

Stage 2: Know Your Church

Session 3 – Reflecting on what we’ve learnt so far – next stage

This session builds on the work carried out over the previous two meetings. We will discuss the information collected in the congregational questionnaire, then reflect on the most significant things we have learnt about our church. The group will also have a go at producing a neighbourhood map.

Session Objectives

At the end of this session, the group will have:

- Shared the collated responses to the congregational questionnaire
- Had space to reflect as a group on the questionnaire results
- Listed the most significant things they have learnt about their church so far
- Produced a neighbourhood map

Session notes

	Activity
	<p>Present: Colin Alison, Lynne, Mathew, Margaret, John, Tim, Steven, Margaret</p> <p>Visiting John Melson</p> <p>Opening Prayer – Margaret opened in prayer</p> <p>Introductions – John Melson from the RC Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. John explained that he was attending the session to observe how part of the process worked in practice as the RC Diocese are hoping to use KYCKYN as a tool to help develop the recently formed Partnerships across the RC diocese. It is hoped that Steve will be involved in training volunteers to run sessions.</p> <p>.</p>
	<p>Introduction to Session</p> <p>Explore the session objectives together – outlining the plan for the evening, quite a lot to get through.</p> <p>Notes – Steve – summarised the process to date in order to remind the group where we are up to and where we are planning to go, also acknowledging that we are using parts of the process slightly differently</p>
	<p>Feedback from the congregational questionnaire</p> <p>Notes Tim had already done some initial collating of the data produced from the questionnaire. It was noted that there are approximately 300 people who attend/have attended services at Holy Trinity at some point.</p>

	<p>142 Questionnaires were returned from people who attended both the morning and evening services on Sunday 3rd December. This did not include adults helping with children’s work. Some children did fill in part of the questionnaires Tim has not included their information yet.</p> <p>We discussed the information that Tim had prepared – there were clearly some surprises and interesting statistics however we didn’t come to any firm conclusions at this stage as the information was only a partial picture. In order to get a sense of some of the other data we split into two groups and divided the completed questionnaires between the groups. We looked at and discussed the remaining 4 questions. We shared some feedback using the following questions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was confirmed by the questionnaire? • What was surprising about peoples responses? • What does this information tell us about the capacity of the church to undertake new activity? <p>A summary of some of the feedback included;</p> <p>We need to hear what children have to say – we could reword the questionnaire</p> <p>There is evidence to indicate that some people have capacity and willingness to develop things in the parish we need to identify who they are.</p> <p>There was some disappointment that not many people were prepared to get involved in the parish – yet this was understandable given that a large proportion of the congregation do not live within the parish</p> <p>The demographic of the parish was interesting and surprised us – there was more balance across the age ranges than some of us thought</p>
	<p>Learning so far we moved from discussing the questionnaire to thinking about what we have found out/learnt so far. This was in order just to check back what we had done to date as we are at the halfway point. Also an opportunity to think about what we hope to be doing over the next session.</p> <p>We remained in our 2 groups in order to discuss the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most significant things you have learnt about your church so far? • What would you like people in your church to learn from what you have done? • What does the church already contribute to the neighbourhood? • What are the barriers for the church in reaching out to its neighbours? • What resources might the church be able to offer or develop? • Do we get a sense that members of the church have a heart for transformation in their local neighbourhood? <p>During the feedback from our discussion it became apparent that as a church we were already doing quite a lot within the neighbourhood/parish. We acknowledged that we do not always see evidence between the numbers of people coming to “social/community” events and church attendance. We recognised that building relationships and growing our congregational numerically can be a “slow burn”.</p> <p>We began to think more about how HT is a blessing to the parish by thinking about the activities already in place – also thinking about the capacity of the congregation to sustain what we do before we think about potentially doing more.</p>

	<p>At this Steve suggested we hold off doing the Neighbourhood map this evening and do this at the start of session 4 in January and continue our discussions about the gifts and assets of HT and what it currently contributes to the parish. The group were in agreement.</p> <p>The idea of using January as a month of celebration of gifts – thinking about some of the key areas of our mission and ministry to the parish these included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vintage • Messy Church • Trinity Tots • Walking Group • Home groups • Fairs and markets • Music • Leaders <p>We discussed the idea of sharing information about these activities with the wider congregation, which would include numbers attending, when and where they take place who is currently leading and appeal for more help/support/volunteers where needed e.g. Vintage.</p> <p>Use it as a bit of a recruitment campaign</p> <p>We also agreed that stories/testimonials/quotes from people coming to the activities would be useful and powerful.</p> <p>Rather than get into the detail of how we would do this Tim offered to coordinate this with the help of Alison.</p> <p>Steve apologised for not getting through all of the tasks planned for this evenings session however this discussion about gifts and assets seemed to generate quite a lot of energy and positive feeling within the group and seemed like a good place to finish this evenings session.</p>
<p>Steve</p> <p>All the Group</p>	<p>Preparing for next session</p> <p>Prepare to carry out a “Community Conversation” look at Appendix 11 and 12 discuss and plan conversations. There are a couple of handouts which can be circulated with these notes Steve to forward to the Hub (Tim and Alison) Have a look at the handouts and we will refer to them when we next meet in January</p>
	<p>Closing prayers – Colin closed the session with Prayer</p>