



FURTHER SUPPORT

We hope you find the 'Making disciples' survey resource useful in assisting your parish in supporting congregations to grow in their discipleship.

If you would like any further support or have any questions, please contact the Parish and External Relations Team at the Diocese of Bristol.



'MAKING DISCIPLES' SURVEY USER GUIDE

The 'Making disciples' survey resource has been produced by the Diocese of Bristol as part of its 'Creating connections' toolkit for parishes. It has been designed to assist parishes with determining the most appropriate ways to support their congregations to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

This tool is not designed to be used as an assessment framework or to compare one parish with another. The information is not reported to the Diocese, but is retained and reviewed by the parish itself.

The tool can also be used annually to observe discipleship trends and growth within congregations.

Support in the use of the tool, the analysis of the information it provides and considerations regarding actions a parish may take as a result, is available from the Parish and External Relations Team at the Diocese of Bristol.

The survey itself has been designed to be completed individually by members of a congregation after a service. The survey has been designed to be quick and easy for people to complete and has been limited to a single sheet of A4 paper.

THE RESOURCE CONSISTS OF:



 This user guide

 An Excel spreadsheet which can be used to analyse the completed surveys

 The Making disciples survey sheet

 All of these elements can be downloaded from www.bristol.anglican.org

THE SURVEY PROCESS

- Print out enough survey sheets for your congregation
- Add the name of the parish and the date to the front cover
- Explain to the congregation why you are carrying out the survey
- Pray with the congregation that God would help us all to be growing in our relationship with Him and supporting one another to do so
- Ask the whole congregation (not simply the core attenders) to complete the survey, ideally before they leave the service, and to place them in a box on their way out
- Consider doing this at all of your services over two or more weeks
- You may find it helpful to keep the responses collected at different services separate so that you can note any differences between congregations when you analyse the information
- Input the results into the spreadsheet provided
- Use the report tab within the spreadsheet to analyse and explore what the information is telling you
- Hold a discipleship conversation at a subsequent PCC meeting where the information the report provides is discussed and the questions listed later in this guide are considered
- Plan to repeat the exercise annually to enable you to spot trends and see development in different aspects of discipleship.

WHEN INVITING THE CONGREGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY IT IS IMPORTANT TO HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING:

- The survey is anonymous and all of the completed surveys will be evaluated collectively not individually
- The information will be retained by the parish and not reported elsewhere or fed into a larger data collection exercise
- The results will be most helpful to the parish if respondents are honest in their responses
- Why the parish leadership team have decided to carry out the survey
- That the leadership team are not judging, testing or evaluating respondent's relationship with Jesus – rather they are seeking to discern the best ways to support the congregation in growing in their faith

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION WHEN EXPLORING THE RESULTS:

The following questions could be used as part of a conversation at a PCC meeting to explore the information generated by the survey.

- What has encouraged us from the survey?
- What has surprised us from the survey?
- In which area would we most likely to see growth in the coming year?
- What areas of discipleship does the survey reveal that we need to focus on in the coming year?
- What are we going to do as a result of the findings from the survey?
- Who is going to take responsibility for making sure that these actions are taken?

