Making disciples in your parish

CREATING CONNECTIONS
Six ways your church can create connections and make disciples.

“COME, follow me.”
Matthew 4:19
Prayer is an amazing gift which strengthens our relationship with God; it has the power to change us and the world around us. When we pray at all times, in all circumstances and for all things, we see God’s Kingdom come.

Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.
1 Thessalonians 5

A FOUNDATION OF PRAYER
Underpinning all discipleship, evangelism and service with prayer

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In what ways can your church deepen its foundation of prayer?
Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds.

Psalms 66:5

Encouraging people to invite others to experience Christian community

Jesus invites people to follow Him. We are called to share that invitation. Three out of four Christians know who they would invite to church if they were prompted to do so. When people feel equipped, it becomes easier to ask friends and family along to experience Christian community in its various forms.
Younger people are used to engaging and learning interactively: they want to take part and contribute in different ways. Fresh forms of church that encourage creativity and active involvement can help everyone, but especially families, children and young people, to understand faith in new ways and lead them to connect with God.

Jesus met people where they were and introduced the Good News in ways that were relevant to them.

CREATIVE, FAMILY-FOCUSED EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH

Engaging with families through relevant, accessible worship and discipleship

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What creative approaches to church could you use to engage with families?
If people are to encounter Jesus Christ, then they need to be provided with a safe and nurturing space in which they can ask honest questions and discover God’s love for themselves.

Everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view.

Enabling people to ask questions and respond to the Good News

If people are to encounter Jesus Christ, then they need to be provided with a safe and nurturing space in which they can ask honest questions and discover God’s love for themselves.

In what ways could your church provide opportunities for people to explore the Christian faith?
Small groups that focus on equipping us to be Christ’s ambassadors help to grow whole life, faith-filled, mission-focused disciples. We are nurtured and given confidence to live out our faith in our families, at work, and in our communities.

Encouraging people to live out their faith in their whole lives

Small groups that focus on equipping us to be Christ’s ambassadors help to grow whole life, faith-filled, mission-focused disciples. We are nurtured and given confidence to live out our faith in our families, at work, and in our communities.

How could your church develop small groups that encourage people to grow as whole life disciples?

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

John 15:8
As we serve Christ, we look to identify these gifts, invest in their development and find practical opportunities to use them.

Churches can also support people to put their gifts into practice, to serve in the Church and every sphere of life.

DEVELOPING THE GIFTS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Supporting people to discover, develop and use their God-given gifts

As we serve Christ, we look to identify these gifts, invest in their development and find practical opportunities to use them.

Churches can also support people to put their gifts into practice, to serve in the Church and every sphere of life.

What could your church do to help people identify, develop and use their gifts?

Serve the Lord faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

1 Samuel 12
The Parish and External Relations Team can offer you support and advice as you make disciples in your parish. Contact chris.priddy@bristoldiocese.org

Please share with us how your church is creating connections by emailing ben.evans@bristoldiocese.org.