

DISCERNING YOUR VISION

AN EXERCISE FOR CHURCHES THAT ARE ON THE WAY

This exercise is helpful for getting small groups to dream about the future, and especially to do so from the perspective of others who are beyond the immediate church community.

HOW TO DO THE EXERCISE

In small groups (anywhere between 3-7 can work) imagine that it is 2030. A newspaper of your choosing has been doing in depth research into the churches in your Deanery. They have chosen to highlight the outcomes on the front page of their newspaper.

Ask yourselves, 'If they wrote the very best front page that you can imagine, what would it say?'

Your answer should include as much of the following as you can manage:

1. A short punchy headline for the article, and (if you would like) an explanatory sub heading

The outline of an article (which you don't need to write in any detail or depth) based on 4 paragraphs addressing:

1. **What happened?** Describe what has happened in the time between now and the article being written
2. **What needed facing?** Describe the issues that had been addressed to get to this outcome
3. **What was most surprising and risky?** Describe the biggest surprises and risks
4. **And now...?** Describe the outcome and what the Deanery is like now

The exercise will take up to an hour and it should be emphasised that the point is not so much the content of the articles, but the process of thinking and working together on the headlines and paragraph headings.

The template overleaf might help with the explanation...

The St Austell VOICE

2030

THE EXCITING, SHORT & PUNCHY HEADLINE

An explanatory
subheading right here



WHAT HAPPENED?

Arcium re dolo idem eostem nonem et lautate odit ant andel molorepe qui a id mo molorep tatur, optisqui blatur as aut hitiam qui sequo molore, quatiat omni utem qui verspiciae labo. Et magnis as molore voluptat litas et ad quossus a vit, te conem rerum quam, aliam ipsuntem eum siminusanda solor arum ea volendem dollatem resti qui cum alibusa nien-dae consequi occullaut acerferio et officto rro-vit quis dolorum si rempedis rerrorum fuga. Ostiusa ndignit aspellessit, omnihitiantt.

WHAT NEEDED FACING?

Arcium re dolo idem eostem nonem et lautate odit ant andel molorepe qui a id mo molorep tatur, optisqui blatur as aut hitiam qui sequo molore, quatiat omni utem qui verspiciae labo. Et magnis as molore voluptat litas et ad quossus a vit, te conem rerum quam, aliam ipsuntem eum siminusanda solor arum ea volendem dollatem resti qui cum alibusa nien-dae consequi occullaut acerferio et officto rro-vit quis dolorum si rempedis rerrorum fuga. Ostiusa ndignit aspellessit, omnihitiantt.

WHAT WAS MOST SURPRISING & RISKY?

Arcium re dolo idem eostem nonem et lautate odit ant andel molorepe qui a id mo molorep tatur, optisqui blatur as aut hitiam qui sequo molore, quatiat omni utem qui verspiciae labo. Et magnis as molore voluptat litas et ad quossus a vit, te conem rerum quam, aliam ipsuntem eum siminusanda solor arum ea volendem dollatem resti qui cum alibusa nien-dae consequi occullaut acerferio et officto rro-vit quis dolorum si rempedis rerrorum fuga.



& NOW...

Arcium re dolo idem eostem nonem et lautate odit ant andel molorepe qui a id mo molorep tatur, optisqui blatur as aut hitiam qui sequo molore, quatiat omni utem qui verspiciae labo. Et magnis as molore voluptat litas et ad quossus a vit, te conem rerum quam, aliam ipsuntem eum siminusanda solor arum ea volendem dollatem resti qui cum alibusa nien-dae consequi occullaut acerferio et officto rro-vit quis dolorum si rempedis rerrorum fuga. Ostiusa ndignit aspellessit, omnihitiantt.