



Every Church a School for Disciples

A toolkit for PCCs questionnaire

No church can work on everything at once, so this leaflet is designed to help PCCs review how their church(es) approach discipleship, in order to identify and prioritise areas they need to develop.

One way to use it would be for all PCC members to complete this questionnaire ahead of a PCC meeting; then, at the meeting, use people's responses to identify where you are strong, what needs developing, and what are the most pressing things that your PCC needs to engage with. This will help identify what needs to be on the PCC agenda and how soon over the next two years.

Nurture and catechesis

How often does your church run a course to help potential and new Christians find out about the Christian faith?

- Every year?
- Every other year?
- Only when someone wants to be confirmed?
- Not in the last five years?
- Don't know

Every benefice or Mission and Ministry Unit (MMU) is challenged to run some sort of nurture / evangelism course for people who are exploring the Christian faith at least once a year. Examples of nurture courses include Pilgrim, Alpha and Christianity Explored.

Engaging with the Bible

What opportunities are there in your church to explore the Bible? Please tick as many as apply to your church?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Bible study groups and similar opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of Bible notes (e.g. Bible Reading Fellowship) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep listening to God and others (Lectio divina – see below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Study groups at particular times of year e.g. Lent courses | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Preaching is a good way to learn, but it cannot be the only one. Regular groups and courses help study the Bible. Individuals can use daily Bible study notes, produced by the Bible Reading Fellowship, the Bible Society (downloaded free at www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/lyfe), and Scripture Union. A bookmark explaining how to facilitate 'Deep listening to God and others' was handed out on the evening of Bishop Stephen's presentation.

Prayer

How can your church become even more of a house of prayer and a place where people are formed through prayer? Does your church offer any of the following? Please tick as many as apply to your church.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morning and / or Evening prayer is said publicly | <input type="checkbox"/> A course on prayer in the last two years (e.g. 'holding on') |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular prayer groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular prayer services (e.g. Taizé, Benediction, Celtic prayer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities after worship for a person or group to pray with individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> The church open for prayer at times of crisis |

Resources to help people to pray include the Daily Prayer app by Aimer (available to download to smart phones), for saying morning, evening or night prayer either individually or in a group. The diocese produced holding crosses in its centenary year (2014). The 'holding on' course is at www.transformingpresence.org.uk/resources-and-downloads

Stewardship

How can your church develop a culture of sacrificial generosity so that the overall ministry and impact of the church can develop? What policies does your church have in place to enable this? Please tick as many as apply to your church

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of the material sent out in September 2016 entitled "Giving for Life: Continuing the Journey" | <input type="checkbox"/> Sending an annual 'thank you' letter to planned givers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching about the principles of Christian giving (more than once a year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Having an annual review of giving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching about the principles of Christian giving (less than once a year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Using the SHAPE course (or similar material) to help people identify their gifts |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Using the Parish Buying Service |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopting a legacy policy |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

To find out more, explore the parish resources website www.parishresources.org.uk
For SHAPE course information visit www.chelmsford.anglican.org/faith/finding-your-ministry

Evangelism

How can your church continue to be a place that is growing and attracting new disciples? What has your church put in place to attract new people to the Christian faith (rather than to church)? This is often called 'intentional evangelism (or evangelisation)' Please tick as many boxes as apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> We ran a mission weekend or event in the centenary year (2014) | <input type="checkbox"/> Connecting with new housing areas (e.g. leafleting, visiting, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We have run a mission weekend or event or have made plans for one since 2014 | <input type="checkbox"/> One-off events (e.g. ashing people at a rail station on Ash Wednesday; having an outreach – rather than fundraising – stall at a village show) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An Evangelism Enabler is in place or in training in our parish or MMU | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One or more people have taken the Certificate of Evangelism course (or similar, e.g. Church Army 'stepping into evangelism') | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

More about the Certificate of Evangelism and Evangelism Enablers are at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/evangelism-enablers. More about 'Stepping into Evangelism' is at <http://ow.ly/1Ybu306N5E9>.

Christianity 24 / 7

How can your church enable people to live a distinctive lifestyle in and for the world, particularly focussing on issues of social justice, community and environmental issues; so that your church and each individual Christian is a blessing to others? What are the ways that your church actively promotes this? Please tick as many boxes as apply.

- Teaching on vocation as to do with the world, not just the church (e.g. understanding teaching, medicine, etc. as a possible calling)
- Being involved with strategies to meet a particular social need (e.g. street pastors, food bank, debt counselling)
- Engagement in inter-faith activities
- Engagement in Churches Together or other ecumenical activities
- Engagement with environmental issues (e.g. promoting energy saving, recycling, litter pick-ups, etc.)
- Running activities to bring communities together (e.g. street carnivals)
- Teaching and discussion about Christian values in a secular world
- Other
- Don't know

More information about School for Disciples at
www.transformingpresence.org.uk