



MAP for Derby Diocese

MAP core principles

introduction

The MAP process for Derby Diocese has very few mandatory parts to it. This is so that it can be as flexible and adaptable as possible, and therefore suitable for use by any Church, in any context, at any level. However, there are three core principles that every Church should hold to if they wish the process to have the best opportunity to work well.

principle one: leader commitment

Good leadership is vital in any expression of the Church of Christ. Scripture talks quite a lot about the kind of leadership that we should exercise among one another.

Jesus speaks to his disciples about leadership (Mark 10:41-45) and Paul writes to Timothy about the character of an overseer (1 Timothy 3:1-7). Leaders are mentioned throughout the epistles (Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Hebrews 13:17). Displaying Christ-like leadership is one of the eight characteristics that the MAP process recognises as important for the Church.

As it is with the Church, so it is with the MAP process within the Church. Our experience with MAP in the diocese shows that the commitment of the church leadership is crucial to how effective it is. It is vital that the leadership of any Church shows a visible, consistent, real and ongoing commitment to the MAP process in the Church. This applies just as much to the priorities and resources they choose to invest in for the process, as to the words that they speak about it.

principle two: prayerfulness

MAP is concerned with God's Church and His call to them. Without God's wisdom and resources, the Church's response to that call will always fail. Jesus often sought time alone to pray and find strength and direction from His Father. If Jesus needed to do that, how much more do we?

For MAP to bear fruit in any context, it must always be surrounded by prayer. The Church must constantly seek the resources of God, recognise their need of His power in completing the work He has called them to and give thanks to God for all He does in and through them.

Prayer, therefore, runs all through the MAP process. The Church leadership will pray about the MAP process before they even decide to use it; they will plan how the Church will continue to surround

the work with prayer; one of the questions that the Church will need to constantly ask themselves as they carry out the work God calls them to through the MAP process is, 'are we staying close to God?' Prayer is at the heart of this last question. It must also be at the heart of MAP.

principle three: integration

Sometimes MAP has been regarded by churches as an 'add on'. Consequently, only a few engage fully in it, it becomes an extra thing to do on top of everything else and it is often the first thing to get side-lined when things become busy.

MAP works best when it is integrated into every part of the Church's life. That means that every aspect of the mission and ministry of the Church is included in the MAP process; making it a high priority in leaders' meetings; committing time, energy and prayer to its use and communicating about it consistently and effectively across the Church and beyond.

Integration means that, as far as possible, *everyone* in the Church needs to be involved at every stage. In this way, everyone will feel included. In turn, this makes it more likely that the Church will be committed to the process and to the changes that will come as a result. Additionally, the voices of a wider range of people will be heard as the Church reflects on where they are in the journey toward being the Church God has called them to be.

where to find help

If you would like more information, help or to get started with the MAP process in your church, there are some places to go.

web pages

Our web pages on the Diocesan website have more information about the MAP process, including an introduction to, and overview of, the process and a range of downloadable guides, tools and resources. These resources will grow over time.

Go to www.derby.anglican.org and select Mission Action Planning under the Mission section.

the parish support office

The Parish Support Office is here to help you at every stage of the MAP process in your Church as you carry out the work, from introducing it to the leadership and launching it in the Church, right through to making the detailed plans. You can contact us at Church House, and we'll then put you in touch with the person most likely to be able to help.

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In person or
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