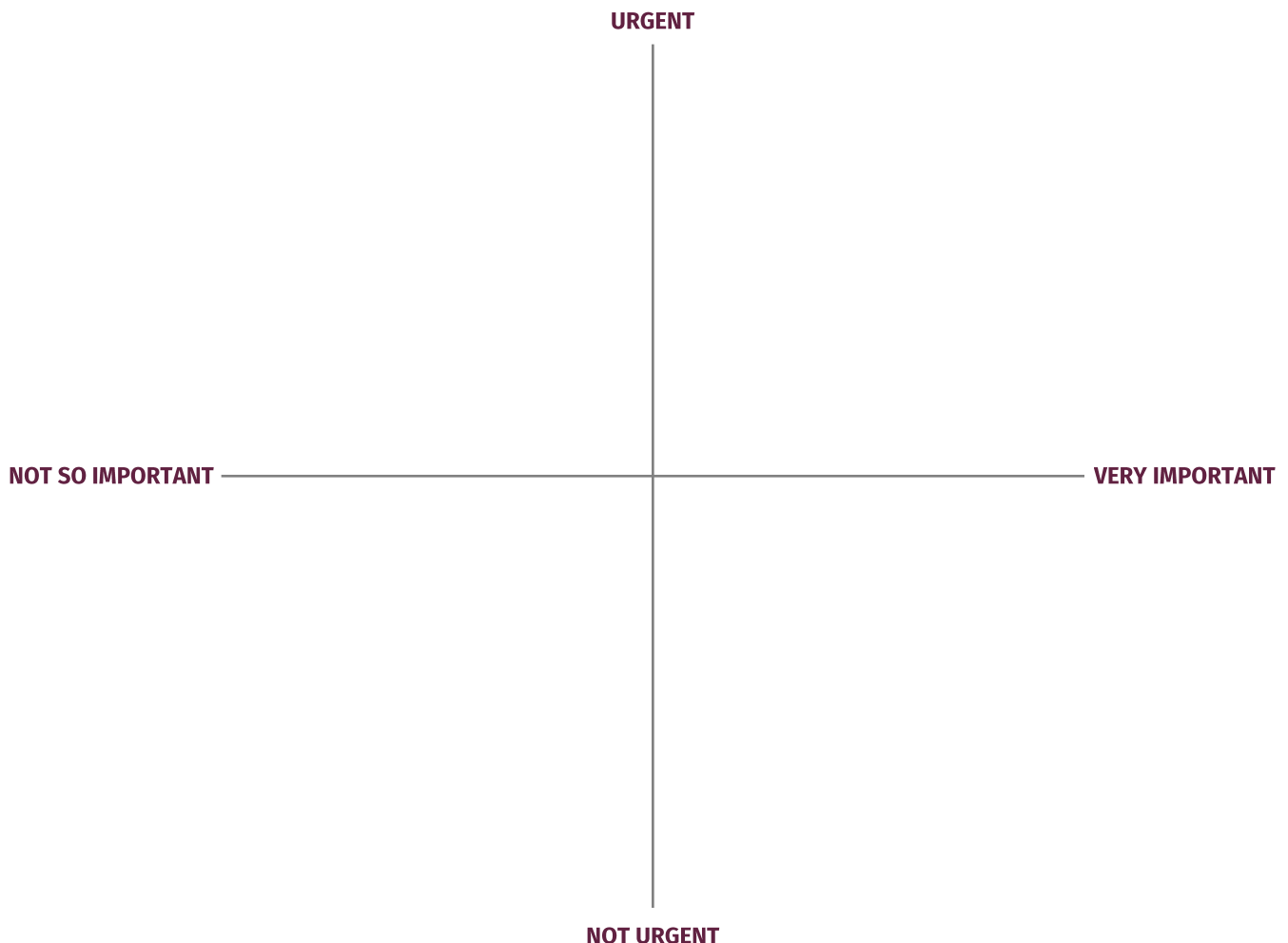


TEN QUESTIONS

Clarifying and Planning Around Priorities

- STEP 1** Identify your questions and hone them down to 10.
- STEP 2** Ask others in leadership to do the same, and then share them together and create a collective ten.
- STEP 3** Place them on the grid below according to importance and urgency.
- STEP 4** Put a number next to each question according to how much time/energy, and how many people, will be required to address the question where 1=little and 5=a lot. This isn't an exact science, you are just trying to get a sense of the 'size' of the question.
- STEP 5** Place your questions in priority order.
- STEP 6** Plan when and with whom (PCC, elders, Church Wardens, Staff Team, COVID response team, colleague, friend etc.) you are going to address each question using the planning tool on page 2.



Example Questions

We asked two vicars to come up with their ten questions. They work in very different contexts, and identified the following.

1. With all that is going on, how can we continue to reach out/engage our community, including the schools? And what are the emerging needs? (In this community it's not obvious.)
2. We are going to carry on live streaming even though we will also be physically gathered, but how do we improve our technology so it is a consistently good experience for those listening?
3. How do we make those online feel part of the church (and particularly avoid almost creating an off-line cohort that doesn't really want to engage – theological issues we need to think through)?
4. Given we are live streaming, we've noticed this has impacted how vulnerable we are in sermons and also what we talk about. So how do we reconcile this?
5. How do we maintain a good pastoral culture when many may continue to stay at home in the months ahead, or if we have to keep wearing face masks, we can't talk so freely? It feels as though the whole friendly/warm culture that had been building, risks being stopped in its tracks!
6. Also, as time goes on, it's feeling more difficult to actively keep in touch with people who aren't coming – there is so much else to do. We have a pastoral visiting team who are phoning around, but nevertheless, how do we maintain a sense of unity as a church family? Do we really have a meaningful awareness of where people are at the moment?
7. How do I maintain a good ministry rhythm? Planning ahead/talking/generally organising feels so much more difficult (or at least needs more energy) in this COVID world... Maybe a reflection on just how much 'stuff' gets done on Sundays, in the margins of Sunday and midweek face-to-face meetings?
8. Do we re-engage with seeking a children's/family worker?
9. Right now doesn't feel the right time to review our vision – there is still far too much uncertainty in the months ahead and so many things yet to land – but on the other hand, we have a sense that COVID has provoked some good changes and we don't want to go backwards. So, how do we resolve this tension – perhaps feel our way for the next few months and then do a re-envision exercise perhaps in the summer?
10. It's not easy for our curate – how do we maintain his training well if the constraints last well into next year?



1. Which online services do we continue?
2. How do we change service times, especially in light of the diocese selling the venue that we do our kids work in?
3. How will we get people back in the building from the comfort of their own home when that becomes possible?
4. How do we get families back? How do we re-engage with kids and young people?
5. How do we stay connected with the new online engagers?
6. How do we continue to make the distinction between the church building and the church family?
7. Who is going to work the technology? Where is the money going to come from to pay for the technology to make it all work to a reasonable standard?
8. How do we catch up with baptisms and weddings without it impacting on regular Sunday worship?
9. How do we pay our parish share?
10. How do we help new online volunteers (intercessors, readers and craft) grow in their ministry in the building?



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