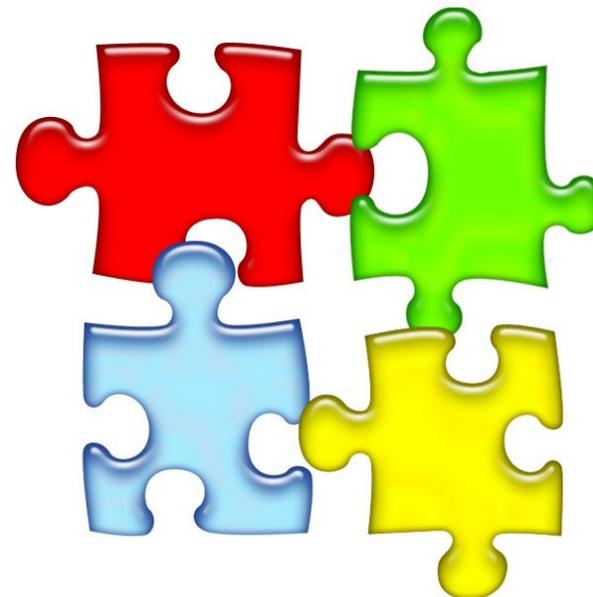
Our Action Plan is updated annually because ministry is extremely active in Mundaring Parish, with current ministries continually developing and new ministries forming. We want a dynamic Action Plan but it takes commitment to keep it dynamic. We want a sustainable Action Plan and we believe we have one. It is challenging but also very exciting being involved in Gods ministry here.



ANGLICAN PARISH OF MUNDARING

# **guide to our action plan**

*how our parish excels*



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## **Why do we have to have an Action Plan?**

Our Ministry Plan was put in place in May 2012 and later that year it was felt the right time for us to have our own mission plan. It was vital for any proposed mission plan to compliment Our Ministry Plan and continue to use it to its full advantage, as well as aligning with the objectives of the Diocesan Mission Plan.

The definition of church ministries is *'religious services or actions'* so it felt right to call our plan Our Action Plan, our first being released on 2 June 2013. As a parish community we had a real opportunity to make this much more than simply the action plan we had to have and so we decided to include what we wanted to achieve in the future - a parish future direction for everyone to see.

## **How do we benefit from having Our Action Plan?**

Parish members can see the achievements of our ministries and how ministries are growing and developing. Our Action Plan, Ministry Plan, Mission and Vision are important tools to help us and others see what we do, why we do it, how we are doing it and our dreams for the future. It supports all aspects of our community culture – inclusiveness, openness, transparency and accountability.

## **How does Our Action Plan work?**

Our Action Plan is in two parts—'Our Present' with 'Our Future' - that happen simultaneously in a continuous cycle of development and achievement. Our Action Plan has the same headings as the Diocesan Mission Plan - Creatively Listen and Tell the Good News; Build Vital Worshipping Communities; and Reach Out in Loving Service, enabled by Inspirational Leadership; and Life Giving Systems and Structures. This way we can map our progress in ministry for the parish and for the Diocese.

### **Our Present**

Our Present is what we are achieving right now. American humourist, actor and writer, the late Will Rogers, gives a warning - *'Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.'* We decided not to just sit there.

### **Our Future**

Our Future shows the things we want to achieve. These are developed by people carrying out ministry who identify ways of improving and developing what they do, in consultation with Ministry Group Leaders (MGLs). Future actions are specific or broad and can change direction. Different directions and outcomes can be accommodated within our flexible Action Plan framework.

These are not passive processes by any means. Sometimes flexible frameworks can be frightening and things do not always work out as expected. What happens instead is, more often than not, well worth the adventure.

## **How do we achieve our future actions?**

Our Ministry Plan is the structure to enable us to do this effectively, efficiently, collaboratively, supportively, transparently, spiritually and with fun. Our Ministry Plan is the 'how' of achieving ministry. Once work starts on a future action it can evolve a little differently to first envisaged and this is fine when everyone involved is part of this evolutionary process. Communication and collaboration are the key.

If ministries have difficulty or need support to achieve outcomes Our Ministry Plan structure with support and effective communication is activated. This is done by speaking with MGLs, the Rector or the Parish Project Assistant.

## **What is the Future Actions Process and Timeline?**

Our future actions are supported by an *Action Plan: Future Actions - Process and Timeline* for developing, achieving and reporting our future actions. This makes it very clear what happens and when. As with Our Ministry Plan, the role of MGLs is extremely important in leading these processes.

As Our Action Plan works in a continuous cycle it is tricky to know where to start but we will start at the end of May/early June with the release of Our Action Plan for the coming year. This contains future actions that ministries will be working to achieve during the year. In August a brief report is submitted to Parish Council confirming these future actions, giving specific actions where broad future actions were originally submitted, and advising if there are any variations to the original future actions. September to February ministries work towards achieving their future actions. In March and April ministries finalise their future action activities and prepare final reports to Parish Council as to whether their future action has been achieved, partly achieved or not achieved. At the same time all ministries are working with the MGL for their ministry grouping to formulate future actions for the following year and MGLs negotiate with the Treasurer on forward budgets to fund the future actions. In early May the reports are submitted to Parish Council, achieved future actions are incorporated into 'our present' and new future actions listed. The next Action Plan is then prepared for release in May/June. These milestones are easily achieved and the whole cycle is fully supported.