



LEADING EVANGELISM

LEARNING HUB

Connect • Model • Order • Mobilise

SESSION 1
30 SEPTEMBER 2023

ONLINE



WELCOME

Welcome to the Leading Evangelism Learning Hub. This is the first of eight sessions we will gather online for over the next 14 months. We're really looking forward to joining you on this adventure together. We hope today will be fun, informative, and helpful. If there is anything we can do to help the day go better for you please ask.

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Guidelines

Learning together.
Minimise guilt, maximise grace.
Participate.
Confidentiality.
Reality check.
Next step.

Say Hello

- Name.
- Where from.
- Things most looking forward to about autumn.
- In what ways have you experienced your faith as good news?

TECHNICAL STUFF

Zoom Details

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89624045656?pwd=dli2OWlPL3c5YjVOaExINWo2dUhsZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 2404 5656

Passcode: 573768

Google Classroom for Online Hub 3

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NjE0ODQwNzA3MzQ4>

Code: **rf3wx2q**

TIMINGS

09.45	Welcome & Session 1
11.00	Coffee
11.20	Session 2
12.40	Lunch
13.35	Session 3
14.35	Tea
15.00	Session 4
16.00	Depart

Timings are for guidance only, apart from the end time. We will finish by 4pm.

LEAD ON

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SCAN ME



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PART 1

**WHY A LEADING
EVANGELISM
LEARNING HUB?**

Why?

1. AT THE HEART OF OUR FAITH IS GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

‘The best decision anyone can ever make, at any point in life, in any circumstances, whoever they are, wherever they are, whatever they are, is to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. There is not a better decision for a human being in this life, any human being.’

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury



EXERCISE

How have you experienced your faith as good news?

2. MANY CHURCHES ARE NOT FINDING IT EASY TO WORK OUT HOW TO SHARE THIS GOOD NEWS IN THE SORT OF WORLD WE FIND OURSELVES IN

‘The gospel constantly needs forwarding to a new address because the recipients keep changing their place of residence.’

Helmut Thielicke



EXERCISE

TOP THREE PERSONAL BRAKES

What are your top three personal brakes when it comes to evangelism?

1.

2.

3.

TOP THREE CHURCH BRAKES

What are the top three brakes for your churches when it comes to evangelism?

1.

2.

3.

3. THERE ARE THINGS THOSE IN LEADERSHIP CAN DO TO FURTHER THE MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM

LEADERSHIP

IS

ORDERING and MOBILISING

A COMMUNITY

AROUND

THE PERSON OF JESUS

and THE PRIORITIES OF HIS KINGDOM

‘The church without evangelism has lost its heart. Evangelism without church has lost its body. There is a medical recognition that you need to maintain the two.’

George Lings

A PRAYER

Almighty God,
Grant that your Church
may faithfully hold and make known
the faith that has come to us through the apostles,
that with them and all your saints
we may inherit the glories of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



PART 2
CONNECT
WITH GOD



DWELLING IN THE WORD

LUKE 10:1-12

Dwelling in the Word is a process that many people are using to listen to Scripture, to each other and to God. It's not about sharing information or seeking scholarly answers or even the right answers to the issues raised in the text, but it is about listening well to one another and discerning what God is up to amongst us.

We invite the Holy Spirit in prayer to open our ears, hearts and minds. We listen to the passage read out loud and notice where our attention is drawn – a verse, phrase or single word. We then remain in silence for a minute or two, staying with the place in the passage that stood out for us.

LUKE 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ 'When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ 'When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal those there who are ill and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ "Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near." ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

- 1** We each turn to a person in our group. If there is someone you don't know so well engage with them.
- 2** We listen to that person as he or she says what they heard in the passage in a particular verse, phrase or even single word. They may mention something they'd never heard before, something odd or something comforting, or something about which they'd like to find out more about.
- 3** Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of your group what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. Some people even take notes to help them focus and remember. If you don't yet know each other well, introduce your partner by name to the group and then share what you heard them say. Each one takes their turn when they are ready to speak.
- 4** If there is time a conversation develops around what God is saying to us today from the themes arising in the whole group. It can be helpful for the group co-ordinator to keep a brief note of themes and insights that arise.

Space for Your Reflections on Luke 10:1-12



Bonus Practice – 15 Minutes a Day

‘Remain in me as I also remain in you.’ (John 15:4)

SUMMARY

Developing a daily practice of intentional time to engage with God is foundational for the spiritual life, and often vital for motivating people to share their faith. Invite and resource people to spend 15 minutes with God each day.

EXPLANATION

Without a lived experience of God it is hard to see faith sharing as a priority, let alone to do it. Research reveals that the level of discipleship is low within many churches, with, for example, over 60% of self-disclosed people connected with churches saying they never read their Bibles. Church leaders tend to confirm such research through their experience: many within congregations who have no daily or weekly habits of prayer; regular attendance at church increasingly seen as fortnightly at best, monthly more often; few practising some of the basic spiritual disciplines such as giving, fasting, or praying, let alone some of the more ‘advanced’ disciplines.

Whilst there are many ways people can nurture faith, throughout the centuries of Church history one of the core spiritual practices has been to spend intentional time with God each day, normally involving prayer and engagement with the Scriptures. In some traditions the emphasis is on this being a personal practice, in others a corporate one. It was fascinating during the pandemic lockdown to hear that online daily prayer (be it a daily office or some form of non-liturgical scriptural reflection and prayer) was one of the significant growth points for many churches.

More recently Justin Whitmel Earley has explored what a rule of life might look like in an age of distraction in his book *The Common Rule* (‘common’ because they are done with others). He suggests four daily habits and four weekly ones. Two of his daily habits are ‘kneeling prayer’ and ‘scripture before phone’. He suggests: ‘As far as habits go, the invisible reality is this: we are all living according to a specific regimen of habits, and those habits shape most of our life.’

So here is the idea: ask people to spend 15 minutes a day to pray and read the Scriptures. 15 minutes is both doable (there are very few people who can’t make 15 minutes a day), and a stretch (for many 15 minutes each day is beyond their existing practice). It is important that we don’t simply ask people to do this, but resource them with a wide variety of aids and ideas to help them into this daily practice (see the resources section).

Such a practice can play a significant part in changing the spiritual temperature of our congregations. ‘Draw near to God and he will draw near to you’ (James 4:8) is a

wonderful promise. As we draw near to God our outlook shifts, our attitudes and assumptions are shaped, our priorities are changed. Formation occurs as we increasingly develop the ‘mind of Christ’, and love for God and love for neighbour increasingly become priorities for how we live our lives. Without such intentional engagement with God we are building on a weak foundation.

‘Enthusiasm for evangelism doesn’t begin with evangelism at all. Enthusiasm for evangelism begins with an enthusiasm for Jesus. My willingness to speak of Jesus arises from my delight in Jesus.’

Tim Chester

Tips

- Try to avoid a guilt trip. Gratitude for what God has done tends to be a better motivator for spending time with him than a sense of guilt that I ought to be doing more.
- You may decide in your context 15 minutes isn’t the right length of time. No problems, whether it is five or 25 is up to you. What is helpful is to name a goal for people to aim at.
- Be careful not to impose your spiritual practices on others. Not only does what works for us not necessarily not work for others, but most of us have found that in different seasons of life different things have worked for us. There are a wide range of ways that people could do this, so try to illustrate possibilities by either sharing a variety of practices, or interviewing a variety of people who are already doing things that work for them.
- Many resources are available as Apps. This is a great for ease of access and portability, but it is good to be thoughtful about them, as one of the problems many people have is an unhealthy relationship with their mobile. Trying to engage with God using their phone may simply lead them to be distracted by other things. Sometimes paper based things are the best way forward.



RESOURCES

There are loads of resources available to help people with a pattern of daily prayer. Choose those which will work in your tradition and context. Be sure to resource children and young people as well as adults. Here are a few suggestions.

- Invite people to join you for a daily time of prayer and Scripture reading online (morning or evening prayer, compline, or some other form). Online makes it more accessible to people than onsite.
- Use social media to prompt young people to read a verse and pray at the same time each day.
- If they are spending 15 minutes engaging with God on their own, provide some suggestions for how to structure that time, for example:
 - ⇒ Identify a regular time and place where Monday to Saturday you can spend 15 minutes with God. It could be a particular chair in your lounge, on the train as you commute to work, as you walk the dog, a quiet space in your lunch break at work, with a coffee having just dropped the kids off to school and so on. A regular time and space generally helps with forming a habit, a rhythm.
 - ⇒ Start your time with a short prayer asking God to help you meet with him.
 - ⇒ Read or listen to a passage from the Bible (see below).
 - ⇒ Reflect on it (write/journal if that helps) using a few questions: what does this passage help me understand about God? What encouragement does it offer me? What does it ask me to do? How might I apply that today?
 - ⇒ Pray in the light of your reflections, and then pray for your five, for the next 24 hours, for the concerns of the world and those you know.

Resources to help people engage with the Bible

- Bible reading notes for all ages:
 - ⇒ www.brfonline.org.uk/pages/bible-reading-notes-at-a-glance.
 - ⇒ <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/bible-reading-guides>.
 - ⇒ www.thegoodbook.co.uk/daily-bible-reading.
- The You Version bible App offers a variety of reading plans and daily passages, www.youversion.com/the-bible-app.
- The Bible Explore App, www.thegoodbook.co.uk/explore-app.
- The Bible in One Year (read or listen); www.bibleinoneyear.org, links to App and daily emails.
- Free online daily Bible study guide, www.wordlive.org/Home/145653.id#XGaCcu7Q2x.
- For an overview of further resources go to www.blackburn.anglican.org/storage/general-files/shares/Resources/Prayer%20worship%20and%20discipleship/Bible_study_resources.pdf.
- Sam Corley has done an incredible job of introducing

every book in the Bible in short YouTube videos in an accessible way. Great for people who want to know a bit more about a book before they read them www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiEYWfMmuteSqksMSm-0V52bRWg1QSRMH.

- Alternatively the Bible Project has a series of animated videos to introduce books and themes of the Bible <https://bibleproject.com/explore/> and the Visual Unit offers diagrams that layout biblical books or themes on a single page <https://visualunit.me/category/english/>.

Resources to help with prayer

- Daily Prayer Apps from the Church of England, www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/download-church-england-apps.
- Lectio 365 App focuses around praying the Scriptures each morning and evening www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional.
- Sacred Space, either online or as an App, is an Ignatian guide to daily prayer www.sacredspace.ie/.
- PrayerMate App is a way of ordering your intercessory prayer, enabling you to link to many organisations and charities prayer requests, www.prayermate.net/app.
- Northumbria Community daily prayer, www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices.
- Inner Room App from 24-7 Prayer <https://innerroom.app/>.
- Centering Prayer App encourages a daily practice of still centred prayer through its App. www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-mobile-app.
- Pause App encourages you to take a one, three or five minute pause in the middle of your day with an image and verse to reflect on www.pauseapp.com.

A PRAYER

God of gentleness and love
Draw near to us as we draw near to you
Dwell in every heart and conversation
Fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to be
And all that you are calling us to do.
Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a more contemplative,
more compassionate and more courageous Church
For the building of your kingdom and the glory of your Son.
Amen

Diocese of Oxford Prayer for Dwelling in the Word



PART 3

CONNECT

WITH GOD'S

VOCATION FOR

THE CHURCH

OUR VOCATION

‘As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.’ - John 20:21

Based on the five marks of mission:

- **Mission is the vocation of the Church:** our committed participation as God’s people, at God’s invitation and command, in God’s own mission within the history of God’s world for the redemption of God’s creation.
- **Evangelism is an activity of the Church:** the proclaiming of the good news of the kingdom, the verbal communication about Jesus.
- **Witnesses is a description of the Church:** we are witnesses to the reality of Christ in both word and deed, in our gathered and scattered life as the people of God.
- **Gospel is the message of the Church:** the good news about Jesus and his kingdom.
- **Evangelist is a gift to the Church:** those are particularly gifted and called to communicate the good news about Jesus and help the rest of us play our part in the ministry of evangelism.



‘To be a disciple is to be made a witness. The task of evangelism, then, is not a separate activity, but, rather, is characteristic of every aspect of discipleship.’

Hannah Steele

Why is Evangelism an Important Part of the Life of a Healthy Church?

Here are five reasons rooted in our Scripture and tradition. See what you make of each of them.

FIRSTLY, EVANGELISM REFLECTS WHO GOD IS

God is a sending God who purposes good for his world. We see this in Genesis when the world is given to humankind to steward for his good purposes. We see this in the covenant established with Abraham that God's chosen people would be sent by him to be a blessing to the world. We see it in Jesus who is sent by his heavenly Father to redeem the world so that we may once again know God and help others to know him. We see it in the sending of the Holy Spirit to establish the Church as God's agent for good in the world. Evangelism honours who God is.

SECONDLY, EVANGELISM REFLECTS WHO WE ARE

We are God's sent people, sent by Jesus to continue his mission and ministry throughout the ages. This is how Jesus phrases it in John 20:21 'As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.' The sacrament of baptism is a commissioning into Jesus' mission and ministry, and each Sunday at the end of the eucharist we are reminded of this in the commissioning at the end of the service: 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. Evangelism embraces our identity as the people of God.

THIRDLY, EVANGELISM RECOGNISES WHO PEOPLE ARE

Human beings are wonderfully created by God, and tragically lost in life. We are lovingly made to be in relationship with God, and yet have broken that relationship in a myriad of ways, and the consequences are around for all to see. Broken relationships with one another, broken relationship with the planet, broken relationship with ourselves. Our faith takes seriously the glory and the garbage of human kind, and recognises that we are only able to fully flourish within the loving purposes of the God who made us. Evangelism recognises people need the forgiveness and fresh start Jesus offers.

FOURTHLY, EVANGELISM RECOGNISES THE LONGINGS OF HUMANKIND

Human beings have longings, and those longings are a sign of the fact that we are made in God's image. Our longing for belonging – for love, intimacy, and community – are because we are made by a relational God who placed us within human community. Our longings for fulfilment – for purpose, meaning, and adventure – are because we are made by a purposeful God who has a purpose for the world and all within it. Our longings for sense – for an understanding of our identity, of death, of sickness and suffering – are because we are made as rational beings with the ability to imagine, reflect, and act. All these longings find their fulfilment in God and in his purposes for the world. Evangelism is a way of loving people, helping them discover the God who can fulfil their longings and make sense of life.

FIFTHLY, EVANGELISM EMBRACES THE ESCHATOLOGICAL REALITY OF THE NOW AND NOT YET OF THE KINGDOM

We live in a tension, the tension between Jesus' first coming and his second coming. We have had a foretaste of what is to come. We know something of the freedom that Christ's death and resurrection brings, yet we know that all is not as it should be, and that there is more to come. The foretaste convinces us that we have something too precious to keep to ourselves. The longing for that day when all will be well rooted in the hope we have in Christ that means death loses its sting, and life beyond death is a sure and certain hope, convinces us that others deserve an invite to the party. Evangelism offers the fullness of life now and the hope of life to come to all who will receive it as gift.

For further material on the theology of evangelism and its relationship with discipleship and leadership see the various articles on the Google Classroom site.

'AS THE FATHER
HAS SENT ME, SO I
AM SENDING YOU.'

JOHN 20:21

FOR REFLECTION

What does being 'sent by Jesus' mean for you in your daily life?

How could you better support one another in your churches as you heed the charge at the end of the Eucharist 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.'



PART 4
CONNECT WITH
WHERE PEOPLE ARE
AT TODAY

HOW DOES EVANGELISM WORK TODAY?

1. As it Always has Done



EXERCISE

In pairs with someone you don't know share your story of how you have come to faith in Christ.

Reflect on the story you have told, can you identify someone (or some people) who was significant in helping you on your journey to faith?

Acts 9:10-19 The Patron Saint of Ordinary Evangelism

Open to God.

Honest before God.

Obedient to God.

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- How am I doing on being open to the gentle nudges of God?
- How am I doing on being honest about my own concerns?
- How am I doing being obedient to do this based on his word rather than my own preferences and feelings?

Safe Assumptions about Evangelism

- God is the evangelist and he knows what he is doing.
- God wants our contacts to come to faith in Christ.
- God wants to use you, you have a part to play.
- God wants to use your churches.

2. A Little Differently

PROCLAIM AFRESH
THE GOSPEL IN
EVERY
GENERATION.
ORDINATION SERVICE



EXERCISE

Record the significant changes in society for each decade.

2020

2010

2000

1990

1980

1970

1960

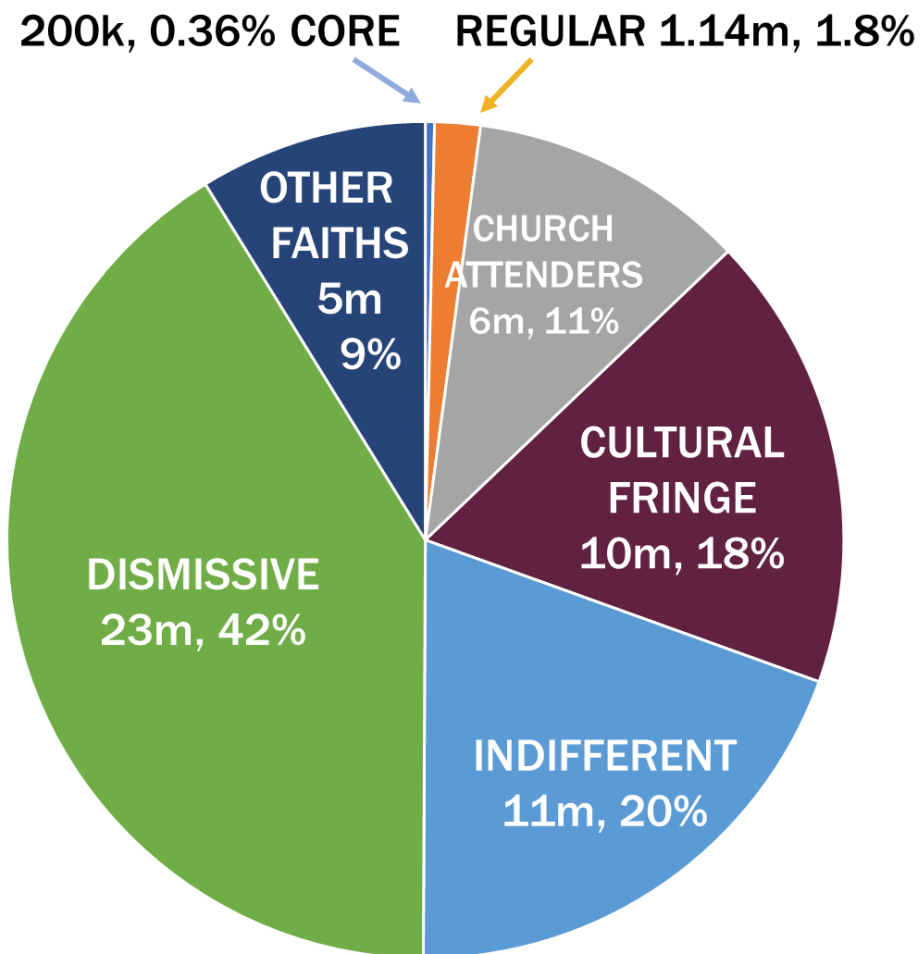
1950

1940

1930

1920

MISSION MAP OF ENGLAND



'Evangelism has never depended on a sunny analysis of the culture it is seeking to Christianise; if that were the case, the West would never have been evangelised in the first place.... There is no good reason why the evangelist should be intimidated by prophets of doom who argue that the prospects for evangelism are bleak in the extreme.'

William Abraham, quoted by Hannah Steel, Living His Story

Breakdown of Categories

Out of six million regular church attenders (11% of population)...

CORE ANGLICAN

- 200,000 (0.36% of the population).
- More likely to be female.
- Older than average population.
- Likely to attend weekly or biweekly.
- Has leadership role in church.
- Prayer and Bible is important.
- Society should be rooted in Christian values.
- Wants to make a difference.

REGULAR ANGLICAN WORSHIPPER

- 1,000,000 (1.8% of the population).
- More likely to be female.
- Older than average population.
- Likely to have been part of Christian family.
- Likely to attend church less frequently than core.
- Faith is important to them.
- Part of 6m regular worshippers (11% pop).
- 19% believe in God and have no doubts (BSA).

Within the rest of the population...

CULTURAL FRINGE

- 10,000,000 (18% of the population).
- Grew up with some church experience at home/school.
- Tend to believe in God or God force.
- Faith not figure in day-to-day life, but may self identify as Christian/Anglican.
- Likely to attend Christmas service, Cathedral service or life events.
- Views church role to help society and provide moral basis.
- Group declining the quickest 'neither religious or non religious' .
- 6.6m regard themselves as Anglicans, down from 18.4m in 1983 (BSA)

INDIFFERENT TO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 11,000,000 (20% of the population).
- Not religious and don't go to church.
- Church is old fashioned and not for me.
- Faith does not figure in day-to-day life, but may self identify as Christian.
- Not hostile to Christians or faith but it doesn't register for them.
- 88% of population are positive or neutral about Christians (BSA).
- Church has a role to serve the poor and vulnerable, and still has impact.

DIMISSIVE OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 23,000,000 (42% of the population).
- Rise of the 'nones' (20.5m ONS).
- Very wary of religious control.
- Tolerance and acceptance is key.
- This group is growing the fastest.
- 14.3m don't believe in God (4.9m in 1998) BSA.
- 9.9m are agnostic.
- Prefer to be called non-religious than atheist.
- Top three values are family, friendship and freedom (University of Kent).

OTHER FAITHS (STATS FROM ONS 2011)

- 5 million (9% of the population).
- Muslims 2.7m.
- Hindus 817,000.
- Sikhs 423,000.
- Jewish 263,000.
- Buddhist 248,000.
- Other religion 240,000.

	Gen Z (iGen) 2000-	Millennials (Gen Y) 1984-2000	Busters (Gen X) 1964-1983	Baby boomers 1946-1963	Builders 1925-1945
Key question	Who am I?	What's my choice?	How does it feel?	Does it work?	Is it true?
Expect leaders to	Give opportunities, be flexible, inclusive, and generous	Collaborate and involve me from the start	Consult/ understand me	Be competent and professional	Give teaching and direction
Approach to technology	Hack it	Employ it	Enjoy it	Master it	Hope to outlive it
Preferred methods of communication	Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok	Tweets, texts , Facebook	Websites and emails	Combination of printed materials and emails	Letters, parish magazines, notice sheets
Approach to communication	Keep it short	Make it interactive	Keep it real	Just give me the bottom line	Let me know all the details
Approach to learning	Make it visual, engaging and bite-sized. Use story, be vulnerable, and keep it fluid. Works best when it involves blended learning, the flipped classroom, and connects with global concerns.	Make it fun and interactive. Exercises are important, but make sure they are interesting. Works best when it is applicable to my immediate needs, engaging and two-way. Take me on a journey.	Make it relevant and practical. Give me team exercises, in-tray exercises and role play. Works best when it is rigorous and relevant, delivered by an expert. Involve me, make it interactive.	Make me think, give me something new, convince me. Don't make me take part in role plays. Works best when it is convincing, intelligent, delivered by an authority on the subject. Lecture style is fine.	Make it clear what I need to know. Be precise and expansive in your explanation.
My first commitment is to	My community (global)	My friends	People as people	My area of work	The organisation
Working together	I'm looking to connect globally	I'm looking for fun in my team	I need a team to do anything	I see the need to work in a team	I'd prefer to work on my own
Disagreement	More dialogue, less confrontation	Navigate around it	Get it out in the open and discuss it	Decide according to what is most efficient	Avoid confrontation
Description	Fluid	Connected	Involved	Busy	Faithful
Mood	Cautious	Confident	Cautious	Confident	Cautious

Shifts

See table on page 24. For more on the therapeutic gospel see Google classroom.

GEN Z

‘Gen Z are not simply living in and being shaped by a post-Christian cultural context. They do not even have a memory of the gospel. The degree of spiritual illiteracy is simply stunning.’

James Emery White

‘They don’t have a clear conception of Christianity, although they are rarely negative towards it... There is spiritual openness and hunger in Britain’s Unchurched generations.’

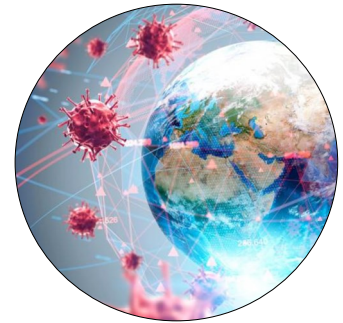
Marjorie Allen

A Season of Opportunity

COVID-19

In February 2021 23% adults regularly engaged online with church worship. This may well be an exaggerated figure, but even if the figure was halved there was still a significant number of people engaging online. Of those:

- 52% were under 35.
- 35% came because wanted to connect with community.
- 47% wanted to know about God.
- 13% were Christians coming back.



‘Never before have my friends been so open to the gospel and my community so open to be loved. Into that we, the church, have an opportunity to love dearly and speak clearly about Jesus Christ.’

Nay Dawson

‘Coronavirus has changed society. It has changed the church and there have been devastating effects, frustrations and challenges. But it has also birthed extraordinary innovation and courage and has inspired many, especially in this age group, to explore faith and ask deeper questions.’

Changing Church report

Safe Assumptions about People

- People have a desire for belonging (love, intimacy, community), fulfilment (purpose, meaning, adventure), sense (identity, suffering, death).
- People today are extraordinarily ignorant of Christian things; if they know anything about the Christian faith it is likely to be a faint echo of the real thing.
- Most think little about life after death (at least until death becomes a present reality); they are more interested in making the most of life now (a happy midi-narrative).
- People are generally more conscious of shame, doubt and struggle than guilt and sin.
- People are not as irreligious as we might think; they deify many things, many pray, have had a 'spiritual experience'.
- Most people think positively of Christians they know, even if they might think less positively about the Church as a whole.
- Many people are open to talking about spiritual things *if* approached in the right way.



The Content: the Gospel

It includes me, but is about more than me.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

ROMANS 1:1-6

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – ²the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL/GOOD NEWS SUGGESTS THAT

- Something has gone wrong.
- Something needs to change.
- Something has happened that brings this needed change.

1 CORINTHIANS

1. It's an account of the Messiah.
2. The power of sin has been broken.
3. It's in accordance with the whole Bible.
4. You can be saved by holding to this good news.

ROMANS

1. Jesus is the climax of the story.
2. He is the Lord of a new stage of history.
3. The resurrection is central.
4. It's about obedience
5. It's a summons to believe, not just information.
6. Jesus is the new Lord of all.

For Reflection

How do we best speak about the gospel today?

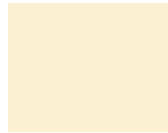
What have you found helpful/unhelpful?

How do we ensure we remain both engaged with where people are at and faithful to the gospel about Jesus?



EXERCISE

Where are your contact points? Draw a mindmap of your personal contacts.



What are your contacts in the community you are called to serve?

Practice 1 – Pray for Five

‘Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.’ (Colossians 4:2)

SUMMARY

Build into the personal and corporate life of your church, congregation or fresh expression an intentional and regular way of praying for specific people to come to know the life transforming love of Jesus.

EXPLANATION

Thy Kingdom Come has popularised an idea that has been around for a while, praying for specific people that they might come to know ‘the amazing, life-transforming love of Jesus’.

Prayer is at the heart of faith sharing as we seek to join in with what God is doing in people’s lives, and also as we recognise that in some mysterious way God’s activity on earth is linked to our praying. Someone once said to me ‘talk to God about people, before you talk to people about God.’ That does seem the right way round. Ultimately God is the evangelist, and we depend on him to be at work in and through us and in the lives of those we pray for.

Thy Kingdom Come have encouraged people to make praying for five a specific intention of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. This practice expands the timescale to make it a normal part of the ongoing personal prayer life of Christians, and of our prayer life as we gather in various ways.

‘The most important human factor in effective evangelism is prayer.’

Construct a process for helping people identify their five that will work in your context. For some there may need to be quite a bit of explanation about why praying for five is a good thing to do as well as what it involves. For others, they may be able to introduce it quite quickly. For some it will be best to start by introducing it to a specific group (Churchwardens, PCC, a Lent course, a youth group), and then percolate it out to others over time. For others it will be fine to introduce it to the whole congregation straightaway.

When introducing Pray for Five, invite congregation members to identify five people they know using the following suggestions:

- Those who, as far as they are aware, are not yet Christians.
- Those who they have contact with on a regular basis.
- Those who they have a concern for.

Encourage them to write their names down, and pray for them on a regular basis (they can define what regular means, but ideally at least once a week, if not each day),

that they might come to know the life transforming love of Jesus. Use some of the resources suggested below and in the guide on prayer an evangelism on the Google Classroom to help with this.



Then work out how to build praying for five into the flow of gathered church life. For example:

- When you gather for worship together find creative ways to include Pray for Five as part of what you do each time you gather.
- At your PCC meetings build in time to Pray for Five. It only has to be a few minutes but it will shift the culture of the PCC.
- If you have a staff meeting, a meeting with key leaders (for example churchwardens or standing committee), make Pray for Five a part of your time together.
- In ministry groups (for example music group, choir, Messy Church Team, prayer ministry team, finance committee, and possibly even flower arrangers, bell ringers and so on) spend a few minutes Praying for Five as part of your gathering.
- If you have home groups, youth or children’s groups, include Pray for Five.

Making it a part of our gathered life helps build in support and accountability. If I am honest I am shocked how quickly I forget to pray for my five in my own personal prayers. Regularly being in a context where I am reminded to keep on praying for my five is incredibly helpful, especially if there is time to reflect with others on how things are going.

TIPS

There are some great resources available to help people do this (see below) but here are a few tips if you are introducing this idea.

- Encourage people to prayerfully identify their five. It may take a few weeks to discern who to put on the list.
- It is fine if initially people can only identify one or two names.
- Generally speaking, it is best to not include family or close friends. Two reasons. Firstly, we are probably already praying for these people anyway. Secondly, those closest to us are often the most difficult people to share faith with (read Mark 3 and 6 to see the struggles Jesus had with his family and those who knew him well).
- Generally speaking, it is best to choose people who we think might be open to faith conversations.
- The list isn’t fixed. As people move in and out of our orbit we may change the list. I recently moved out of parish ministry and I am not in contact with some of those people now who was on my original list. I’ve had to establish a new set of names and I have found myself becoming more intentional about it.

- It works best if we have regular contact with these people (online or onsite), and sometimes it helps to describe what regular means. I generally suggest at least once a month, preferably once a fortnight.
- Teach people what and how to pray for their five (see our guide for some ideas). It is easy to assume people will know how to pray. That isn't necessarily the case.
- We have noticed an interesting pattern that emerges. Sometimes the people we end up sharing faith with are not on our list of five, but the fact that we have been praying for five has actually opened us up to the possibility of sharing our faith in new ways.

RESOURCES

- See Google Classroom for ideas on prayer and evangelism.
- Thy Kingdom Come have a wide range of resources for children, young people and adults to help with praying for five. They include materials for individuals to use, and materials for use in gatherings www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources.
- HOPE Together also have resources related to Pray for Five [www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/284190/Pray for five.aspx](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/284190/Pray%20for%20five.aspx).
- 5 Things to Pray for the People you Love, Rachel Jones (Good Book Company), www.thegoodbook.co.uk/5-things-to-pray-for-the-people-you-love.



PART 5

**CONNECT WITH
YOUR NEXT STEPS**



EXERCISE

1. Personal Reflection (5mins)

What has struck you, resonated with you?

What has challenged you?

What are your key takeaways from today? Write them in the box below.

2. Group Reflection (30 mins)

1. Briefly share one or two of your key personal reflections with one another.
2. What is working well with regard evangelism for you?
3. Reconnect with the brakes exercise on page 5. How might you release some of those brakes?
4. What are your key takeaways as a group?
5. What are your next steps from today? There are a few suggestions to get you started below. They are only ideas to simulate thinking. The best ideas will be your own!
6. What would you like others to pray for you?

Connecting with God

- Introduce 15 minutes a day across our congregations.
- 'Worship on Sunday needs to be energising and attractive' (Stephen Cottrell). Review our services to see if there are things we could do to help people encounter God and connect with one another in deeper ways.
- Use Dwelling in the Word each time we meet as a group, and roll it out into other meetings.

Connecting with God's vocation for our churches

- Preaching series on evangelism.
- Use PCC Tonight Leading Evangelism sessions with PCC.
- Join the book club.

Connecting with where people are at

- Conduct a questionnaire on the streets of our community to help us experience where people are at. (Resources on Google Classroom).
- Invite everyone to do the 'draw two people they know exercise'.
- Teach the Mission Map.
- Do a community survey (resources on Google Classroom).
- Finish the mapping our contacts exercises and decide a way to pray for those we've identified.
- Create a video explaining the good news about Jesus for one of the people-groups we have identified, or introducing our churches in a way that will connect with those in our community. Post on website/social media.
- Introduce praying for streets in our community as part of our prayers of intercession.
- If you are already doing This Time Tomorrow (LICC) add a fourth question: 'what the challenges and joys of showing and sharing your faith in that place?'

BE SURE BY THE END OF YOUR TIME

- You have identified your next step(s).
- You have identified your next meeting date (ideally every 4-6 weeks).
- That everyone has **Session 2** in their diary, **Thursday 28th November 7.30-9.30** online.

YOUR NOTES

YOUR NOTES

RESOURCES

THE ONE TO READ

- Evangelism as Exiles, Elliot Clark (TGC)

TOP READS

- Living His Story, Hannah Steele (SPCK)
- The Word's Out, Dave Male and Paul Weston (BRF)
- From the Abundance of the Heart, Stephen Cottrell (DLT)
- Evangelism in a Sceptical World, Sam Chan (Zondervan)
- Honest Evangelism, Rico Tice (Good Book Company)

OTHER RESOURCES

- PCC Tonight, Leading in Evangelism: six sessions to use with your PCC to help shape churches around evangelism.
- Great Commission [website](#): packed full of resources, stories and articles, it is a great place to find helpful things.
- [Article](#) on how the therapeutic gospel distracts us from the gospel itself.
- Michael Oh [video](#) on the three needs for global mission in the post COVID era.



Lead On

A free monthly email with articles, resource recommendations, reviews for all interested in improving their leadership. Sign up at www.cpas.org.uk/leadon.



Thrive: Helping Your Multi-Parish Benefice to Grow

Looking for ways to thrive as a multi-parish benefice? Aware of the seeds of enormous promise within MPBs, yet also facing distinctive and substantial challenges? Longing to do mission and ministry well? The Thrive Collection is designed to help leaders and churches in MPBs to meet these challenges. www.cpas.org.uk/thrive.



Grove Leadership Series

CPAS has partnered with Grove Books to produce a series of leadership books. Each one is 10,000 words and offers thought provoking insight on a wide variety of themes, everything from how to leave well to leading with Gen Y. You can find them at the shop on the [CPAS website](#).



Venture and Falcon Holidays

CPAS runs around 90 fun-filled holidays for 8-18 year olds each year. The holidays are run by volunteers, and if you are interested in helping on one or know a young person who would benefit from a great holiday with a focus on Jesus visit www.ventures.org.uk.



Making Mission Possible

CPAS enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus. We are a registered charity working with individuals, churches and dioceses to resource local churches for mission in the UK and Republic of Ireland. To support our work or find out more, please visit www.cpas.org.uk or contact 0300 123 0780.