



# Listening Project

Pilot Report, October 2018

by Carmel Murphy

## **OUTLINE**

In November 2017, the Mission Forum commissioned the Listening Project with the aim of gaining a better understanding of what God is doing amongst the Baptist family at this time. After a period of consultation with representatives of the Mission Forum, it was agreed that I would design and create an interactive workshop, which would then be piloted in 3 associations; South West, Northern and Southern Counties. In May 2018, the methodology was presented at the Mission Forum meeting. Between June and August 2018, Carl Smethurst, Roy Searle and Ali Bolton each convened and hosted a session in their respective Associations. The groups were approximately the same size and aimed to bring together a broad cross-section of people. However, in reality, due to availability, distance to travel etc. each group was not entirely representative of each Association but did provide a valid and viable way to test the methodology.

The workshop was structured around 10 questions. This report documents the collated results from all three pilot sessions. Individual reports documenting the results from each session (Association) are also available.

Total number of participants: 32



As participants arrived at their session they were invited to fill in a page about themselves<sup>1</sup> and their experience of church. This captured the answers to the first three questions and collected a small amount of personal data, such as participants name, the name of church they are part of and number of years they have attended.

Diagram 1 below shows that the majority of participants (24 people representing 75%) have been attending their church for 4 years or more and that only 6% (2 people) started attending their church recently.

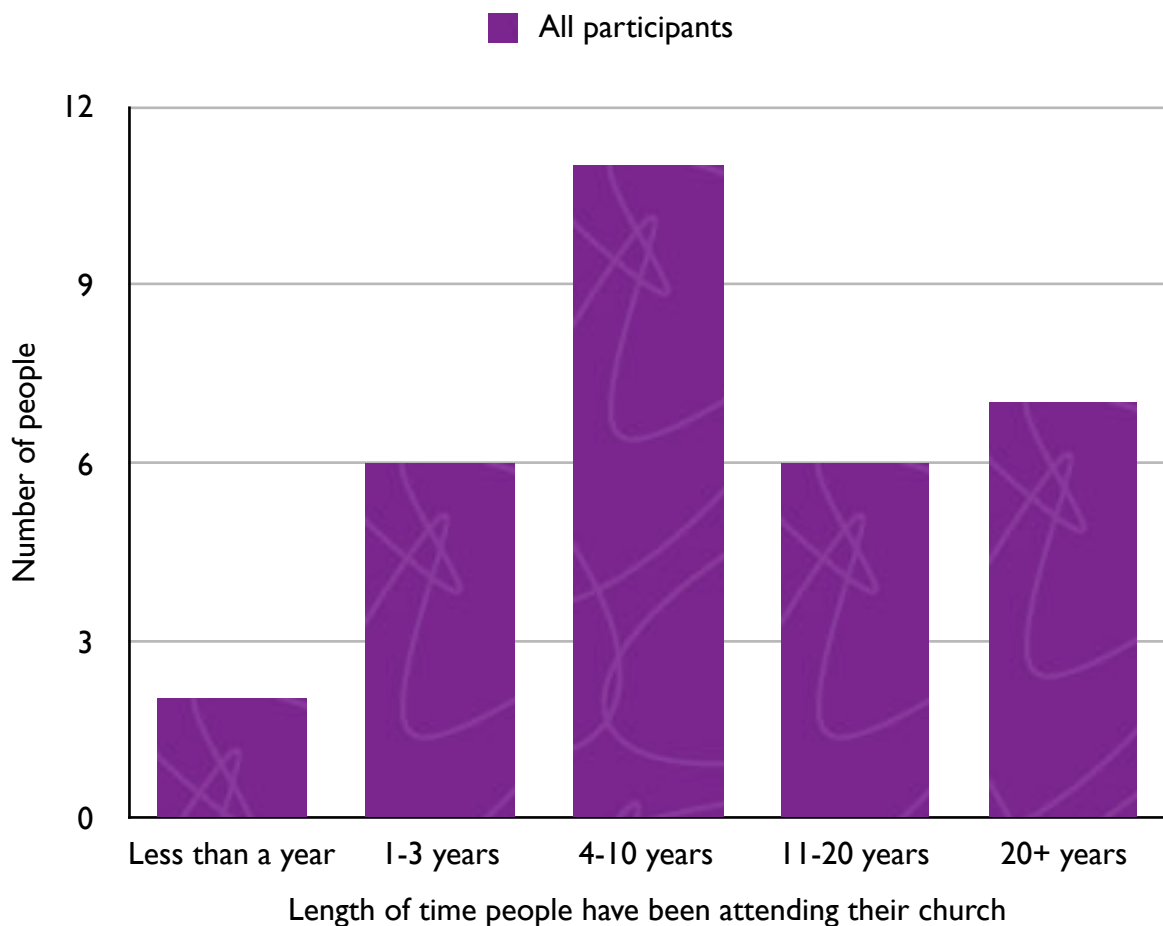


Diagram 1<sup>2</sup>

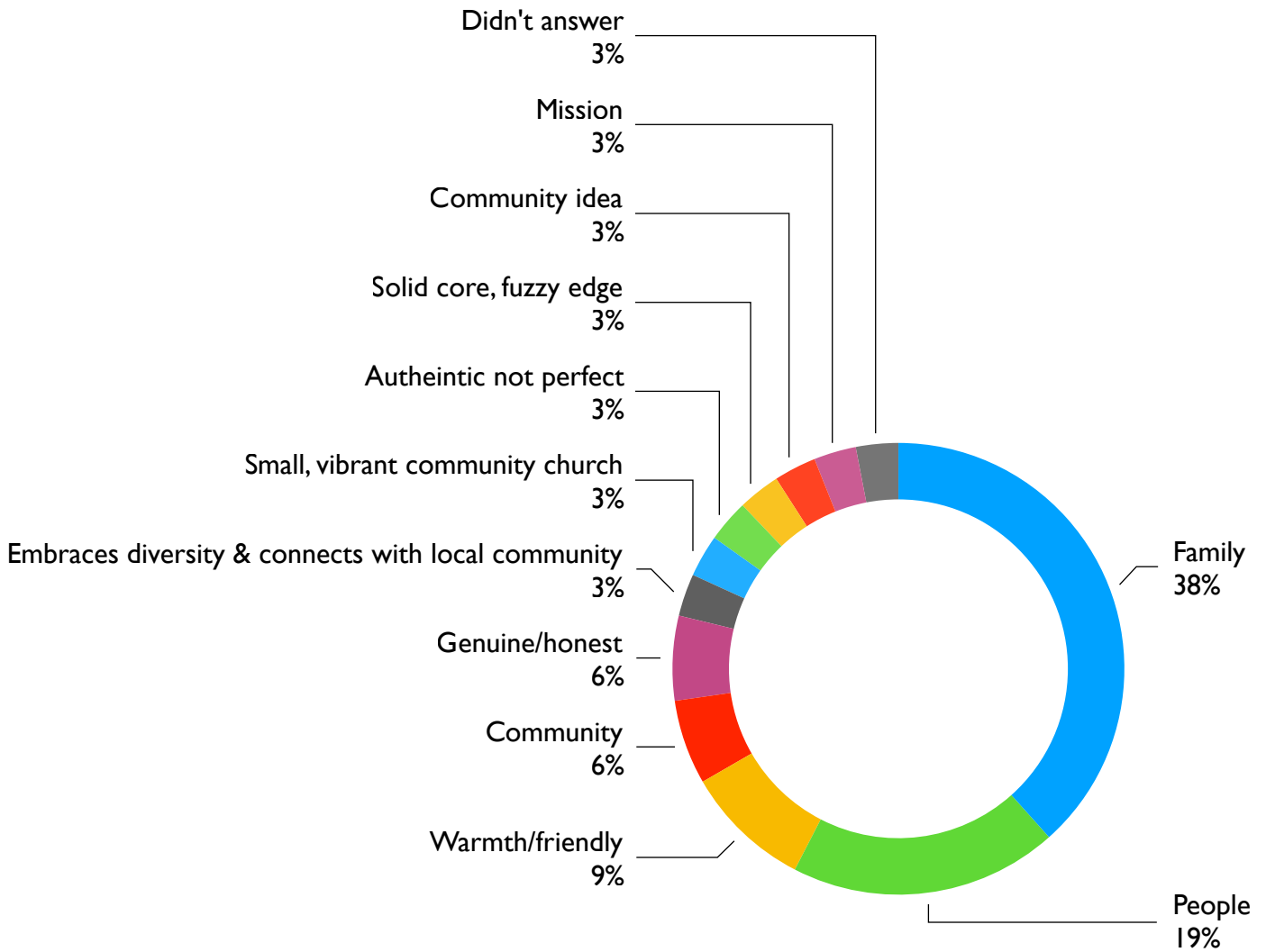
<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 1 for template

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 2 for detailed data

**Questions I:**

**What is your favourite thing about your church?**

People were asked to write down their answer in sentences with no prescribed answers to choose from. Diagram 2 below shows that **over a third of people** liked the fact that their church felt like a **family** and nearly another 20% said it was about the **people**.



**Diagram 2<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix 3 for detailed data

**Question 2:**

**What are the top three things you think your church does well?**

Participants were encouraged to write three words, either picked from a prescribed list or of their own choosing. There were 31 different things that people felt their church did well. Diagram 3 below captures people's answers. The larger the word, the more people said it. Across all the participants, 'fellowship' and 'helping those in need' were the top two answers (both were in the prescribed word list).



**Diagram 3<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix 4 for detailed data

### Question 3:

#### What one thing could your church be better at?

Participants were encouraged to write one word, either picked from a prescribed list or of their own choosing. Diagram 4 below shows that the top things people felt their church could be better at were discipleship and mission, which together made up nearly a third of the responses.

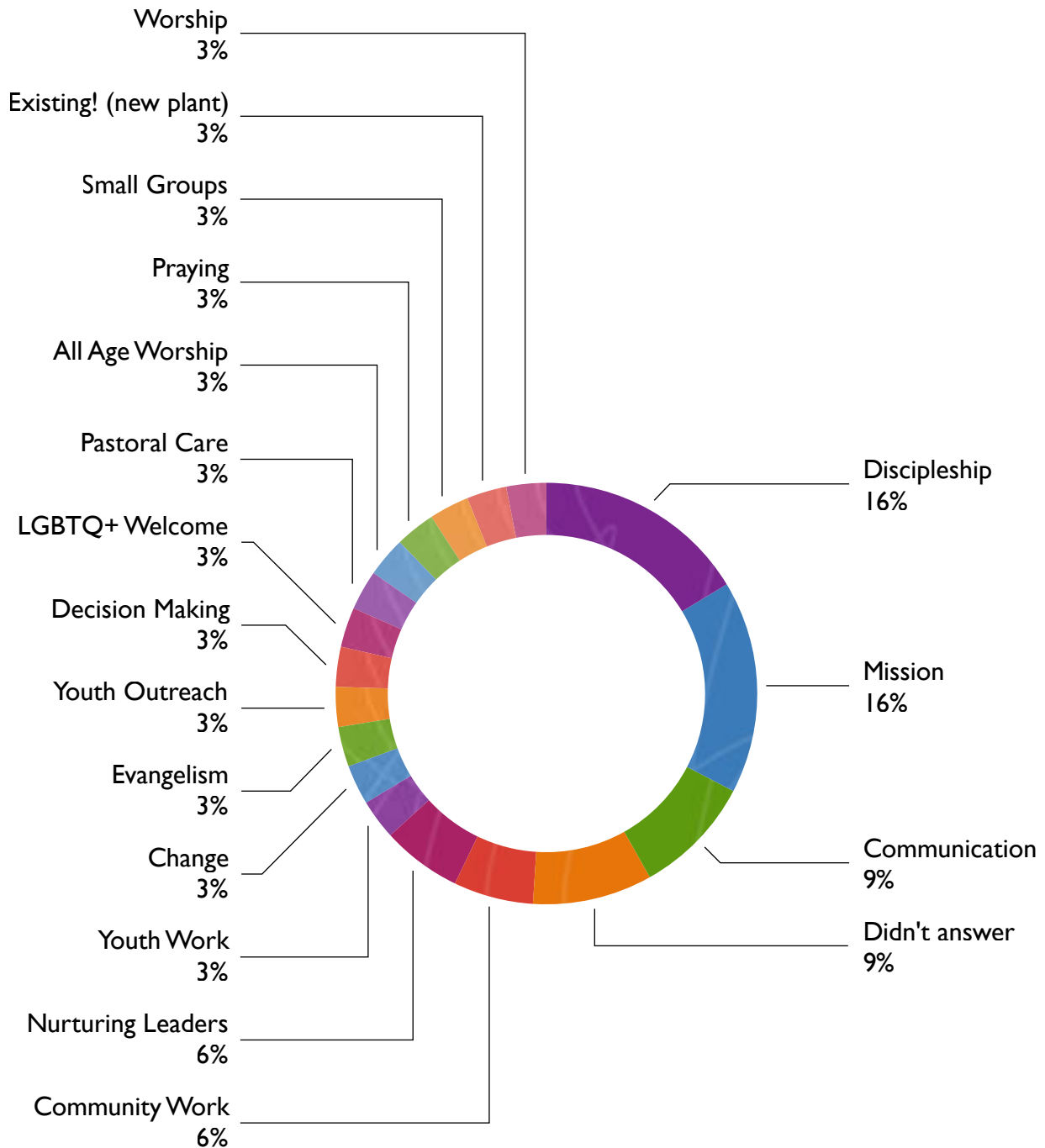


Diagram 4<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>See Appendix 5 for more detailed data

#### Question 4:

#### What does the word 'mission' mean to you in your context?

Participants were asked to bring an item with them from home which represents something of what mission means to them in their context. Each person was given the opportunity to show their item and describe what it represents. There is an image of each item below or a description of what they would have brought if they had remembered(!), along with a summary of their description which each start, 'mission in my context is...'



#### STREET PASTORS (T-Shirt)

Mission in my context is about getting outside the walls of church, working with other churches to have a presence on street.; being someone for people to talk to.



#### NIGHT CHURCH (Cup filled with love and prayer)

Mission in my context is about BEING the people of God. Holding prayer and worship in church while Street Pastors are out. Seeing beauty and gift of being small. Focusing on what we can do, rather than what we can't. Welcoming, loving, being a listening ear...



#### TIME OUT CAFE (Biscuits, film about the mind, devotional cross)

##### Mission in my context is

- cherishing people with lovely 'Kingdom' coffee and biscuits.
- supporting people with mental health issues, meeting where they are at. Seeing change.
- being reminded that it's not us doing it



#### FILM NIGHT (DVD)

Mission in my context is hosting a free monthly film night in church to connect with families and offer an affordable, fun evening out.



#### GIFTS (Biscuits, picture of knitted angels)

Mission in my context is welcoming new people to the new housing estate with biscuits and knitted angels at Christmas. It's connecting and finding out what they would like to see happen in their community.





### **COFFEE** (*Filter coffee*)

**Mission in my context** is hanging out in the local coffee shop, having conversations and encounters over coffee. Being present becomes an invitation to join in.



### **FOODBANK** (*Tin of beans and jar of spice*)

**Mission in my context** is helping to run the foodbank so that people don't go hungry. It is also about being aware of increased drug use in the area and asking what can we do?



### **SOUP RUN** (*Soup and details about Street Pastors*)

**Mission in my context** is feeding people both physically and spiritually through the co-ordination of a soup run, delivery of food hampers and development of a street pastoring scheme that supports people prayerfully.



### **TODDLER GROUP** (*Children's toy*)

**Mission in my context** is wanting to set up a toddler group but finding one already exists, so helping out there. It's creating a safe space for children to play and offering support to parents/carers. It's being family.



### **GOING OUT** (*Door handle*)

**Mission in my context** is seeing the church door handle as an invitation to go out and meet people where they are at rather than just opening the door and inviting them to come in. So it's being a governor at a primary school, doing RE lessons, taking assemblies and creating reflective prayer spaces in schools across the city.

## **CUP**

### **CUP** (*Tea cup*)

**Mission in my context** is offering a warm welcome at everything we do, including employment hub, community meals, friendship group and church services.





### **BLESSING** (*Lollipop with Bible verse attached*)

**Mission in my context** is about going out into the community to give gifts and share the love of Jesus.



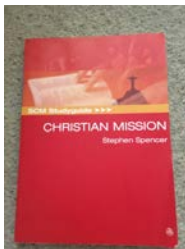
### **ON THE STREET** (*Feet*)

**Mission in my context** is about walking and talking to young people on the street. It's about taking nothing but yourself and seeing what happens.



### **ACTIVITIES** (*Leaflets about courses, holiday club etc.*)

**Mission in my context** is about offering opportunities for people to come in and find out more through holiday clubs, alpha etc. The question this raises for me though is how do we move from a programmatic, activity driven mission to building long term relationships?



### **BOOK** (*Textbook*)

**Mission in my context** is studying at Durham, learning about mission and evangelism and starting to see myself as a missional person.



### **CAFE NERO** (*Takeaway coffee cup*)

**Mission in my context** is having a great relationship with our local Cafe Nero and using that venue in the community to connect with people and build relationship.



### **GETTING TO KNOW YOU** (*Lyrics of the song*)

**Mission in my context** is about getting away from programmes and focussing on building relationships. I've realised it's not always about starting another activity but seeing the things we already do as missional (eg choral society).



### **GARDENING** (*Trowel*)

**Mission in my context** is about living life well in our locality. Joining in with the rhythm of life on the estate, using family networks and building relationship with people. It's tapping into what people know and can do and starting from there.



### **VISION** (*Inscribed wristband/bracelet*)

**Mission in my context** is about encouraging the church to be 'courageous messengers of God's unconditional love' in everyday life.



### **OUR HOME** (*House number*)

**Mission in my CHURCH context** is about lots of great initiatives (Take 5 and chat, Light Service, Ladies Lunch). But home is the place where we live and enjoy less programmatic activity. Mission here is about getting to know people, being there for them, offering welcome.

### **PURPLE SHIRT**

### **CRAFTERNOON** (*Shirt that was made at Crafternoon*)

**Mission in my context** is about getting alongside people through a Crafternoon session, run by the church in local community setting.

### **US**

### **PEOPLE** (*All of us in the room*)

**Mission in my context** is about a church being transformed from a passive, service centred place to somewhere that develops people and gets everyone involved.



### **FLOWERS** (*Bunch of flowers*)

**Mission in my context** is blessing people through floristry. Using my skills to provide something beautiful for people in everyday life and for special occasions.



### **CAKE** (*Cakes*)

**Mission in my context** is providing a welcoming social space for seniors to meet together and hear about the love of God.



### **GAMES** (*Bucket from Dungeons and Dragons game*)

**Mission in my context** is connecting with my neighbours through the games; spending time in one another's homes, building relationships, sharing in the ups and downs of life and realising that I can't fix the difficult things.



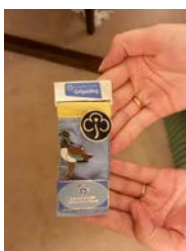
### **LINK** (*Link from a chain*)

**Mission in my context** is about connecting; being a link between different groups in the community, between individuals and Jesus.



### **WELCOME** (*Canvas bag*)

**Mission in my context** is embodying the unconditional blessing of God as we visit those moving onto the estate with the gift of a welcome bag.



### **GUIDING** (*Guiders Badge*)

**Mission in my context** is serving in known and trusted organisations like the Girl Guides and using it as a way to connect with children, build relationships and show them that they are loved.



### **MENTORING** (*Colouring pens for craft time*)

**Mission in my context** is accompanying children and speaking into their lives through the TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) mentoring scheme.



### **CANOEING** (*Dry bag*)

**Mission in my context** is teaching young people from the local homeless hostel how to canoe. Making space on the water for conversation, with no agenda except to build relationships and see what happens.



### **WALKING** (*Waterproof to go out in all weathers*)

**Mission in my context** is walking the streets of the new housing estate in all weathers; being out and about, bumping into people and seeing what happens.



### **SERVING** (*Agenda for local council meeting*)

**Mission in my context** is about serving as a local Councillor, listening to people's problems and seeking to represent them and their views, all of which builds trust, respect and relationships.

### Question 5:

#### Where do you see God at work?

Participants were invited to think of situations where they had seen God at work recently, record each one on a post-it and stick the post-its on a poster. The participants were encouraged to think broadly about where they had seen God (ie not just in church). There were 124 responses. All of the responses were written up, analysed and categorised. Diagram 5 below shows all of the categories (22). The bigger the word, the greater the number of examples relating to that category.

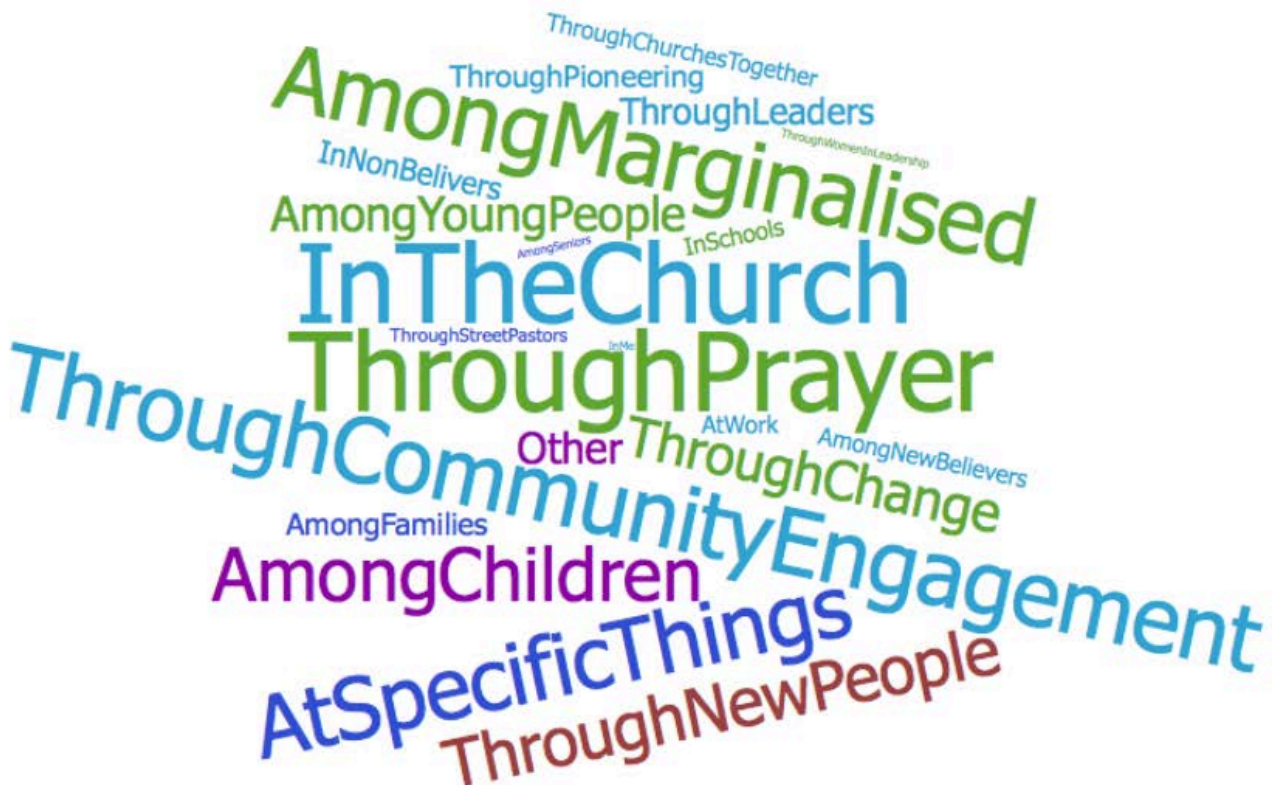


Diagram 5<sup>6</sup>

The five categories with most examples were:

- Through prayer (18 examples)
- In the church (18 examples)
- Through community engagement (15 examples)
- Among those who are marginalised (15 examples)
- At specific events/in specific places (14 examples)

The three categories with least examples were:

- Through women in leadership (2 examples)
- In me (2 examples)
- Through seniors (2 examples)

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix 6 for detailed data



### Question 6:

#### How are you joining in with what God is doing?

Participants were asked to think about how they were joining in with what God is doing, particularly how they are using their gifts/talents/time. They were invited to write each answer down on a post-it and stick the post-its to a second poster. There were 112 responses. All of the responses were written up, analysed and categorised. Diagram 6 below shows all of the categories (19). The bigger the word, the greater the number of examples relating to that category.



#### The five categories with most examples were:

- Leading (16 examples)
- Supporting/encouraging others (11 examples)
- Using specific gifts or talents (11 examples)
- Being present (9 examples)
- Involvement in specific events/activities/places (9 examples)

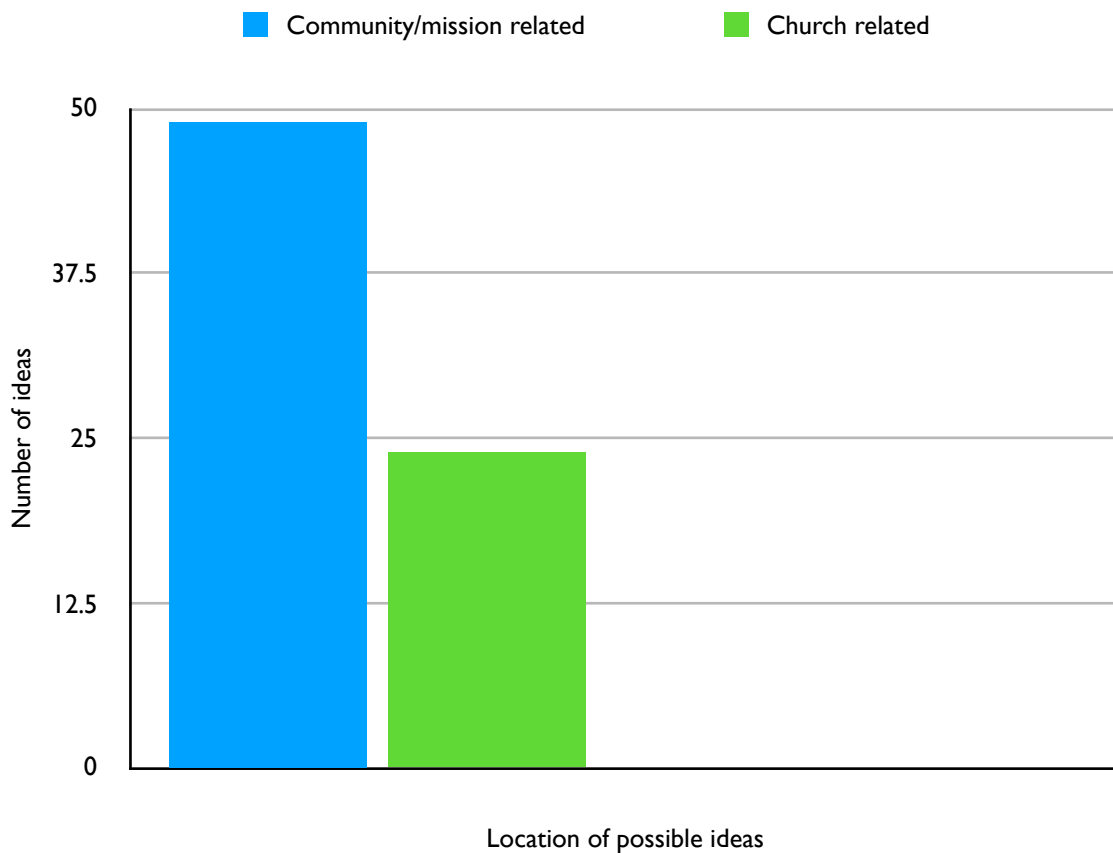
#### The three categories with least examples were:

- Supporting work overseas (2)
- Talking about faith (2)
- Starting new things (1)

## Question 7:

### a. Is there anything else you could do/you would like to do?

Participants were asked if there was anything else that they felt that they could do or would like to see happening. They were particularly invited to reflect on where they saw gaps or need, make a note of each on a post-it and stick the post-its to a third poster. The responses were written up, analysed and categorised. Diagram 6 below shows that the responses fell broadly into two categories; community/mission related activities and church related activities and that the number of potential community/mission related activities, far outweighed the number of church related ones.



## Diagram 6<sup>7</sup>

Examples of community/mission related ideas included:

- reaching out to a new housing area
- creating a community garden
- feeding children a meal a day in the holidays

Examples of church related ideas included:

- recognising, equipping and encouraging the next generation of leaders
- finding ways - God's ways - of working together ecumenically in the town
- praying more

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix 7a for detailed data



**b. What would help you to do this?<sup>8</sup>**

Participants were asked what they might need to help them to do the new thing(s). They were invited to write down each thing they identified on a post-it and stick the post-its to a fourth poster. The responses were written up, analysed and categorised. There were 49 responses which spanned 18 categories, 10 of which only contained one responses. The top 5 things that people said they would need to action their ideas were:



**1. PEOPLE (10)**



**2. TRAINING (9)**



**3. NETWORKING (6)**



**4. TIME (5)**



**5. MONEY (3)**

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix 7b for detailed data

**Question 8:**

**a. Do you feel connected to your local association?**

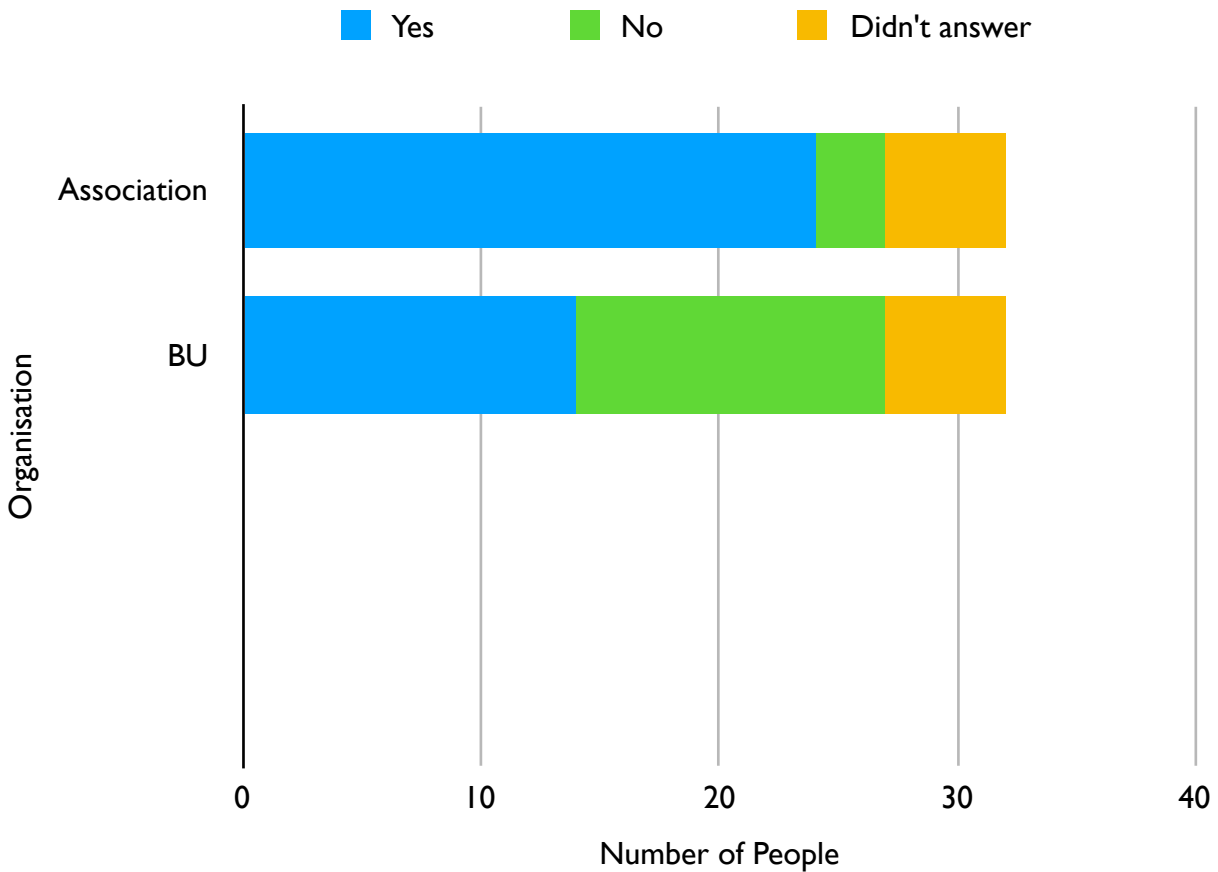
Participants were invited to choose 'yes' or 'no' and indicate their choice by putting a marble in the corresponding pot.



**b. Do you feel connected to the Baptist family (Baptist Union)?**

Participants were invited to choose 'yes' or 'no' and indicate their choice by putting a marble in the corresponding pot.

Diagram 7 below shows that the majority of participants (75%) feel connected to their local Association, while only 43% feel connected to the Baptist Union.



**Diagram 7<sup>9</sup>**

<sup>9</sup> See Appendix 8 for detailed data

This activity was followed by an open, whole room discussion about why participants felt connected to their local Association and the Baptist Union or not. Some of their comments are captured below:

Better when it's not forced upon on us but grows out of relationship and that happens more easily locally

There's only so much time you can give to connecting and I'd rather do that locally - this has been great!

Strength of connection to Association and BU often depends on how the Church pastor feels about it

Not really a sense of 'Baptist family'. Lessening sense of Baptist identity

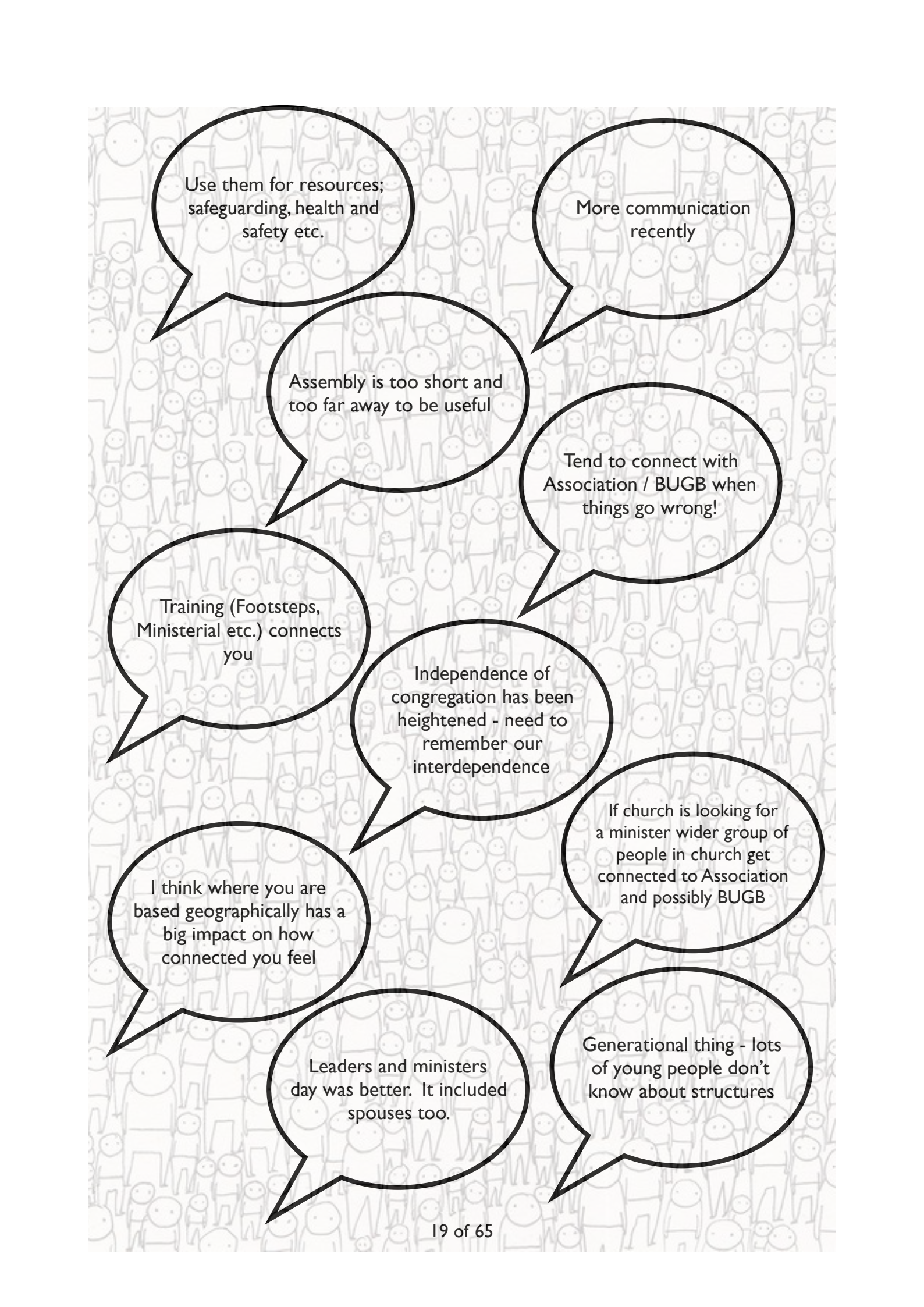
Emails/newsletters overwhelm us with generic content. Real people connecting is better

Being here probably means we have some connection but lots of congregation/new people wouldn't know about association/BUGB

Connection often depends on pastor and how they feel - gatekeepers

Not great consistency across associations eg ministerial recognition process





Use them for resources; safeguarding, health and safety etc.

More communication recently

Assembly is too short and too far away to be useful

Tend to connect with Association / BUGB when things go wrong!

Training (Footsteps, Ministerial etc.) connects you

Independence of congregation has been heightened - need to remember our interdependence

I think where you are based geographically has a big impact on how connected you feel

If church is looking for a minister wider group of people in church get connected to Association and possibly BUGB

Leaders and ministers day was better. It included spouses too.

Generational thing - lots of young people don't know about structures

## 9. What does the word 'mission' mean to you?

Participants were invited to write their definition in a tweet (140 characters or less).

### #missionis

loving God so much that his love overflows through us

**living Jesus way & welcoming people into the mystery of God**

obeying the great commission to fulfil the great commandment

**a family of Jesus followers, making disciples in everyday life**

joining God in what he is doing, where he is doing it

**may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

joining in with what God is doing

**Christ Call Corruption Creation**

God sends us out into his world

**love God! Make disciples, baptising in our name. Do it!!!**

go. be. live

**being an agent of God's grace, whenever possible**

if 'church is the theatre of the gospel' then mission is 'expanding the stage for the worlds ongoing interactive participation'

**sent to our community to bring God's kingdom**

showing God's love to people

**going where Jesus went**

our duty as Christians to reach out to those on the edge

**explaining that Jesus can be your friend forever, whatever**

finding Jesus in the unknown

**sharing God's love with everyone we meet**

sharing the love of Jesus with the world

**connecting people with the Kingdom of God**

**10. If you were asked to write a postcard to another church to encourage them, what would you share with them?**

Participants were invited to pick a postcard and write words of encouragement on it, then post it in a postbox. We invited the use of story and reflection.

Please think big and trust God will pull it all together for you! We recently planned a conference with a team of absolute numpties who know nothing about planning a conference, made huge mistakes but invited God in from the beginning. He made it fab and He was there all weekend.



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We have a film night which we hold once a month allowing us to offer a free night out for families who might otherwise not afford to go out together. People have fun and come into our church who otherwise wouldn't.



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Come to Walchet! God is so busy here. All the churches pray together! Social work, pastoral work, support for people who are struggling with life. We've got steam trains and seaside too. Wish you were here  
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2 young ladies spotted someone they knew through the window and came into Night Church at 11.30pm bearing pizza but a bit tiddly. They join in our last session of sung praise/worship. One was moved to restart attending her church in the morning, having drifted away many months before.



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Do not be discouraged but cut back from doing or feeling the need or pressure to do lots of things. Have the courage to let go and stop what's either not working or is no longer appropriate. Learn again to do the simple things and above all, build relationships - be human, friendly, welcoming and hospitable.



Trust God to work in you, through you and in the lives of all who you meet and share life with.

Let me encourage you to only do that which brings life and blessing to people, within and beyond the walls of the church. Be imaginative, creative, take risks, do simple things well and, trusting God, enjoy the adventure. Bless you.



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The regular sort out of clothing from our racks for sale at our Saturday morning Coffee Shop were all sorted and ready to be moved. No mean feat to shift bin liners bursting to the seams. Jim relished the sound of the prison gates closing behind him as he left; he'd served his time. Mind you, he wasn't sure which way to go. It's hot work shifting stuff-the church doors need to be open wide. This sunshine is great but after a prison cell, five minutes in the heat necessitated a cup of tea. That poor woman looks shattered lifting all that stuff. "Need a hand love?" "Swap it for a cuppa tea?" And that's how it happened. Jim helped move stuff, we gave him a cuppa with biscuits. The conversation was great. Jim helped and we chatted, gave directions to the railway station and got him a lift. Win for Jim - he's happy setting off to a freer life. Win for us - we've received help and given help; we've listened and encouraged. Also, we've wondered; can we develop this connection? Watch this space...Seize every moment of opportunity.



We have been so encouraged by the way in which God has moved amongst our Iranian refugees in recent years. How one man shared his new found faith with another, then these two brought two others. All of a sudden, a small community of men in particular were worshipping with us and attending a study group led by a Farsi speaking church member. And all of this on God's agenda but not on ours!



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God is drawing people to himself. Over the past few months, too cynical unbelievers were brought to our morning worship. Both found themselves moved to tears by something they couldn't explain and was unrelated to the direct content of the service. The presence of the Lord can get to places we can't get to!



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My husband and I have been heading up our prayer ministry team for the last 3 years and during this time we have been so privileged to serve God as part of the conversation he's having with other people. Amazingly he uses us as his instruments to speak into people's lives - through prophecy, encouragement, challenge, guidance. And there's nothing like seeing someone's



face change when they hear God! It's scary and feels as though we are right on the edge of our faith but oh how our faith grows as we trust Him and learn to recognise his voice!



Recently, through sitting down at the wall near the town library, I ended up in a lengthy conversation with someone homeless and begging. She told me about her ongoing struggle to survive, how there's more abuse around and less money. As we chatted, a local vicar saw us and sat down. She then also spoke and prayed for the person. It transpired that the homeless person had been prayed for at the 'morning prayers' at her church the day before. I gave the person a pen and talked about her developing stories (she was reading a book) There is no 'happy ending' just a reality and understanding of being obedient to be in a place of vulnerability, understanding and empathy and see God move, prompt and be present in that space.



Recently, we have seen a young man, who has only been following Jesus for a few months, see victory over his addiction. But the most amazing thing has been how the Holy Spirit has been revealing and affirming his new identity in Christ as he has been reading through the scriptures. The best moment was when the young man had this revelation. He said, "I always thought that \_\_\_\_\_ was who I was and I'd always be that. But the Bible says \_\_\_\_\_ so I'm going to believe what Jesus says about me and speak that over my life."

Last week I spent 5 days in a grey comb over wig shouting at children. I was playing a weatherman at an event where we told over 500 children about St. Oswald. Although I favour more community style mission, when the church comes together to do something big, the resources for God are amazing. More collaboration and less boundaries needed.



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Over the last couple of years, God has brought several people together with a heart to pray for the Tyne valley; a prayer meeting started with four or five people meeting together and has grown to 20+; God has moved various new clergy into the area who are Evangelical in outlook and is opening up various opportunities to work together and a real vision and expectancy that God will bring change in the valley.



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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I would love to encourage you to live out the beauty of your faith in your daily lives. Even when you can't speak the name of Jesus, although you know it is He you live for. I was working with a young adult client the other day - she has not been in education, employment or training for about 5 years and in that time has barely left her room.



As a counsellor, I was able to say to her that she is of worth and her life has value which felt like expressing God's love and heart for her. Live for Jesus in all you do. God bless you my friends.

Not everyone will come into your church...most people will not! Take the love of Jesus out of the walls and show people that church means love. People are so happy to know that church is love, Jesus is love, God is love. Show LOVE!



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Think of the craziest thing you can think of and do it. 8 years ago I made friends with a government?. He'd been to church at Christmas etc. 8 years on he is coming church. No faith yet - that I know of but he hears about Christ ever week. God is doing something. It's not about timing, it's the quality.



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'We love because he first loved us' 1 John 4:19. Always remember HOPE, even in the darkest of times. There will be times of human disappointment, look to God and ask, what are you doing? What is your purpose? What are you calling me into? Always pray. Sometimes you'll feel weak. That's often when God works best. God is in the detail, the everyday. He loves and care about everyone including you. May God continue to bless you in all you do. Exciting time ahead. I have seen God most in time, things, events that I almost wasn't expecting. Expect the unexpected. Be ready to learn. Be ready to see God in ways, places you ay to have seen before. Now go!





Pray, look, listen. Pray to God who loves to answer. Ask what he is asking of you. Look at your local community and where the points of need are. Listen to what God is saying. When God thinks we are ready to listen, then he opens the doors. Journey with hi; it's fun, its scary, its exciting, it's unknown but amazing. Prepare your hearts to be delighted.



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Dear Kings.  
Remain steadfast and faithful during this time of change and uncertainty. Take courage that you are listening to God's will, rather than the will of the people.



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Even when it feels really hard, God is good! Remember the reason you started.



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Be encouraged to 'be natural' - it's not about providing entertainment or putting on a show to impress people. Mission is about leaning into God to provide all you need to express this love to those He brings across your path. Jesus counted in ones!



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Keep going! God goes before you. Listen to 'Take courage' (Bethel Music) and pray, pray, pray. Prepare yourself - prepare your team and pray a bit more. God's timing is perfect and he will open doors when the time is right.  
God bless x



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Mission is a journey not a destination. Go where God is calling but start along the road. You don't get to a destination in 1 step. We started with conversations and sharing love.



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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX I

Template to record answers to questions 1-3

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*An image that represents your church*



**Your name:**

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**How long have you been part of this church?**

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**What's your favourite thing about this church?**

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**Top three things you think your church does well:**  
*(pick from the words on the table or write your own)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**One thing your church could be better at:**  
*(pick from the words on the table or write your own)*

- 1.





**APPENDIX 2**

How long have you been attending your church?

<b>Years/Association</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Less than a year	0	1	1	2
1-3 years	3	1	2	6
4-10 years	3	2	6	11
11-20 years	2	4	0	6
20+ years	3	3	1	7

## APPENDIX 3

What is your favourite thing about your church?

There were 31 responses out of a possible 32.

SW	N	SC
Warmth	Quirky and diverse people who are usually willing to have a go and are always very welcoming.	People genuinely love Jesus and want to make him known in word and deed, in the city and beyond - partnership with other churches and church organisations. It feels like family - we know how to laugh together.
Community church; small, vibrant	The community	That we are authentic not perfect
	Desire for more of Jesus and a desire to reach Stockton (mission)	Sense of family/belonging
Embraces diversity and provides services to local community	People	Family - not always functional but family
Welcoming - family	It's a community of people who are serious about mission and who get along together without being fractious or cliquey.	Feels like family
Strong family in God; welcoming to all	Eclectic mix of people	Family, all ages, care and concern, wisdom and new life
Seeing lives change - all ages	Encourages participation, welcoming, friendly, not showy or pretence	Solid at core, fuzzy (inclusive) edges
Family	Friendly, relaxed family feel	The idea came from the community
Genuine love and compassion. A real family of all ages.	Low-key genuineness (honesty)	It's part of local community rather than separate
Being family and serving together	It's honesty	The people
Family	The love for one another and for the community; and the breadth of backgrounds represented; along with the growth of use of spiritual gifts. People	

Analysis:

Description	No of ppl	%
Family	12/32	37.5
People	6/32	19
Warmth/friendly	3/32	9
Community	2/32	6
Genuine/honest	2/32	6
Small, vibrant community church	1/32	3
Embraces diversity & connects with local community	1/32	3
That we are <b>authentic</b> not perfect	1/32	3
Solid at core, fuzzy (inclusive) edges	1/32	3
That the idea came from the community	1/32	3
Mission	1/32	3
Didn't answer	1/32	3



## APPENDIX 4

What are the top three things that your church does well?

There were 89 responses out of a possible 96.

1	2	3
Fellowship	Helping those in need	Worship
Community/mission	Fellowship	Worship
Fellowship	Helping those in need	Pastoral care
Mission	Welcoming new people and supporting each other	Developing and celebrating fruits of the Spirit
Welcoming new people	Wednesday welcome	Pastoral care
Worship	Prayer	Helping others
Releasing	Evangelism	Diversity within community
Fellowship	Bible- based teaching and learning	Helping those in need
Fellowship	Pastoral Care	Evangelism
Relationship	Looking after each other	Outreach
Family	Welcoming	Prayer
Community/diversity	Releasing people to do stuff	Willing to change
Mission to certain people groups	Helping those in need	Teaching the Bible
Serving		
Fellowship	Mission	Worship
Welcoming	Discipling	Worship
2 open groups for families and older people	Generosity to charities	Music and worship
Preaching	Worship	Multi-voice
Extended family atmosphere	Honest preaching	Foodbank etc. (footprints in the community)
Feeds people	Real and honest (most of the time!)	Builds bridges
Fellowship	Discipleship	Outreach/community
Mission to seekers	Outreach to local parents/ carers + preschool children	Encouraging /challenging/ supporting spiritual growth regardless of age

Continued...

1	2	3
Loving people outside the church		
Helping those in need	Community work	Pastoral care
Food	Fundraising	Training
Welcoming and friendly	Children's outreach	Seniors Outreach
Alpha/new Christians	Family/all age	Hospitality
Community engagement	Family feel	Blessing
Community action	Evangelism	Fellowship
Welcome	Hospitality	Reaching out and sharing building
A part of local community	Helps people to access God who wouldn't enter a 'normal' church	Is honest, doesn't give the impression 'we have all the answers'

Analysis:

Category	No. of people who had it in top 3
Fellowship	11
Helping those in need	7
Welcoming	7
Community	5
Worship	7
Reaching Out	6
Mission	5
Pastoral care	6
Evangelism	3
Discipleship	2
Teaching the Bible	2
Hospitality	2
Preaching	2
Releasing	2
Honest	2

<b>Category</b>	<b>No. of people who had it in top 3</b>
Prayer	2
Family	4
Connecting with older people	1
Connecting with families	1
Spiritual gifts	1
Builds bridges	1
Fundraising	1
Generosity	1
Multi-voiced	1
Diversity	1
Training	1
Blessing	1
Serving	1
Change	1
Alpha	1
Food	1
Didn't answer	7
	96

**APPENDIX 5**

What one thing could your church be better at?

There were 29 responses out of a possible 32.

SW	N	SC
Discipleship		Ensuring/creating a safe space for LGBTQ+ Christians and those searching for spirituality
	Engaging the wider community	Nurturing existing Christians into leadership
Mission	Mission to council estate context	Community work
Youth work	Embracing change and adapting/developing	Getting out of the walls
Worship (musical)	Discipleship	Pastoral care systems
Discipleship	Evangelism	All age worship
Communication	Local community and pioneer work - presence in local space	Engaging all in leadership
Discipleship	Mission/community work/ discipleship	Existing!
Community work	Small groups	Praying
Following up contacts/persuing those that drift away	Making decisions	Discipleship
	Youth outreach	

Analysis:

Description	No of ppl	%
Mission	5/32	16
Discipleship	5/32	16
Communication + following up contacts etc (1+1)	3/32	9
Didn't answer	3/32	9
Community work	2/32	6
Nurturing leaders	2/32	6
Change	1/32	3
Youth work	1/32	3
Worship	1/32	3
Evangelism	1/32	3
Youth outreach	1/32	3
Decision making	1/32	3
LGTBQ+ welcome	1/32	3
Pastoral care	1/32	3
All age worship	1/32	3
Praying	1/32	3
Small groups	1/32	3
Existing (new church plant!)	1/32	3

## APPENDIX 6

Where do you see God at work?

There were 124 responses.

SW	N	SC
Local homeless and those in poverty feeling loved	Pioneering Among younger leaders People who are ending with their communities/ neighbourhood	In the partnership with local parish church
God working within the volunteers at Time Out - gaining skills and confidence - developing relationships with selves and others - supporting each other - smiling and singing	Mental health - support in the community	The local primary school
Prayer pastors going out to the streets of Plymouth with the soup run	2 cynical unbelievers brought to our church and brought to tears	Being invited into neighbours homes
Encounter conference - would have been rubbish without God	Growing our church contacts with young people and students	Little stars - parent/carer and toddler group
Street Pastors	God is raising missional, pioneering ministers who are willing to think out of the box	Through the young people: mission - young people speaking to strangers about events at church
We gave out 60 Christmas hampers in 2017 and received many heartfelt thanks	The model of pastor/teacher is being challenged and missional leaders are emerging	Through the new homeless hostel - finally had a response from the manager after months of prayer
Daily in my own life: - preparing relationships within family - supporting my own health issues	People appearing at church	When God's priorities are different to ours eg low numbers of people attending
Helping us to develop relationships. Bringing new people to us. Answering so many prayer requests.	Majority of Baptist churches locally are in transition	In the testimonies and the baptisms of two teenage sisters on Easter Sunday, whose Mum died from cancer last year. They've been well cared for pastorally by the youthworker particularly
A WhatsApp group to allow immediate prayer.	Churches are understanding Missio Dei	Discipleship with seniors using Godly Play

<p>Among the unemployed people, those with drug and alcohol problems. Our young people; amazing to see our kids taking a lead in worship. Motivating all the local churches to pray for our community and his will for us.</p>	<p>In unexpected places!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the lives of people who DON'T come to church.</li> <li>- in opportunities that just open up in front of us</li> <li>- in the life of our church - MASSIVE change</li> </ul>	<p>When circumstances all come together to make mission possible</p>
<p>Daily in Time Out coffee shop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new people everyday since end of July - answer to prayer.</li> <li>- change sin people over time and also within sessions/ encounters - people asking for prayer.</li> </ul>	<p>Changing narrative. From passivity and struggle to opportunity, creativity and involvement.</p>	<p>Non-faith, non-church involvement in the church</p>
<p>Community prayer chain where we pray for the people we have met on the soup run.</p>	<p>In my job I see so much happening in and from the church where God is clearly working, speaking and touching lives. Hard to narrow down!</p>	<p>In town council. Support both ways.</p>
<p>Gentleman with paranoia schizophrenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- mother died 14 months ago</li> <li>- has coped with going through probate supported by myself and Male our pastor.</li> <li>- God has worked through settings and people involved</li> </ul>	<p>New wave of church planting/ renewal on Tyneside</p>	<p>Stirring the community to want the church plant</p>
<p>New people coming to faith</p>	<p>Enthusiasm of church members to lead and preach (esp females)</p> <p>People willing to take part in detached youth work and have conversation with you people</p> <p>Prompting questions on obedience, service and calling</p> <p>prompting to the margins, homeless, LGBT, young people</p> <p>Through small encouragement after the church has been through a difficult 3 year period</p>	<p>Being able to give children (who don't get a holiday) a holiday at home</p>



<p>God working through leaders of our church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- period of change and discussion</li> <li>- thought we might merge with another church but clearly shown we are meant to be present to be as we are</li> </ul>	<p>Hearing God's voice for other people - inside and outside the church</p>	<p>Volunteers to meet the needs as they arise, move on and replaced. God specific calling to each individual</p>
<p>Healing of past hurts</p>	<p>Among women in leadership</p>	<p>Late night/early morning conversations with Street Pastors. Young people wanting to share and be listened to without judgement.</p>
<p>Watching all ages experiencing the blessing and empowering of the Holy Spirit through 24/7 prayer</p>	<p>God is working in the Tyne Valley particularly around Predhoe, to bring churches together from different denominations to pray together and work together in mission. The catalyst for this is some new clergy appointments ad the clergy praying together but it is going much wider than the clergy!</p>	<p>In the invitation for some Christians to have a positive presence at next years Hampshire Pride</p>
<p>Coming alongside those who are depressed. Equipping us to help.</p>	<p>God is challenging us as a church to make disciples, not just converts; to think about how we encourage each other in our discipleship.</p>	<p>Year 6 transition prayer space</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the local community cafe hub, God is going on a journey with the staff.</li> <li>- In the church itself in our fellowship and relationships.</li> <li>- In the groups the church is involved with at the cafe</li> <li>- On Marlborough Street</li> <li>- In the local pub - more potential card nights</li> </ul>	<p>Believers are beginning to see themselves as missionaries in everyday life</p>	<p>Group of non-Christian Mums asking for a Bible study</p>
<p>I have felt, for many years, a need to share God's word. I see SWBU and my local churches enabling me to do this through PFS and local preaching.</p>	<p>Among those in addiction/ recovery</p>	<p>Bringing together passions and skills (eg politics and religion)</p>

Re assemblies and reflective spaces in most city primary schools	On Mill Lane council estate	Conversations with barber
Children listening and encountering God and hearing His voice on an on-going basis, with expectation!	In the 20s age group	Renew 37 project trial
Prayer fruit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- closing of some unsavoury pubs/clubs</li> <li>- local academy (11-18 year olds) v.open to gospel - full-time schools worker and volunteers from churches mentoring students etc.</li> </ul>	On Hortington Road	The appointment of a new Church Admin Manager and New Minister. Both are great!
2 alpha courses run by `RCC in past year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- very different groups</li> <li>- 4 baptisms after first course. Holy Spirit day very powerful. Course back by prayer.</li> <li>- 2nd course was about undoing and putting back together for older people.</li> </ul>	Whole church inspired by Ruth Rice and Renew Wellbeing Cafes - where it's OK not to be OK.	TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) - schools mentoring
Bringing Dave H to be our new minister	Touching people's hearts in worship	Vintage Messy Church. General involvement in care home. Taking toddlers to the care home.
Through conversations at church and beyond. Have 13 businesses who ow take part in the soup run and regularly receive prayer.	Our ladies lunch - once month we invite friends and neighbours to	In the mutual support I receive/give to colleagues at work, only one of whom is a Christian but all of whom are caring and kind as well as committed to their work.
Not having as much work as I needed but God has supported us and directed me into church leadership.	On St Luke's Avenue	The openness of parents/ carers to talk and share at the parent and toddler community group we run on a Friday morning. They've asked for Messy Church as well as August sessions.
In my secular work I have been struggling for 2 years with my boss yet all through it I have been able to tell him I am praying for him and his wife!	The beginnings of missional communities	God's going before us and delighting us at every turn; sorry very general but too many small moments to record!

When I had to cope with ladder in Brixham harbour on Saturday to get onto a trawler!	In a hand full of new Christians in our church from diverse backgrounds	At work, where I can subtly teach Godly principles in workshops for adoptive parents and foster carers - they love the teaching and it helps improve family life with traumatised children.
Lots of children enjoying Sunday mornings	Powerful prayer week and time set aside.	God appointed conversations at a campsite washing up stand.
Engaging with those who enquire about what we do in our outreaches. Conversation leads to all manner of opportunity.	In our 24/7 prayer week	Through relationships with those who have been hurt by the church. Forgiveness and conversation.
Sense of wanting to be together - loving each other.	Intentional prayer/listening out in communities.	Local resident finding raffle gifts for upcoming community day and being empowered.
New, younger families joining our church, adding new life.	Friendships	In the boldness of members to reach out in new ways
	Messy Church	In my perfect ministry being created at the right time.
	The establishing of links with hostel (St James). Several little craft/story sessions build relationship - some even came to church Christmas dinner	
	Asylum seekers - practical, legal, emotional and spiritual help	
	Distribution of hot cross buns/ choc eggs on Good Friday in the local shopping parade	
	5 denominations in the two working together	
	In people's streets	

Analysis:

22 categories were identified. The number below each category heading is how many situations described by the participants were in that category.

Category	Situations
Among those who are marginalised  15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local homeless and those in poverty feeling loved</li><li>• We gave out 60 Christmas hampers in 2017 and received many heartfelt thanks</li><li>• Among the unemployed people, those with drug and alcohol problems</li><li>• Gentleman with paranoia schizophrenia<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- mother died 14 months ago</li><li>- has coped with going through probate supported by myself and our pastor</li><li>- God has worked through settings and people involved</li></ul></li><li>• Coming alongside those who are depressed. Equipping us to help</li><li>• Mental health - support in the community</li><li>• Prompting to the margins, homeless, LGBT, young people</li><li>• Among those in addiction/recovery</li><li>• Whole church inspired by Ruth Rice and Renew Wellbeing Cafes - where it's OK not to be OK</li><li>• The establishing of links with hostel (St James). Several little craft/story sessions build relationship - some even came to church Christmas dinner</li><li>• Asylum seekers - practical, legal, emotional and spiritual help</li><li>• Through the new homeless hostel - finally had a response from the manager after months of prayer</li><li>• Being able to give children (who don't get a holiday) a holiday at home</li><li>• In the invitation for some Christians to have a positive presence at next years Hampshire Pride</li><li>• TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) - schools mentoring</li></ul>
In schools  4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RE assemblies and reflective spaces in most city primary schools</li><li>• Local academy (11-18 year olds) v.open to gospel - full-time schools worker and volunteers from churches mentoring students etc.</li><li>• The local primary school</li><li>• TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) - schools mentoring</li></ul>

<p>Among children</p> <p>12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our young people; amazing to see our kids taking a lead in worship</li> <li>• RE assemblies and reflective spaces in most city primary schools</li> <li>• Children listening and encountering God and hearing His voice on an on-going basis, with expectation!</li> <li>• Lots of children enjoying Sunday mornings</li> <li>• New, younger families joining our church, adding new life</li> <li>• Messy Church</li> <li>• Little stars - parent/carer and toddler group</li> <li>• Being able to give children (who don't get a holiday) a holiday at home</li> <li>• Year 6 transition prayer space</li> <li>• TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) - schools mentoring</li> <li>• Vintage Messy Church. General involvement in care home. Taking toddlers to the care home</li> <li>• The openness of parents/carers to talk and share at the parent and toddler community group we run on a Friday morning. They've asked for Messy Church as well as August sessions</li> </ul>
<p>Among young people</p> <p>8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our young people; amazing to see our kids taking a lead in worship</li> <li>• Local academy (11-18 year olds) v.open to gospel - full-time schools worker and volunteers from churches mentoring students etc.</li> <li>• Growing our church contacts with young people and students</li> <li>• People willing to take part in detached youth work and have conversation with young people</li> <li>• In the 20s age group</li> <li>• Through the young people: mission - young people speaking to strangers about events at church</li> <li>• In the testimonies and the baptisms of two teenage sisters on Easter Sunday, whose Mum died from cancer last year. They've been well cared for pastorally by the youthworker particularly</li> <li>• Late night/early morning conversations with Street Pastors. Young people wanting to share and be listened to without judgement</li> </ul>
<p>Among all ages/families</p> <p>5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watching all ages experiencing the blessing and empowering of the Holy Spirit through 24/7 prayer</li> <li>• New, younger families joining our church, adding new life</li> <li>• Messy Church</li> <li>• Little stars - parent/carer and toddler group</li> <li>• The openness of parents/carers to talk and share at the parent and toddler community group we run on a Friday morning. They've asked for Messy Church as well as August sessions</li> </ul>
<p>Among seniors</p> <p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discipleship with seniors using Godly Play</li> <li>• Vintage Messy Church. General involvement in care home. Taking toddlers to the care home</li> </ul>
<p>Through Street Pastors</p> <p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer pastors going out to the streets of Plymouth with the soup run</li> <li>• Street Pastors</li> <li>• Late night/early morning conversations with Street Pastors. Young people wanting to share and be listened to without judgement</li> </ul>

<p>Through prayer</p> <p>18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer pastors going out to the streets of Plymouth with the soup run</li> <li>• Answering so many prayer requests</li> <li>• A WhatsApp group to allow immediate prayer</li> <li>• Community prayer chain where we pray for the people we have met on the soup run</li> <li>• Children listening and encountering God and hearing His voice on an on-going basis, with expectation!</li> <li>• Prayed for local academy (11-18 year olds) and it's v.open to gospel - full-time schools worker and volunteers from churches mentoring students etc.</li> <li>• Prayer fruit - closing of some unsavoury pubs/clubs</li> <li>• 2 alpha courses run by `RCC in past year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- very different groups</li> <li>- 4 baptisms after first course. Holy Spirit day very powerful. Course back by prayer.</li> <li>- 2nd course was about undoing and putting back together for older people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Through conversations at church and beyond. Have 13 businesses who now take part in the soup run and regularly receive prayer</li> <li>• Daily in Time Out coffee shop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new people everyday since end of July - answer to prayer.</li> <li>- changes in people over time and also within sessions/encounters - people asking for prayer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Watching all ages experiencing the blessing and empowering of the Holy Spirit through 24/7 prayer</li> <li>• In my secular work I have been struggling for 2 years with my boss yet all through it I have been able to tell him I am praying for him and his wife!</li> <li>• Hearing God's voice for other people - inside and outside the church</li> <li>• God is working in the Tyne Valley particularly around Predhoe, to bring churches together from different denominations to pray together and work together in mission. The catalyst for this is some new clergy appointments ad the clergy praying together but it is going much wider than the clergy!</li> <li>• Powerful prayer week and time set aside</li> <li>• In our 24/7 prayer week</li> <li>• Intentional prayer/listening out in communities</li> <li>• Year 6 transition prayer space</li> </ul>
<p>In me</p> <p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily in my own life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preparing relationships within family</li> <li>- supporting my own health issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• I have felt, for many years, a need to share God's word. I see SWBU and my local churches enabling me to do this through PFS and local preaching</li> </ul>

<p>Through relationships with (new) people (outside church)</p> <p>11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping us to develop relationships</li> <li>• Bringing new people to us</li> <li>• Daily in Time Out coffee shop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new people everyday since end of July - answer to prayer.</li> <li>- changes in people over time and also within sessions/encounters - people asking for prayer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• People appearing at church</li> <li>• People willing to take part in detached youth work and have conversation with young people</li> <li>• Hearing God's voice for other people - inside and outside the church</li> <li>• Our ladies lunch - once month we invite friends and neighbours to</li> <li>• Being invited into neighbours homes</li> <li>• Non-faith, non-church involvement in the church</li> <li>• Stirring the community to want the church plant</li> <li>• Through relationships with those who have been hurt by the church. Forgiveness and conversation</li> </ul>
<p>Among new believers (Baptism)</p> <p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New people coming to faith</li> <li>• 2 alpha courses run by `RCC in past year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- very different groups</li> <li>- 4 baptisms after first course. Holy Spirit day very powerful. Course back by prayer.</li> <li>- 2nd course was about undoing and putting back together for older people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In a hand full of new Christians in our church from diverse backgrounds</li> <li>• In the testimonies and the baptisms of two teenage sisters on Easter Sunday, whose Mum died from cancer last year. They've been well cared for pastorally by the youth worker particularly</li> </ul>
<p>At specific events/places</p> <p>14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encounter conference - would have been rubbish without God</li> <li>• We gave out 60 Christmas hampers in 2017 and received many heartfelt thanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Marlborough Street</li> <li>• In the local pub - more potential card nights</li> <li>• On Mill Lane council estate</li> <li>• On Hortington Road</li> <li>• Our ladies lunch - once month we invite friends and neighbours to</li> <li>• On St Luke's Avenue</li> <li>• In people's streets</li> <li>• In the invitation for some Christians to have a positive presence at next years Hampshire Pride</li> <li>• Conversations with barber</li> <li>• Renew 37 project trial</li> <li>• God appointed conversations at a campsite washing up stand</li> <li>• In my perfect ministry being created at the right time</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p>Through Change 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the local community cafe hub, God is going on a journey with the staff</li> <li>• God working within the volunteers at Time Out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gaining skills and confidence</li> <li>- developing relationships with selves and others</li> <li>- supporting each other</li> <li>- smiling and singing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Healing of past hurts</li> <li>• The model of pastor/teacher is being challenged and missional leaders are emerging</li> <li>• Majority of Baptist churches locally are in transition</li> <li>• Churches are understanding Missio Dei</li> <li>• In the life of our church - MASSIVE change</li> <li>• Changing narrative. From passivity and struggle to opportunity, creativity and involvement</li> <li>• Enthusiasm of church members to lead and preach (esp females)</li> </ul>
<p>Through women in leadership 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enthusiasm of church members to lead and preach (esp females)</li> <li>• Among women in leadership</li> </ul>
<p>Through community engagement 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We gave out 60 Christmas hampers in 2017 and received many heartfelt thanks</li> <li>• In the groups the church is involved with at the community cafe hub</li> <li>• Through conversations at church and beyond. Have 13 businesses who now take part in the soup run and regularly receive prayer</li> <li>• Engaging with those who enquire about what we do in our outreaches. Conversation leads to all manner of opportunity</li> <li>• Daily in Time Out coffee shop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new people everyday since end of July - answer to prayer.</li> <li>- changes in people over time and also within sessions/encounters - people asking for prayer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the local community cafe hub, God is going on a journey with the staff</li> <li>• People who are engaging with their communities/neighbourhood</li> <li>• People willing to take part in detached youth work and have conversation with young people</li> <li>• Our ladies lunch - once month we invite friends and neighbours to</li> <li>• The establishing of links with hostel (St James). Several little craft/story sessions build relationship - some even came to church Christmas dinner</li> <li>• Distribution of hot cross buns/choc eggs on Good Friday in the local shopping parade</li> <li>• In town council. Support both ways</li> <li>• Stirring the community to want the church plant</li> <li>• In the invitation for some Christians to have a positive presence at next years Hampshire Pride</li> <li>• Local resident finding raffle gifts for upcoming community day and being empowered</li> </ul>

<p>As churches work together</p> <p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivating all the local churches to pray for our community and his will for us</li> <li>• God is working in the Tyne Valley particularly around Predhoe, to bring churches together from different denominations to pray together and work together in mission. The catalyst for this is some new clergy appointments and the clergy praying together but it is going much wider than the clergy!</li> <li>• 5 denominations in the town working together</li> <li>• In the partnership with local parish church</li> </ul>
<p>In the church</p> <p>18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through conversations at church and beyond. Have 13 businesses who now take part in the soup run and regularly receive prayer</li> <li>• In the church itself in our fellowship and relationships</li> <li>• God working through leaders of our church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- period of change and discussion</li> <li>- thought we might merge with another church but clearly shown we are meant to be present to be as we are</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sense of wanting to be together - loving each other</li> <li>• Churches are understanding Missio Dei</li> <li>• In the life of our church - MASSIVE change</li> <li>• Changing narrative. From passivity and struggle to opportunity, creativity and involvement</li> <li>• In my job I see so much happening in and from the church where God is clearly working, speaking and touching lives. Hard to narrow down!</li> <li>• Through small encouragements after the church has been through a difficult 3 year period</li> <li>• God is challenging us as a church to make disciples, not just converts; to think about how we encourage each other in our discipleship</li> <li>• Believers are beginning to see themselves as missionaries in everyday life</li> <li>• Whole church inspired by Ruth Rice and Renew Wellbeing Cafes - where it's OK not to be OK</li> <li>• Touching people's hearts in worship</li> <li>• 2 cynical unbelievers brought to our church and brought to tears</li> <li>• In the testimonies and the baptisms of two teenage sisters on Easter Sunday, whose Mum died from cancer last year. They've been well cared for pastorally by the youthworker particularly</li> <li>• Volunteers to meet the needs as they arise, move on and replaced. God specific calling to each individual</li> <li>• God's going before us and delighting us at every turn; sorry very general but too many small moments to record!</li> <li>• In the boldness of members to reach out in new ways</li> </ul>

Through leaders 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bringing Dave H to be our new minister</li> <li>• Among younger leaders</li> <li>• God is raising missional, pioneering ministers who are willing to think out of the box</li> <li>• The model of pastor/teacher is being challenged and missional leaders are emerging</li> <li>• God is working in the Tyne Valley particularly around Predhoe, to bring churches together from different denominations to pray together and work together in mission. The catalyst for this is some new clergy appointments and the clergy praying together but it is going much wider than the clergy!</li> <li>• The appointment of a new Church Admin Manager and New Minister. Both are great!</li> </ul>
Through pioneering 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pioneering</li> <li>• God is raising missional, pioneering ministers who are willing to think out of the box</li> <li>• New wave of church planting/renewal on Tyneside</li> <li>• The beginnings of missional communities</li> <li>• Stirring the community to want the church plant</li> </ul>
In non believers 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the lives of people who DON'T come to church</li> <li>• Non-faith, non-church involvement in the church</li> <li>• Stirring the community to want the church plant</li> <li>• Group of non-Christian Mums asking for a Bible study</li> <li>• Conversations with barber</li> </ul>
At work 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In my secular work I have been struggling for 2 years with my boss yet all through it I have been able to tell him I am praying for him and his wife!</li> <li>• In my job I see so much happening in and from the church where God is clearly working, speaking and touching lives. Hard to narrow down!</li> <li>• In the mutual support I receive/give to colleagues at work, only one of whom is a Christian but all of whom are caring and kind as well as committed to their work</li> <li>• At work, where I can subtly teach Godly principles in workshops for adoptive parents and foster carers - they love the teaching and it helps improve family life with traumatised children</li> </ul>
Other 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When I had to cope with ladder in Brixham harbour on Saturday to get onto a trawler!</li> <li>• Healing of past hurts</li> <li>• Prompting questions on obedience, service and calling</li> <li>• Friendships</li> <li>• When God's priorities are different to ours eg low numbers of people attending</li> <li>• When circumstances all come together to make mission possible</li> <li>• Bringing together passions and skills (eg politics and religion)</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 7a

### a. Is there anything else you could do/you would like to do?

There were 77 responses.

SW	N	SC
Who Let the Dad's Out? Messy Church for Dads	Youth zone - open our cafe more days more effective discipleship - how do we hold on to people?	Community garden
Be able to encourage the other soup runs to be more open to change and widen the route	Move into more community focus	Creating time to do some mindfulness with people
Open a Christian coffee and resource shop but with quality service and drinks	Work part time so I have time to experiment	Feed children a meal a day in the holidays
Use community space in brand new estate school for whatever needs - messy church, toddler group etc.	Would like our churches to rethink our forms and structures so that they better meet the needs of the 21st century world we all live in - for the sake of the 'not yet' Christian and also for the sake of the church folk too	A truly inclusive church - safe for LGTBQ+. We're good at involving adults with learning disabilities, the old and the young but haven't always been so accepting (underneath, not so obviously) of all who come in and want to join in
Reach to the heart of the town - the homeless and the drug addicts	Increase spirituality and spiritual footprint in local area Depth and action discipleship Increase where people are hungry for depth/theology	Do more community focussed things on a Sunday morning - forest church once a month? - bike ride and prayer (invite friends)? - tea and lunch (invite friends)?
Small local festival in Torbay - similar to the SWBA family day	Make spiritual formation/ discipleship integral to church life out of which mission flows naturally	New housing
Serious and extensive SEN provision	All life discipleship (LICC initiative?)	Would like to relaunch messy church under a new idea/form - any ideas?
Community cafe - to welcome outsiders - to enable the family	I'd like to see Stockfield Baptist Church join in with the All of life discipleship (LICC initiative)	Pray more

Do it more regularly!	See apostolic and prophetic ministries recognised - recognise the 'bishops' among us	Get more training
To find ways - God's ways - of working together, ecumenically in town.	Mental health - an unending need for support and help	Meet more pioneers and network/swap ideas
Be able to provide a community hub for elderly and lonely in our community	See 'appropriate' closing down of some churches to re-imagine and release the new	School for those that are not able to fit into 'normal' school
Have more prayer happening every night	Recognise, equip and encourage next generation of leaders	In a time of austerity, even in a rich city, there's a need for social projects across voluntary and statutory agencies in the county
Have more resource to support youth work and develop creche work	To see a community of believers engaged in various missional smaller communities - living Jesus, sharing Jesus, loving, striving and being salt and light, welcoming and embracing and held together in a hub to be resourced, encouraged and sent out	Publishing outlines for services for Dementia Nursing Homes as we curate and deliver them
Find an assistant manager who can support volunteers and customers and enjoy the food prep etc.	Use counselling skills/ qualification with in local community as well as through work	Pre-retirement conference to motivate 3rd agers to consider what God might be calling them into
Build more relationships with schools/doctors etc to provide food to hungry families	Release creativity and imagination	Youth engagement
Share Jesus with more children - local and beyond	Think through how best to delve leaders from amongst the council estate believers.	Lifeskills courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- money</li> <li>- cooking</li> <li>- computers</li> <li>- job hunting</li> </ul>
Saturday night church happening weekly (currently only twice a month)	Develop intern programme	Outreach prayer
Inspire others to come with me from YBC to bring God to life in the new estate in Yeovil.	Help the prisoners when released from Holme House Prison	Getting out of church walls
More support for senior leadership team	Develop some sort of 'mini messy'	Coffee morning

A bit more organised evangelism discovery courses not called courses! Follow up from contacts made	Call more to council estate mission	Toddler Group
Develop a men's group	Community youth outreach - to meet the town's young people, draw alongside. Need to help the school.	Regular coffee/meeting for Winchester Nursing Homes Activities Co-ordinators
Get more involved with local social issues. Housing, helping with those who struggle with everyday living. We already do some of these things. I want more involvement.	Collaborative church plant with other Baptist churches	Potential building a place of worship and community space by the developers
Reach out to new housing area - new folk moved in	Use the building to facilitate more hospitality and community building (awaiting renovation)	Work with the local C of E School
Welcoming those with mental health issues in a practical and accessible way	Refocus - from the church to the mission	Church run family centre
Help a local church to grow in vision and mission by pastoring or supporting.	Subvert the traditional view of 'the minister' in a Baptist setting (I am the minister!)	
Develop, find out more ways to reach out, connect etc with the wider community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- as an individual church</li> <li>- as part of the wider church community in town</li> <li>- as an individual</li> </ul>	Greater presence in local area More detached youth nights on the street Mission to shape church!	
	Explore different sorts of missional community groups	

Analysis:

There were 76 responses which generally fell into two categories;

- (1) missional ideas aimed at connecting with or serving the local community
- (2) ideas that develop/change/grow the existing church congregation

There were just three that would fit in both or either category:

- (1) Release creativity and imagination
- (2) Get more training
- (3) Potentially building a place of worship and community space by the developers

COMMUNITY/MISSION RELATED (49)	CHURCH RELATED (24)
Who Let the Dad's Out? Messy Church for Dads	Help a local church to grow in vision and mission by pastoring or supporting.
Be able to encourage the other soup runs to be more open to change and widen the route	Develop a men's group
Open a Christian coffee and resource shop but with quality service and drinks	A bit more organised evangelism discovery courses not called courses! Follow up from contacts made
Use community space in brand new estate school for whatever needs - messy church, toddler group etc.	More support for senior leadership team
Reach to the heart of the town - the homeless and the drug addicts	Have more resource to support youth work and develop creche work
Small local festival in Torbay - similar to the SWBA family day	To find ways - God's ways - of working together, ecumenically in town.
Serious and extensive SEN provision	Saturday night church happening weekly (currently only twice a month)
Community cafe - to welcome outsiders - to enable the family	Have more prayer happening every night
Be able to provide a community hub for elderly and lonely in our community	More effective discipleship - how do we hold on to people?
Find an assistant manager who can support volunteers and customers and enjoy the food prep etc.	Increase spirituality and spiritual footprint in local area Depth and action discipleship Increase where people are hungry for depth/theology
Build more relationships with schools/doctors etc to provide food to hungry families	Make spiritual formation/discipleship integral to church life out of which mission flows naturally
Share Jesus with more children - local and beyond	All life discipleship (LICC initiative?)

Inspire others to come with me from YBC to bring God to life in the new estate in Yeovil.	I'd like to see Stockfield Baptist Church join in with the All of life discipleship (LICC initiative)
Get more involved with local social issues. Housing, helping with those who struggle with everyday living. We already do some of these things. I want more involvement.	See apostolic and prophetic ministries recognised - recognise the 'bishops' among us
Reach out to new housing area - new folk moved in	See 'appropriate' closing down of some churches to re-imagine and release the new
Welcoming those with mental health issues in a practical and accessible way	Recognise, equip and encourage next generation of leaders
Develop, find out more ways to reach out, connect etc with the wider community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- as an individual church</li> <li>- as part of the wider church community in town</li> <li>- as an individual</li> </ul>	Think through how best to develop leaders from amongst the council estate believers.
Youth zone - open our cafe more days	Subvert the traditional view of 'the minister' in a Baptist setting (I am the minister!)
Mental health - an unending need for support and help	Develop intern programme
Use counselling skills/qualification with in local community as well as through work	A truly inclusive church - safe for LGBTQ+. We're good at involving adults with learning disabilities, the old and the young but haven't always been so accepting (underneath, not so obviously) of all who come in and want to join in
Help the prisoners when released from Holme House Prison	Pray more
Develop some sort of 'mini messy'	Publishing outlines for services for Dementia Nursing Homes as we curate and deliver them
Call more to council estate mission	Pre-retirement conference to motivate 3rd agers to consider what God might be calling them into
Community youth outreach - to meet the town's young people, draw alongside. Need to help the school.	Outreach prayer
Collaborative church plant with other Baptist churches	
Refocus - from the church to the mission	
Greater presence in local area More detached youth nights on the street Mission to shape church!	



Explore different sorts of missional community groups	
To see a community of believers engaged in various missional smaller communities - living Jesus, sharing Jesus, loving, striving and being salt and light, welcoming and embracing and held together in a hub to be resourced, encouraged and sent out	
Use the building to facilitate more hospitality and community building (awaiting renovation)	
Work part time so I have time to experiment	
Would like our churches to rethink our forms and structures so that they better meet the needs of the 21st century world we all live in - for the sake of the 'not yet' Christian and also for the sake of the church folk too	
Community garden	
Creating time to do some mindfulness with people	
Feed children a meal a day in the holidays	
Do more community focussed things on a Sunday morning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- forest church once a month?</li> <li>- bike ride and prayer (invite friends)?</li> <li>- tea and lunch (invite friends)?</li> </ul>	
New housing	
Would like to relaunch messy church under a new idea/form - any ideas?	
Meet more pioneers and network/swap ideas	
School for those that are not able to fit into 'normal' school	
In a time of austerity, even in a rich city, there's a need for social projects across voluntary and statutory agencies in the county	
Youth engagement	
Lifeskills courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- money</li> <li>- cooking</li> <li>- computers</li> <li>- job hunting</li> </ul>	

Getting out of church walls	
Coffee morning	
Toddler Group	
Regular coffee/meeting for Winchester Nursing Homes Activities Co-ordinators	
Work with the local C of E School	
Church run family centre	
Release creativity and imagination	
Get more training	
Potentially building a place of worship and community space by the developers	

**APPENDIX 7b**

**b. What would help you to do this?**

SW	N	SC
As many churches together to pool resources and work with local authorities	Mental health - community connections with those already at work in this area - training - care!	A team!
Time Money People	Releasing, equipping, leader/ leadership who are secure enough in God and who God has made them to be, to be able to hold ministries together under their Jesus-like servanthood	Training that's not too far to go
More time for me to be able to make contacts	Youth in town - specific help for current team- people connections - God moments	Releasing from other roles
Engagement by others	Partner with others more extrovert than me	Secure funding
More people from the local churches to get involved so enough people to 'man' each Saturday evening, including musicians with a heart for listening to God and facilitating worship, declaration, proclamation, sing prayer over town	Challenging and driving change	A team
Networking with others	Personal capacity to be involved (+ finance) Focus on one thing - understanding of mission and church A model to copy or emulate not to be jealous of!	Training
Training	Rediscovery of our missional roots Radically re think training, deployment, use of resources and support mechanisms.	Youth worker/minister

Believing my vision could be the churches vision Prayer/discernment	Maybe being part of the proposed LICC forum	Team leader (previous volunteers) to lead different aspects of our seniors work in order to cover all the different areas
Like minded people who share my vision - risk takers for God	Discipleship recourses for people who struggle with literacy	Help with marketing/inviting
Time and energy	Listening - to God - to people	How to do events to start youth conversation
A place/group area to create a resource centre/coffee shop supported by the churches but open to all - Quality	Some theology! Leadership training - the plan is to start some of this in the autumn	
Perhaps training to reach out to newer housing estates Ideas of reaching out from church base in old Devonport to new housing - how can we bridge?	Tell more stories	
Find a church that will take me as I am and allow me to train and grow whilst pastoring them	Discuss with others already doing it	
	Help with community listening	
	Encouragement from others	

Analysis:

18 categories were identified.

	SW	N	SC	TOTAL	Ranking
Churches to pool resources	I			I	
Time	III	I	I	5	4th
Money	I	I	I	3	5th
People	IIII	II	IIII	10	1st
Networking	II	IIII		6	3rd
Training	II - general - new housing	III	IIII - marketing - how to events to start youth conversation - that isn't too far away!	9	2nd
Faith	I			I	
Prayer	I			I	
Energy	I			I	
A space	I			I	
Ideas	I	I (discipleship resources for people with low literacy)		2	
A church to belong to	I			I	
Leaders		I		I	
God moments		I		I	
Change		II		2	
To listen		II		2	
Stories		I		I	
Encouragement		I		I	

## APPENDIX 8

### Do you feel connected to your local association and BUGB?

There were 32 participants who each had one vote for 'Association' and another for 'BUGB'.

	Yes	No	Didn't answer
Association	24	3	5
BUGB	14	13	5

Participants were given the opportunity to comment generally on connection to Association and BUGB in an open conversation at the end. Here is a summary of the comments I noted in the discussions:

#### Reflecting on connections with Association and BU

Only so much time to connect

Better when it's not forced upon us but forms out of relationship - like fresh streams

Where you're based geographically has a big impact on how connected you feel

People generally operate more regionally

Emails, newsletters etc overwhelm us with generic content

REAL PEOPLE, actually connecting is better - this is good!

Connection to association and BU often depends on the pastor and how they feel about it  
- pastor is key

Newer folk wouldn't know about BUGB

Some of us know as individual because of our relationships but there will be others in our churches who don't have a clue

Lesser sense of 'baptist family'

No Baptist ID

Ministers generally know and are sometimes involved but it doesn't get filtered down

Know when things go wrong

Footsteps training has connected me with colleges and associations

College system introduces you

Looking for new ministers

Resource - safeguarding, health and safety

Relationship - geography sometimes tricky

Why be part of the BU?

Independence of congregation has been heightened - need to remember our interdependence

How much does BU give value to churches?

Community - we all crave that

More communication recently

Leaders and ministers day was better. It included spouses too.

Generational thing - lots of young people don't know.

Assembly is too short and too far away to be useful.

Not great consistency across associations eg ministerial recognition