CASE STUDY

You are the leader of three churches in suburban Birmingham. One of your churches has a congregation of around thirty. It is situated in the middle of a well-established area of mixed housing - private and housing association homes; young people, families and retireds with a mix of ethnic origins.

The church has some community contact - there is a toddlers & young parents group in the premises in the week and some local, especially primary school, contacts but none of these have encouraged people from outside to come along to the Sunday service. This is attended by thirty, largely elderly, well-established members who have lived in the area and gathered together for many years and do not seem to be proactive in their role of bringing God's good news into the community.

Unless the church grows, it is very likely to close. The building will be sold off and this will leave any remaining members of the congregation who wish to continue to worship to go to one of the nearby sister congregations about a mile away (but not readily accessible for some of the current congregation, who do not drive and would need to walk to get there).

You are seeking to really engage with and serve the communities in the area, especially the families and share with them Christ's goods news but you are concerned that the current congregation may simply prefer to carry on meeting as they currently do.

How would you initiate the sort of change you are seeking with the members of the church?

Identify one or two key things that you might do.