

What is the Church for?

More specifically we ask, "*What are congregations for?*" What do the people (the members, 'officer bearers', friends and adherents, young and old, who feel themselves to be part of this church), see their purpose to be.

Look at the cards

They indicate some things that congregations might be expected to 'be' about.

- First discard the FOUR aspects that you believe to be the least important for your church now.
- Now out of the remaining aspects choose the SIX that you think the most important; those which you think YOUR congregation should concentrate on.
- Then in small groups, share what you think your congregation should be doing and list the six most commonly chosen aspects of your group.
- Which got the most votes and which the least? Why?

<p style="text-align: center;">EVANGELISM</p> <p>Learning how to talk about one's faith in the church, ways to share one's faith and then taking steps individually and as a church to find appropriate means of sharing our faith.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INTEGRATING CHURCH AND COMMUNITY</p> <p>Recognising that the church has 'blurred edges' and actively seeking partnerships beyond your church as the local part of God's plan to "<i>draw the entire universe together into a unity with Christ as the head.</i>"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ECUMENICAL ACTIVITY</p> <p>Seeing Church as an inclusive community of faith across all denominational boundaries. Taking steps (even initiating them!) to form closer links/partnerships with local churches and finding ways of making that visibly real.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LEARNING & DISCIPLESHIP</p> <p>Continually using the Bible and other sources to learn together, to grow in faith, and finding ways to apply what is learned.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PASTORAL CARING</p> <p>Being a caring congregation—not only being aware of its own people, but also those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, and to look at this internationally as well as locally.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RECOGNISING AND VALUING GIFTS</p> <p>Recognising and valuing the fact that different people have different gifts and finding practical ways and opportunities for developing and using those gifts.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHANGING</p> <p>Adapting in order to meet the changing needs of mission in the community and the varying expectations and needs of the people who make up the community.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MISSION</p> <p>Recognising that the church has a wider and greater purpose and calling than simply to congregate. Looking at ways that engage with society to make real in word and action the love of God for all.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">EMPLOYING</p> <p>Employing a minister on whom you can make demands within the bounds of 'good employment practices.'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WORSHIPPING AND PRAYING</p> <p>Being regular in worship and prayer (both public and private) which is authentic and which touches people's everyday lives, and seeking God's will for the world he loves.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">STEWARDSHIP</p> <p>As an expression of your faith giving generously to meet the needs of mission responsibilities for your own local and also the wider church.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OTHER</p> <p>Your own idea of a priority for the church:</p> <hr/>