

My notes:



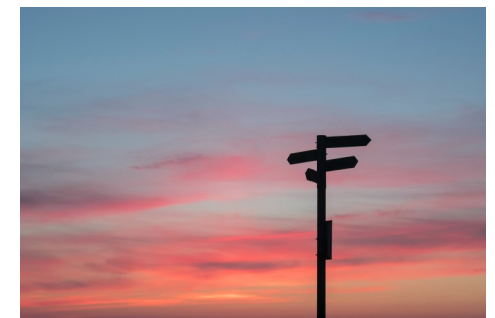
A local church journey

A Synod supported self-reflective process for churches

Being Church is a resource for churches to help you review, reform and reinvigorate (if necessary) your church life.

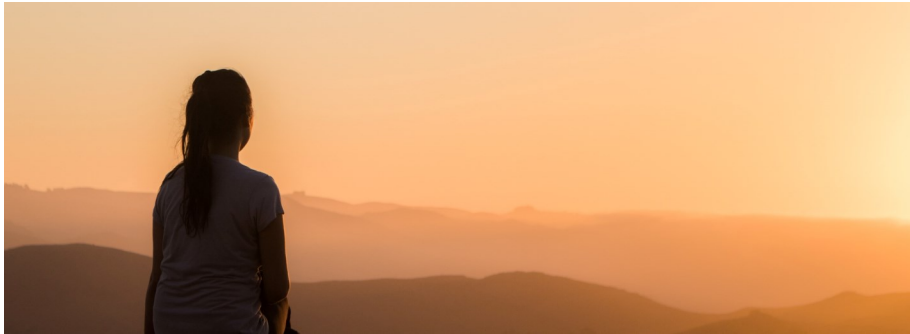
The questions in this booklet aim to help you, both as individuals and as a Church family, to reflect on where you are now and where you want to go.

You are encouraged to enter this time prayerfully, allowing space for the Holy Spirit to move among you and help you make decisions about the next stage of your journey.



A time for reflection, making notes and looking forward.

Foundation – our past



God has guided and supported the people of _____ church since _____. As you look back into the past you may find it helpful to spend a **brief time**:

- a. Compiling a brief history of the church on one page or creating a simple timeline of significant events.
- b. Reflecting on the highs – and the lows.
- c. Thinking about your role in, or relationships with, your community and other churches in the area
- d. Think about why your church began and how that has changed over the years.

Part B

The answers given in Part A will be collated for the whole church and will help the congregation to identify the purpose and mission focus during the vision day.

- What would we like to be known for, by the community now and looking towards the next seven years?
- Are we being called to develop something we already do in a fresh way?
- Are we doing things that we need to let go of?
- Are we being called to go out to meet people where they are or in a place more suitable, or are we being asked to draw people in and use our church buildings as a base?
- Who might we ask to support us on the way?
- Do our buildings meet the challenge of our calling or might we look to improve them in some way?
- What are the mission opportunities? What help do we need to finance these?
- How can we look to finance and resource the future?
- How can you support people to be disciples outside of the direct life of the church?
- How will this part of our journey require us to pray, worship, host and serve?
- How can the Synod support you with achieving this vision?

My notes:

Reflecting our past

My notes:



Reflecting – the present

Where do you meet, engage, have fellowship with people?

Ask who in your church family is involved in the different aspects of church life, church activity?



a. What presence does your church have in:

- local area/community
- (places congregation live and work)
- wider denomination
- other denominations
- other faith groups
- online community
- other (eg places where members of the congregation live and work)

b. How do we think we are perceived:

- as a place of worship?
(closed, lively, caring)
- as a people of God?
- as individual Christians?
- seeker friendly or 'just for the regulars'?
- online?
- other? (please specify)

- To speak to and up for the voiceless, the outcast, the prisoner, the oppressed ...
- To continue being church in this place
- To live and share the good news as we understand it and believe God is calling us
- To explore, share and grow in our faith together
- To be known as disciples of Jesus and how being part of church helps us live our lives
- To be a community of love and care
- To support and equip each other in the use of our individual gifts for the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God
- To care for and advocate actions to heal God's creation.



Other: please specify...

Thank you for taking time to do this; please return the separate form to the Church Secretary.

Our future

As you look to the future, consider whether there are things you do now that you need to let go of / is the Holy Spirit leading you to do something new?

Part A – Next Steps

Look at the following list of possible priorities and prayerfully consider where the Holy Spirit may be leading you and the church family.

The purpose of our church is ...

(Please number **no more than five in preference order**.)

If you think something is missing, add that in the space at the end – but that counts as one of your five!)



- To work for meaningful peace
- To join together in praise and worship
- To have a full and varied prayer life
- To be a meeting place
- To be intentionally invitational
- To be intentionally inclusive
- To be an integral part of this community
- To serve and care
- To look outward for opportunities
- To enable online opportunities

c. How do we worship together:

- as a community? (when, where, how)
- with the wider denomination?
- with other denominations?
- Online?
- with care homes, hospitals, etc?
- how do we pray, as a community, as individuals, for others? (at hospital, home, work, during visits, in open air events e.g. Good Friday walks)
- other? (please specify)

d. How do you witness to being a disciple of Jesus in the places you live, work and relax?

For example:

- I am a volunteer at.....
- I am a good neighbour to.....
- I actively support (local or national causes/campaigns/the environment...)
- I engage with issues of faith on social media, in the pub, at work, club, with family & friends, when travelling...
- I try to live out my faith in the places I spend most of my time...

As a Christian community? For example:

- we open the church doors to children/the elderly and disabled/homeless...
- we share our premises, our time and ourselves with...
- we have a developing relationship with...
- we share food and fellowship with...
- we break bread, pray, explore the Bible together with...
- we support people to be disciples in the whole of their lives...
- other... (please specify)

What do you think and feel about what you are doing?

My notes:

