

Diocese of Ripon and Leeds

Resources for Mission

Exploring Evangelism~ becoming disciples of Jesus Christ

Questions for your church



A strategy produced by the Evangelism Task Group to encourage people in the parishes to proclaim afresh the good news of Jesus Christ

QUESTIONS THE LOCAL CHURCH MIGHT ASK ITSELF

The questions set out below might be used by the PCC to think about its ministry and mission. They could be the basis of an away-day reflection or a small group could be asked to reflect on them and report to the PCC. You might think of other ways to use them. We hope you will find them helpful in your work of evangelism.

Church in this place

What were we set up for? Have these reasons been remembered? Have they changed?

What does our context require of us in being church here?

What would our wider community miss if our church wasn't here?

What is our church known for in the wider community?

Worship as good news

How accessible for newcomers and visitors is the whole experience of worship in our church?

What do we do that attracts people to worship?

What do we do that might put them off?

How does our offering of worship connect gospel with our community?

How does our spirituality reflect our setting?

'Evangelism is the process by which people become disciples of Jesus Christ', so:

What processes have we put in place for that purpose and/or

How do we make space for people to ask questions and share stories?

How are people helped to grow spiritually here?

How do people learn their faith here?

Jesus taught about and demonstrated the Kingdom of God

What do we understand by this and how is it related to what we do as church?

How do we maintain Christ's own ministry of healing?

How do we demonstrate a commitment to the poor and marginalized?

You may like to ask a member of the Mission Resourcing Team to facilitate a discussion in your church around these questions.

You may wish to embark on a Mission Companions process or invite the Adviser on Fresh Expressions to meet your PCC.

You may find some helpful resources in the Diocesan Learning Resources Centre in the diocesan office in Leeds. Most resources are listed on the diocesan website.

You may wish to contact the Director for Lay Development or other members of the training team.

And below are a few mission statements from parishes in the diocese. Have you formulated a mission statement for your church?

Adrian Alker, Director of Mission Resourcing

Tel : 0113 2000559 Email : Adrian.Alker@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk

This parish commits itself to serving God by reaching out to our community through Christian love, fellowship and worship, with no strings attached.

Easby with Skeeby and Brompton on Swale and Bolton on Swale, Mission Statement

... the Parish of Knaresborough aims to present the Christian Gospel in such a way that it may be known and joyfully experienced by everyone.





Knaresborough Parish, Vision Statement

We want to be a growing church; welcoming people and helping them to become lasting disciples for Jesus Christ, and then working in partnership with all the churches to make the good news of Jesus known ... *St George's Leeds, Vision Statement,*

The Evangelism Task Group

The Group serves as a task group of the Diocesan Council for Mission with the aim of encouraging and enabling people across the diocese to proclaim afresh in our generation the good news of Jesus Christ in partnership with all Christians.

We hope to

-  Encourage Christian communities to explore new ways of enabling people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and promote effective nurture/discipling opportunities in all our churches/benefices.
-  Promote, in collaboration with the Diocesan Worship Committee and others, vital, energising worship as being the consistent offering of the Church.
-  Promote a culture of invitation, welcome and hospitality in our churches, which includes providing access into the experience of church for those with little or no previous experience.
-  Provide questions for the local church to stimulate discussion about its outreach and impact (see page)

In doing all this, the Group will continually seek to work in partnership across denominations and will draw attention to resources appropriate for engagement in mission, including those of Leading Your Church into Growth, Back to Church Sunday, Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Church Army and Fresh Expressions.

If you would like to be involved in the work of the Evangelism Task Group and/or have ideas to share please do contact us. The task group will endeavour to respond to ideas which will help parishes in their evangelism and outreach.

James, Bishop of Knaresborough

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