

ST COLUMBA'S BRIDGE OF DON ACTION PLAN 2026 - 2031

1. WORSHIP & TEACHING: Worship of the Lord Jesus and teaching of scripture is at the heart of all that we do

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Use a rich variety of preaching approaches led by Ministers, Trained Worship Leaders & Preachers, and lay people	Develop a preaching plan that draws from multiple streams: (1) thematic series, (2) preaching through books of the Bible, (3) core evangelical doctrines, (4) bible characters (5) lectionary resources. Ensure preaching is shared appropriately across Ministers, trained Worship Leaders & Preachers, and gifted lay people.	ongoing		
Resource small groups with material shaped by our Worship & Teaching themes or notes and carry out quarterly reviews so that groups remain varied, relevant, and responsive to congregational needs.	Provide small-group resources linked to Sunday worship; review quarterly to maintain variety and responsiveness.	ongoing		
Equip people to lead services, teach & preach	Identify potential leaders; run training workshops; mentoring; develop rota for Ministers, trained Worship Leaders & Preachers, and lay people to grow in confidence and gifting	By June 2026 & Ongoing		
Raise new intergenerational music & tech teams	Host open evening; offer training; youth rota; purchase beginner-friendly equipment	Ongoing		
Develop worship & teaching beyond Sundays	Launch new small groups; midweek worship; online teaching; elder contact with fringe members	Next 4 years		

2.PASTORAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP: To ensure that all people from the oldest to the youngest feel that they are loved and cared for, as this helps to develop a sense of belonging and is a witness to the love of Christ

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Build upon current pastoral care structures during vacancy and prepare for future minister	Maintain and strengthen existing pastoral care systems led by Elders, Worship Leaders & Preachers, and pastoral volunteers. Ensure clear communication so that a future minister can integrate smoothly into established structures.	Next 1 year		
Develop prayer life of congregation	Monthly prayer gathering; prayer chain; prayer cards; train prayer ministry volunteers	Next 1 year		
Continue to grow intergenerational activity	Encourage regular intergenerational events; friendship group initiative; involve children in services	As appropriate		

3. YOUTH & CHILDREN: To support our younger Church family by providing a range of services and activities for young people, giving them a safe and fun place to learn, worship and grow their faith in Jesus

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Establish youth hub for the young people in our community, a safe, fun and trusted space where the Bible and faith can be explored	Build on Toasted and Hot Chocolate outreach Further develop links with BODA Improve communication with uniformed organisations to further integrate into church family Explore possible grant funding Explore employing youth worker	By June 2027		
Increase numbers of children and families in our church family	Support regular attendance at Rise and Shine Consider delivering holiday clubs or Messy Church and other outreach projects Work with local primary schools – including outreach to Cloverhill families Build relationships with extended families and young people – family events, parent engagement	By June 2027		
Support children & carers with specific needs	Provide sensory resources; ASN training; quiet space	Ongoing		

4. LOCAL MISSION/COMMUNITY OUTREACH: To reveal the love of God for all people and to share the good news of the gospel in our parish and our wider area

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Continue to develop outreach in Cloverhill and explore how we can reach the people who live there more effectively	Strengthen existing outreach activities (community engagement, seasonal events, door-to-door invitations, presence at local gatherings). Build relationships with residents to increase visibility and trust.	Ongoing		
Work with neighbouring churches (Kings, Baptist Church, and others) to support outreach in Cloverhill	Coordinate joint outreach events; share volunteers and resources; meet regularly to plan and pray for Cloverhill; explore shared mission opportunities that reflect unity and partnership.	Ongoing		
Prepare for future use of the proposed Cloverhill Community Centre as a worship and gathering space	Begin conversations with centre developers and community partners; explore practical requirements for holding worship there; plan for a visible, accessible worship presence once the centre opens	2026–2027		
Provide services and discipleship to residents in Sheltered Housing	Monthly services; pastoral visits; hymn-sings; volunteer training	Ongoing		

5. WIDER MISSION, INCLUDING ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE WORLD CHURCH (AS APPLICABLE)

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Work with Area Grouping and neighbouring churches to strengthen evangelistic outreach	Plan joint evangelistic events; share resources and volunteers; coordinate prayer; explore shared mission opportunities across Bridge of Don.	Ongoing		
Provide support and encouragement to missionary partners	Share updates; pray regularly; explore short-term mission opportunities; maintain communication.	Ongoing		
Maintain positive relationship with RC congregation	Joint services; shared community initiatives; annual fellowship meeting.	Ongoing		
Engage with wider missionary and Christian organisations	Continue to invite speakers; promote volunteering; encourage giving and prayer.	By June 2028		

6. DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Create an enabling environment to win, build and send disciples	Develop a clear evangelistic strategy for St Columba's, including outreach events, personal invitation, and visible presence in the community.	1-4 years		
Provide an environment where church members grow in confidence to share their faith, follow up new believers, and lead in different aspects of discipleship	Offer training in personal evangelism; encourage testimonies; equip members to disciple new believers; develop simple tools for follow-up; identify and train emerging leaders in discipleship ministries.	1-4 years		
Develop a culture of intentional, relational discipleship where every member is growing in Christlikeness and equipped to disciple others	Encourage membership of small, accountable discipleship groups where members can grow in Scripture, prayer, and practical obedience together	Ongoing		

7. FINANCE

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Encourage appropriate giving	Stewardship teaching; clear communication; confidential giving support	Throughout 2026		
Increase visibility of giving	Promote giving routes; add info to screens/newsletters; contactless giving	During 2026		

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Send termly newsletter	Produce termly email; deliver printed copies; include stories & prayer	Every term		
Increase visibility online	Weekly posts; refresh website; share testimonies	Next year		
Explore signage	Review current signage; install clear directional signs; seasonal banners	Ongoing		

9. PROPERTY

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Improve chancel appearance	Ongoing improvement of the area for music performance, leading of worship and after-church prayers for people	Ongoing		
Maintain building & manse	Annual maintenance schedule; quarterly inspections; proactive budgeting	Ongoing		
Explore building extension	Feasibility group; architect consultation; congregational input	December 2026		

10. HUMAN RESOURCES/STAFFING WITHIN THE CHARGE, eg MDS, Reader, locally employed staff

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Support new minister	Welcome plan; regular check-ins; ensure rest/study time	Ongoing		
Explore increasing staff team	Review needs; assess funding; map roles; identify gaps present recommendations	June – Nov 2026		
Ensure paid staff are well supported & volunteers have access to support and guidance	Review T & C of paid staff Offer line management and clear support structures	Sept 2026 and annually		
Grow giftings within team	Training days; mentoring; encourage new roles; celebrate volunteers	Ongoing		
Finance training for volunteers	Allocate budget; support attendance at courses	Ongoing		

11. RELATIONSHIP WITH PROVISIONS OF APPROVED MISSION PLAN FOR PRESBYTERY

Aims / Objectives	Practical Actions	Timescale	Review 2027	Review 2028
Work in sheltered housing & care homes	Maintain services; build relationships with staff/residents	Ongoing		
Develop outreach in Cloverhill	Community events; listening exercises; partnerships	Ongoing		
Support schools work	Recruit volunteers; resource clubs; prayer support	Ongoing		
Encourage giving to foodbank	Monthly themes; drop-off points	Ongoing		
Improve energy efficiency	Energy audit; LED lighting; insulation; explore grants	Ongoing		
Be active partner in Area Grouping	Attend prayer meetings; Big Sing; share resources	Ongoing		