



Our Church

Ministry Development Team Workbook

Introduction

The church is here to witness to God's love and to spread the message of the Gospel. A flourishing church is one that's living and growing, constantly looking for fresh opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus. Accompanied Ministry Development (AMD) will encourage our Christian communities in Cornwall to flourish.

What is *Our Church*?

Our Church is a structure to reflect on church life and create a 'snapshot' of where you are today. You can take another snapshot later in Accompanied Ministry Development.

There is a series of questions to think about, but there are no 'right' and 'wrong' answers – the questions simply help you think about the life of your church. This workbook will help you to take stock, and think about areas where your church can grow and develop. These are the areas which the workbook covers:

Prayer
Our Lives as Christians
Worship
Relationships and welcome
Community
Christian thinking
Sense of purpose

How do we answer the questions?

There are three sorts of questions to address: **Our Church survey**, **Describing our Church and Our Church in Numbers**. Looked at together, these will help you tell the story of your church.

Our Church survey is a questionnaire which you need to ask everyone in your church to complete. The questionnaire will only take a few minutes: people can choose between a paper questionnaire and an online survey. Both are anonymous. Once you've got the results of the survey you can record the answers in this workbook.

Describing Our Church is your chance as a Ministry Development Team to tell your church's story in your own words. The workbook has a series of questions to answer, for example, 'What changes have you made to your church's intercessions over the past 12 months?'

Our Church in Numbers is a statistical picture of your parish using data you already collect each year for your PCC annual report together with information you'll be given when you start Accompanied Ministry Development.

The following pages are where you can collate the answers from the **Our Church Survey**, **Describing Our Church** and **Our Church in Numbers**. For the **Our Church Survey** answers, add up the number of responses to each question and write the number beside each choice.

For example:

How often do you pray by yourself?			
At least every day	9	Several times a week	2
Weekly	8	Less than weekly	0

For the *Describing our Church* questions, complete the boxes once you've discussed the questions as a Ministry Development Team. Feel free to attach extra sheets if you need to. For the *Our Church in Numbers* section, you will get the data from your PCC Annual Report and from AMD information.

What do we do with the answers?

The answers will help you to get the very best from Accompanied Ministry Development as the Ministry Development Team works together. Then you can re-visit the questions to see what's changed in the parish and look at new areas to explore which have emerged during the year. You can share your answers with the bishops so that they can support you.

What will the Diocese do with the answers?

Accompanied Ministry Development is led by the parish and the priest – the *Our Church* process helps you measure your progress by comparing where you start with where you get to. It will not be used to compare one parish with another or allocate resources. Accompanied Ministry Development is a central part of how the Diocese of Truro is growing and changing. The information that you gather will inform your discussions about opportunities for growth in the future.

What help is available?

The Accompanied Ministry Development team can provide advice and support.

Tel 01872 274351
Email amd@truro.anglican.org
Web www.trurodiocese.org.uk/amd

Prayer

Take these answers from your completed survey forms and online responses. Add up the number of responses and note them next to each answer.

1. How often do you pray by yourself?

At least every day

Several times a week

Weekly

Less than weekly

2. Have you had a recent experience (perhaps in the last month) of God answering prayer?

Yes

No

Not sure/don't know

3. Does prayer in your church services concern the things that really matter to you personally?

Always

Often

Sometimes

Hardly ever

4. Do you have someone you can talk to about prayer?

Yes

No

Not sure/don't know

These are questions for the Ministry Development Team to discuss and complete.

To what extent does your church feel like a place of prayer?

Prayer feels central

Prayer feels quite important

Prayer feels not very important

There's no sense of prayer

What changes have you made to your church's intercessions over the past 12 months?

What do you pray about together as a church?

Our lives as Christians

Take these answers from your completed survey forms and online responses. Add up the number of responses and note them next to each answer.

5. Identify two issues which are important for you: they could be anything, for example, bringing up children, work, money, loneliness or something else altogether.

List the responses and their frequency here. There's no need to be completely comprehensive, but include the most common responses and a representative cross-section of the things that people say.

6. Can you see God at work in these issues?

Yes, clearly Yes, a bit Not really Not at all

7. How much has the church helped you?

A lot A bit Not much Not at all

8. Have you prayed about these issues?

A lot A bit Not much Not at all

These are questions for the Ministry Development Team to discuss and complete.

How does our Christian discipleship affect how we live our daily lives, at work, with our families, and in other contexts?

Do local people think our church is interested in all aspects of life?

Very interested Quite interested
Not very interested Not at all interested

Worship

Take these answers from your completed survey forms and online responses. Add up the number of responses and note them next to each answer.

9. How often do you go to church?

At least once a week

Twice a month

Once a month

Less often

10. Why do you go to church?

To feel part of the community

To take communion

To worship God

To pray

To learn from sermons and readings

It's part of my routine

I take my family

I enjoy the services

Other *List the responses and their frequency here. There's no need to be completely comprehensive, but include the most common responses and a representative cross-section of the things that people say.*

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11. What do you like most and least about the services at your church?

List the responses and their frequency here. There's no need to be completely comprehensive, but include the most common responses and a representative cross-section of the things that people say.

Like most	Like least

These are questions for the Ministry Development Team to discuss and complete.

What variety of worship happens in your church?

How has this changed over the past 12 months?

Relationships and welcome

Take these answers from your completed survey forms and online responses. Add up the number of responses and note them next to each answer.

14. How many new regular worshippers have joined your church in the last three years?

Include the maximum and minimum numbers from the survey and the average response.

Maximum

Minimum

Average

15. How long have you been attending services here?

Include the two totals from the survey.

Up to two years

More than two years

16. What two words would you use to describe the welcome when you first came to church?

List the responses and their frequency here. There's no need to be completely comprehensive, but include the most common responses and a representative cross-section of the things that people say.

17. How many times during the week do you meet people from your church, outside normal church activities?

0 - 1

2 - 3

4 - 5

18. How would you describe relationships in your church

Very good

Good

Fair

Not so good

19. How do you think relationships are changing?

Improving quickly

Improving slowly

Staying the same

Getting worse

These are questions for the Ministry Development Team to discuss and complete.

What actions have been taken over the past 12 months to reconcile relationships in your congregation (if this has been necessary)?

What new opportunities have you created for being together for example new study groups or social activities?

What has your church done over the past 12 months to encourage people or groups who are not part of the church to come to a service or take part in another activity?

Community

Take these answers from your completed survey forms and online responses. Add up the number of responses and note them next to each answer.

20. What two words or phrases do you think local people outside your church family would use to describe your church?

List the responses and their frequency here. There's no need to be completely comprehensive, but include the most common responses and a representative cross-section of the things that people say.

21. Thinking about clubs, societies, causes or activities you're involved with, how much do you see your involvement as part of your Christian witness?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Definitely connected | Something to do with it |
| Not really connected | Nothing to do with it |

22. To what extent do you think people in the wider community feel that they can get wisdom and support from your church to deal with emotional, ethical or practical problems? They:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Definitely can | Probably can | Probably can't | Definitely can't |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|

These are questions for the Ministry Development Team to discuss and complete.

What different communities do people in your church belong to? (For example, work, different places, schools, social clubs, sports groups, etc.)

What active connections does your church have with your community that weren't in place 12 months ago?

Do you have a clear sense of where you have strong connections and where you don't have any connections?

Very clear sense

Quite a clear sense

Some sense

No real sense

When you last created a parish profile or a statement of need, how much input did you get from outside the church, for example from schools, local organisations, other churches?

Lots of input

Quite a lot of input

Some input

No input

Christian thinking

Take these answers from your completed survey forms and online responses. Add up the number of responses and note them next to each answer.

23. How keen are you to think more deeply about your Christian faith?

Very keen

Quite keen

Not very keen

It's not for me

24. What do you do to help think about your Christian faith?

Study the Bible alone

Study the Bible as part of a group

Participate in groups such as prayer groups

Read books about Christianity

Watch TV, DVDs or listen to radio programmes

Use online resources

Other *List the responses and their frequency here. There's no need to be completely comprehensive, but include the most common responses and a representative cross-section of the things that people say.*

These are questions for the Ministry Development Team to discuss and complete.

What ways of exploring Christian thinking has your parish tried in the past 12 months?

What plans do you have for helping the wider community understand Christian thinking?

Sense of purpose

Take these answers from your completed survey forms and online responses. Add up the number of responses and note them next to each answer.

25. What do you think are the aims of your church?

List the responses and their frequency here. There's no need to be completely comprehensive, but include the most common responses and a representative cross-section of the things that people say.

26. In what situations do people get asked to help at your church?

- Leading prayers or part of the service, etc.
- Practical activities (like cleaning, flowers, hymn books, etc.)
- Managing the church, PCC, raising funds and similar tasks
- Wider issues like being on deanery synod, etc.
- Don't know/not sure
- I've never been asked to help

These are questions for the Ministry Development Team to discuss and complete.

Do you have a vision statement or mission action plan?

Our vision statement or mission action plan is:

How well does it reflect your church?

- Very clearly Quite clearly Not very clearly Not at all clearly

Our Church in Numbers

What is the population of your parish? *(Data supplied by AMD)*

Total population

What is the age profile?

Aged 0- 4	Aged 5-9	Aged 10-15	Aged 16-19	Aged 20-29
Aged 30-44	Aged 45-59	Aged 60-75	Aged 75 and over	

How many churches are there in your parish?

How many priests and others are involved in ministry and leadership in your parish? *(please list)*

What is the average weekly attendance at your church	Adults	Children under 17
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What is the average Sunday attendance at your church	Adults	Children
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Is the size of your average congregation expanding or contracting?

Growing	Staying the same	Shrinking
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What is your total annual income *(Data from your PCC Annual Report)*

What is your average weekly giving per person *(Data from your PCC Annual Report)*

Estimate the percentage of your income which is spent on

Ministry and Mission

Buildings and maintenance

Other

Estimate how many new people are involved in leading your church compared with 12 months ago?

Number today

Number 12 months ago

Within your congregation (specify average size) estimate how many people are involved in preaching, leading intercessions, pastoral care?

Average size of congregation

Number involved