



'For the ups and the downs,
and everything in between'

Changed viewpoint:



Just imagine:



- ▶ Engaging in people's lives
- ▶ Reaching every generation
- ▶ Talking about things that matter
- ▶ Giving an opportunity to meet church
- ▶ Giving an opportunity to hear hope and joy

Times of joy, times of sorrow
Life Events



All the people...



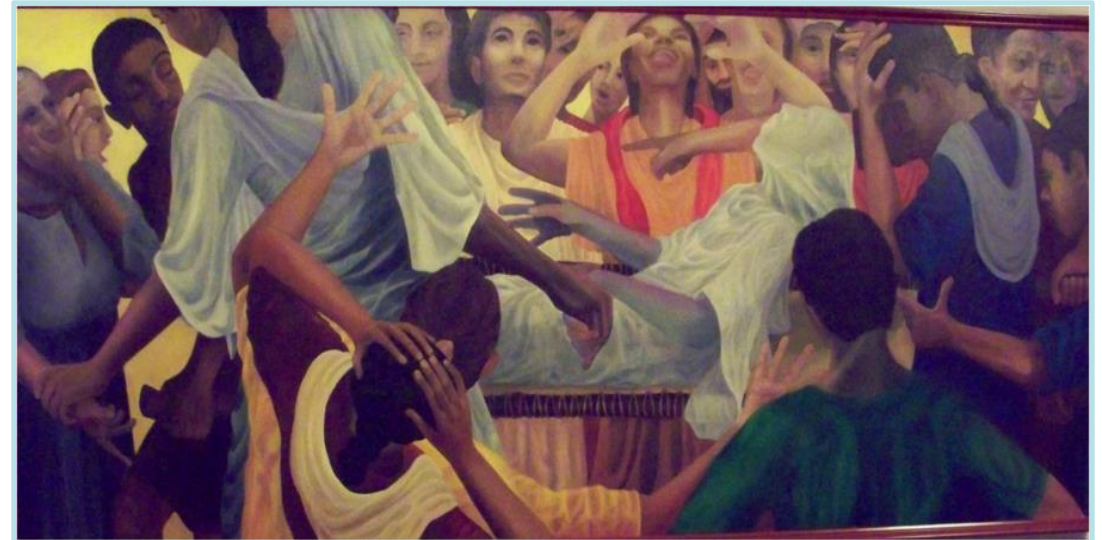
Who do we want to minister to:
Those who ask?
All those on life's journey?



Rooted in [1]:



- ▶ The Gospel – seeds and needs
 - ▶ Jesus was present
 - ▶ Jesus engaged
 - ▶ Jesus transformed the moment

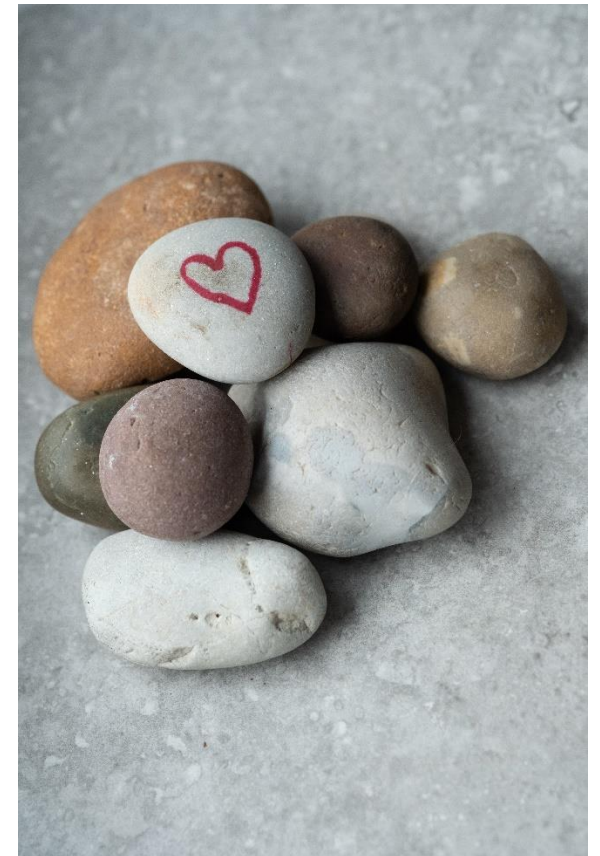


Rooted in [2]:



- ▶ The life of the church – common good, family life
- ▶ The Church of England last decade
research
insight
resources
engagement

The former Archbishop of York, John Sentamu
“Christ is the host, we are his friends, his guests... It isn't your church they are getting married in, it's the church of Jesus Christ, where all of us are guests.”



What it's about:



- ▶ Meeting people in the reality of their lives
- ▶ Helping them know what we do and who we are
- ▶ Understanding what helps them
- ▶ Doing things well
- ▶ Discovering they are loved by God and have a place with God's people

So who *did* we meet?



Meeting people: engagement



People we get to talk to–

- ▶ Weddings – at least a couple!
Coventry : 500 [1000]
- ▶ Funerals [3]: spouse, adult children
Coventry: 1930 [5,790]
- ▶ Baptisms [6]: parents, godparents, child
Coventry : 1060 [6,360]



13,150 people per year in Coventry
directly involved in the event

Meeting people: memories



Friends and family: wide contacts

Weddings[70]	47,150
Baptisms [70]	74,200
Funerals [50]	91,500

212, 850 per year
[36000 Christmas; 43,200 Advent]



The on-going impact:



- ▶ Reach– 51% been to a ‘life event’ service
- ▶ Link – 19% feel connected to church
- ▶ Expectations – 65% ‘expect’ church to be there



Cultural constants:



- Increase in choice
 - Celebration, gathering, belonging
 - Memorable, personal, experiential
 - Post-church
 - Pandemic impact
-
- **People are born, love, die**
 - **... we are there for them**
 - **God is there with them**



The 'Slimming world' challenge



Just ask

FOR THE DAY. AND ALL THE DAYS TO COME. **JUST ASK.**



A CHILD ARRIVES

A MARRIAGE BEGINS

A LIFE ENDS

#sharedstories • achurchnearyou.com



**FOR THE DAY.
AND ALL THE DAYS TO COME.**



A CHILD ARRIVES



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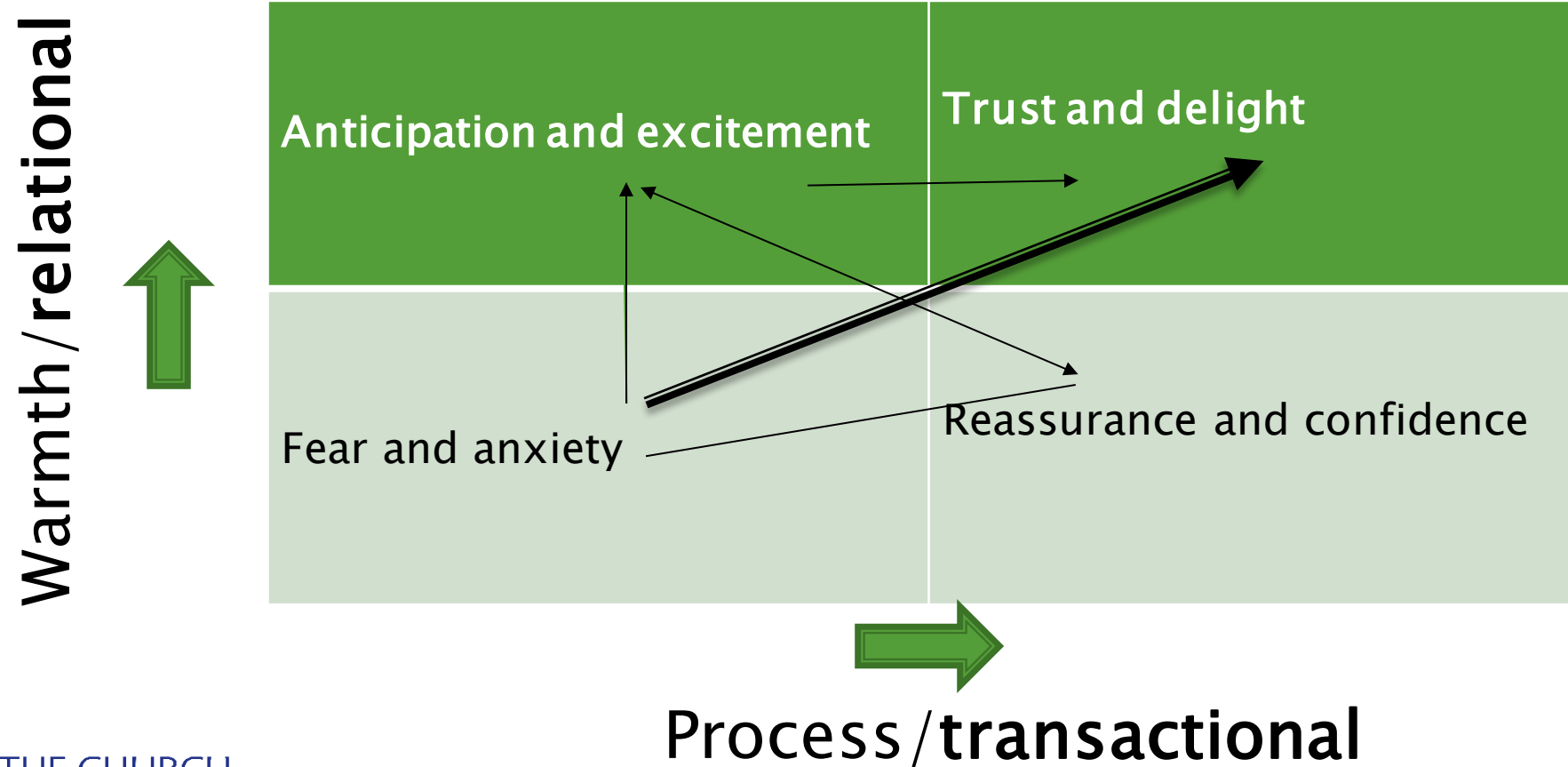
Re-connecting:



- ▶ Using media – all sorts
 - ▶ Community events
 - ▶ New housing
 - ▶ Wedding fairs
 - ▶ Local businesses
 - ▶ Tell stories – make connections
-
- ▶ ‘.. It’s a people thing’ [A God thing...]



Connect and relate:



First contacts:



- ▶ Presence –
websites, noticeboards
- ▶ Language
words and welcome
- ▶ Meetings
warmth and process



Preparing and building:



- ▶ Planning – being part
- ▶ Contact – keeping in touch
- ▶ Prayers – involving everyone



On the day :



- ▶ Significant
- ▶ Special
- ▶ Memorable
- ▶ Warmth
- ▶ Words – home/site
- ▶ Live streaming



All the days to come:



- ▶ Information – events and lifestyle
- ▶ Invitation – specific and targeted
- ▶ Interest – conversations and friendship
- ▶ Involvement – helping out



It's a whole church thing:



Prayer
Welcome
Support
Stories
Neighbourhood



Key insights: baptisms



- ▶ Speaking their language
- ▶ **Responding to serious motives**
- ▶ Valuing special people
- ▶ Making the service memorable
- ▶ Welcoming everyone
- ▶ Supporting into the future



Core messages: weddings



- ▶ Couples take it seriously
- ▶ We do it well
- ▶ They self exclude
- ▶ **The vicar/church really matters**
- ▶ It's personal and special
- ▶ Follow up is wanted and welcome

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING



Key insights: funerals



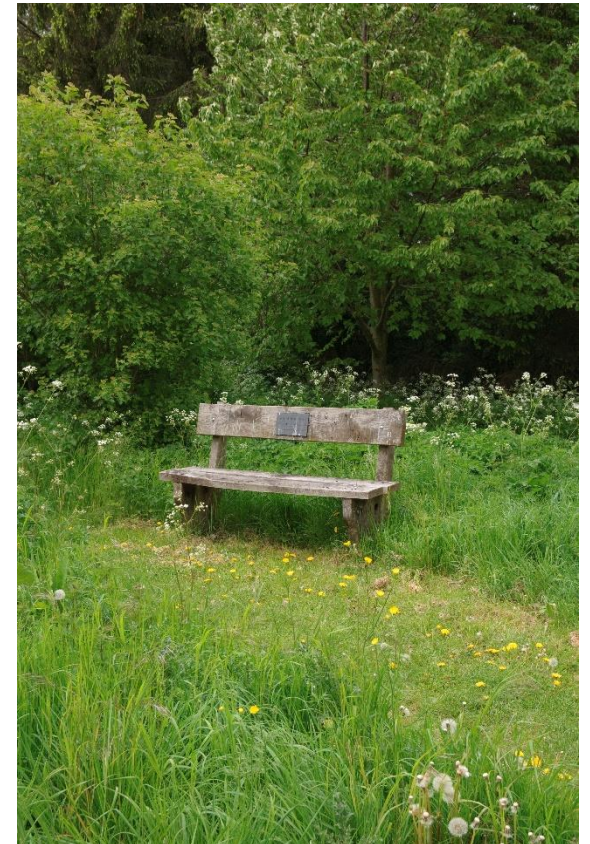
- ▶ We're not afraid to talk
 - ▶ We listen, we pray, we care
 - ▶ We co-create a personal, unique service
 - ▶ **We offer hope**
 - ▶ We're in the community
 - ▶ Wherever, whenever needed
- And we have to build good professional relationships*



Core messages: bereavement/remembering



- ▶ We are there for everyone
- ▶ Use indoor and outdoor spaces
- ▶ **Provide times for reflection/remembering**
- ▶ Importance of ritual and symbol
- ▶ People are multiply remembered
- ▶ We never become 'unbereaved'



From mission to discipleship:



Memories – what do they leave with?

Information: who have they met?

what could they do?

where could they go?

Local experience – national church



Connecting and recovering



- ▶ Discover– who is affected
- ▶ Connect – build relationship
- ▶ Listen– to stories
- ▶ Offer – familiar and new moments
- ▶ Communicate – where you can
- ▶ Publicise – have confidence



Six key areas of impact:

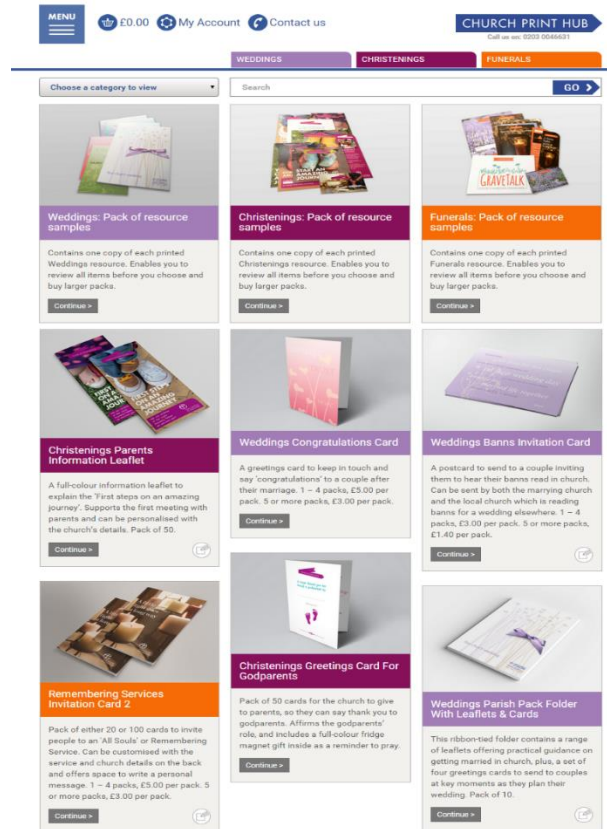


- ▶ Mission/evangelism
- ▶ Community presence
- ▶ Confidence
- ▶ Church life
- ▶ Discipleship
- ▶ Process and practicalities



ChurchPrintHub:

- An online shop
- Choose
- Order
- Customise
- Delivered



ChurchSupportHub


- Information
- Insights
- Ideas
- Liturgies
- Downloads

MENU

CHURCH SUPPORT HUB


BAPTISMS: IDEAS

Has an idea worked really well in your parish? Could it be easily applied elsewhere? Share it here for your colleagues to see, browse practical suggestions that have worked in other parishes, or search for something specific.



Choose a category to view

Submit an idea




Lavabo towel alternative


Andrew Datchin

Instead of using a small lavabo towel to dry young ones' faces after baptism, a member of the congregation decorates ...

Continue >



3 votes




Using words from Methodist baptism as extra


The Revd Dr Sandra Miller

Occasionally, I have used some words that are in the Methodist baptism service, at the part which addresses the child: "... for ..."

Continue >



3 votes




Christening service sheet for children


Anne Le Bes

I have put together a special sheet which I give out to child guests at christenings, explaining the various parts ...

Continue >



3 votes




Renewing baptism vows with rose petals


Rob Marsh

At a recent training day with Sandra Miller in Leicester, I have used an idea she shared that has been ...

Continue >



3 votes




Prayer board


Anne Le Bes

To help the congregation keep praying for the children baptised at Seal, we made a prayer board which has clear ...

Continue >



3 votes




Praying Together card for parent and baby


Ellie Wilson, Under 5's Adviser, Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales

This Praying Together card complements the second part of the booklet 'Prayer ideas with babies' and enables a parent ...

Continue >




3 votes



Follow the Advent Star back to church

Search

Sort order:




Personalised baptism candles

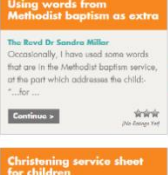
Jeremy Fagan

I present to every child a personalised baptism candle with their name, date of baptism, the name of the church, ...

Continue >



3 votes




Pudding & Pamper Evening

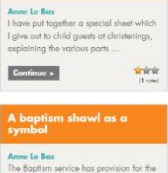
Hannah Andrews

St Mary in Charnwood Church, Nantpantan, Loughborough ran a Pudding and Pamper Evening for expectant mothers and mothers of babies ...

Continue >



3 votes




Introducing 'the Baptingle'


Photo and article supplied by Ruth Hewitt, Church Community Worker, Church in the Park, parish of Christ the King, North Gwent, Newcastle

In February 2015 we had the very first baptism in the new church plant, the Church in the Park, in the ...

Continue >



3 votes




Prayer ideas with babies


Ellie Wilson, Under 5's Adviser, Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales

Attached is a booklet available in the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, designed for churches to give to ...

Continue >



3 votes




Baptism Doves


Ally Barrett

Our children's chapel kids make these as a gift for babies or children being baptised in our church, and present ...

Continue >



3 votes



Prayers for the journey



‘For the ups and the downs
and everything in between’

Sandra Millar

Head of Welcome and Life Events

sandra.millar@churchofengland.org

