Mission Plan: Arklow Presbyterian Church

**2018-2023**

**Mission Statement:**

We want to magnify God by introducing people to Jesus, welcoming them into the fellowship of His family, helping them to mature in likeness to Christ and equipping them to express their faith in worship, word and action. We also desire to be a church that reaches out to those people in our area with Christ’s transforming message of grace, love and forgiveness.

**Key Purposes:**

*Worship*: We want to praise God with our lips and honour Him with our lives.

*Instruction*: We want to discover more about how God wants us to live by praying, studying and discussing the Bible together.

*Fellowship*: We want to make newcomers our friend and through all our shared activities build meaningful relationships with one another.

*Expression*: We want our faith in Christ to make a difference, so we seek opportunities to proclaim the good news and compassionately serve others in the community and wider world.

**Congregational Analysis:**

Geographical Location: Arklow is an expanding town, along a commuter route for Dublin

Site of Church: Located on the main road into Arklow with room in our new building to facilitate extra activities, it also has a large, grassed area at the back.

The Congregation:

* + - * Inclusive, multi-cultural, loyal and keen to participate
      * Excellent relationships with the community
      * Flexible, united and welcoming
      * Good policies and procedures in place
      * Excellent Session, Committee, Clerk and Treasurer
      * A FWO system in place, meeting our targets for United Appeal and paying all ministerial expenses
      * Limited in size and consistent regular attendance

**Goals/Plans**:

**Worship**:

We aim to have an increased participation of members in the worship service through readings and prayers.

With our new building we now have audio-visual facilities as well as a more flexible layout, so we would like to develop new forms of leadership of worship and explore new types of music.

**Instruction**: We have opportunities for discipleship/teaching in addition to the Sunday sermon through Sunday School for young people, monthly Women’s Bible Study and one weekly Bible study group. We understand the need for spiritual growth of our members, and feel we need to focus on growth and learning to enable our congregation to engage with the community throughout the week in their daily lives.

A prayer group meets weekly and we plan to explore ways to grow the prayer life of the congregation, creating opportunities for teaching different ways to pray, as well as providing opportunities for the congregation to pray together.

**Fellowship**: We have a well-established a coffee time after Sunday worship each week, and our Bible study group provide opportunities for developing deeper relationships and chance for encouragement.

We organize events from time to time that will provide opportunities for the members of the congregation to enjoy time together in an informal setting, while also allowing our members to invite others from the community to join us.

**Witness**: There are many children and youth attending the Wednesday Bible Club and Friday Club from a wide variety of social, ethnic and religious backgrounds. There are over 220 children and young people attending the week-long Holiday Bible Club in the summer. The clubs are well-respected in the area and receive funding from the local council.

Several local community groups use our facilities, providing social benefits for, and building bridges with the wider community, with many of these involving members of our church family, e.g., Montessori Pre-school, four Bridge Clubs, Autism Support Group, Speech and Drama classes, Women of the World and SpringBoard Family Services.

We have developed a Coffee Dock drop-in time once a week which provides a service for parents to come with or without children.

We feel we have several ‘outreach’ activities established, and we will seek support from our members to continue to develop these. We would also like to develop a more intentional link with the overseas church through both financial and prayer support, and plan to research the best way to achieve this, including ways our congregation can be actively involved in supporting overseas mission.