

# What is the big picture for health of churches across the Diocese?

REVD CLIVE HICKS

HEALTHY CHURCHES DEVELOPMENT ENABLER





# Psalm 121



I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.





# What do I do?

- ▶ Connecting with creation brings us closer to many people who are appreciative of spirituality – *Rewilding at A Rocha:Canada, October 2023*
- ▶ NCD surveys have been yielding lower than hoped for scores – like *GCSE and A Level results appreciate the impact of Covid years on morale & levels*
- ▶ *Have people become more selective? Are they searching for something more?* NCD Character Guides can be very helpful to revisiting the preferences of individuals in our congregations
- ▶ Is this a good time to refocus together, looking to the next 2-3 years, or perhaps the next steps in 2024? *Plans for away days early in 2024?*
- ▶ New tools – like *Leading Your Church Into Growth* are under consideration to offer fresh ways forward for different types of church – *all are welcome*
- ▶ One to one conversations, including 'spiritual direction', rebuild trust and confidence – *from where does your help come?*





# Initial thoughts

- ▶ The vitality of having **an impactful small group experience** as part of church - *how challenging to start or restart this post-Covid*
- ▶ The **deep personal needs** evidenced by requests for prayer ministry across many different churches – *health, family health and relationships, vocation or calling, life choices, new ventures, thankfulness for health restored, burden of extended family*
- ▶ The crucial importance of **an authentic, radical welcome/hospitality**, reaching out to any who are missing from church – it begins by reaching out, not waiting, and preparing in the right ways – *what do they really need?*
- ▶ The symbol of **ponds and pools** – a measure of the freshness of our church families and communities, the *'most important thing in the wild garden' is the pond, because here lies life, togetherness and focus*

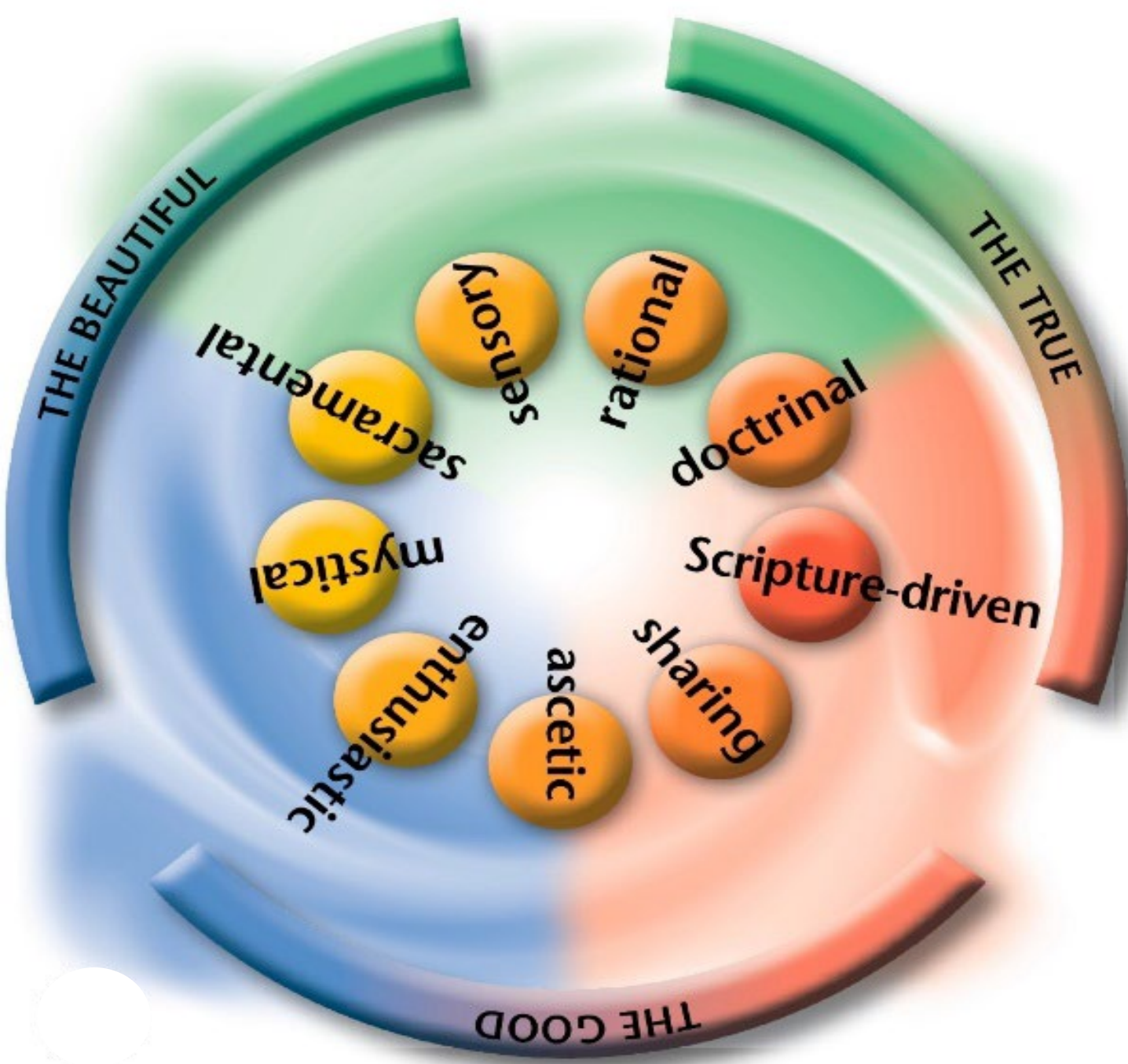




# Questions







# Nine Spiritual Styles

Natural Church Development







# The 7 steps

1

Create a prayerful culture of Growth:  
Mustard Seed (Matthew 13: 31)

2

Implement an effective strategy:  
Kingdom Come (Matt. 6.10)

3

Practise fruitful evangelism:  
Catching Fish (Mark 1: 17)

4

Develop Engaging Worship:  
Holy Ground (Exodus 3: 5)

5

Become an inviting and welcoming church:  
Banquet (Luke 14: 21)

6

Make a pathway for seekers to become disciples:  
Make Disciples (Matthew 28: 19)

7

Begin a planned journey of growth  
Early Church (Acts 5: 14)





# A Healthy Church is

- ▶ a **diverse church**
- ▶ is attentive to **specific needs and preferences**
- ▶ is **expressing missional intent**

