

Reset: Community Transformation



As good news people in our place, the church has been called and empowered to bring kingdom transformation into the real issues of our communities and society.

As you consider how to revitalise the mission of your church, these questions will help you to consider how community transformation is connected to the various strands of church life. They'll also help you to identify new opportunities for kingdom transformation of your local community as you reset in a post-COVID world.

These questions are informed by data collected from our Changing Church surveys. More information about the surveys is available [here](#).

Gathering

Eighty-eight per cent of churches were working to meet the needs of vulnerable people during the pandemic. ➡ Within your gathering, how do you refer to the specific issues faced by your community within your prayers, stories and teaching?

➡ How might the gathering inspire and mobilise your people to bring kingdom transformation into your local community?

Small groups

➔ Do your small groups share a local community? Can you imagine any creative ways in which they could be more present in these communities? For example, [prayer walking](#), meeting in local coffee shops and parks or serving together as a small group.

A third of Christian individuals volunteered their time to help the local community during the pandemic. ➔ To what extent do your small groups help your church stay aware of and engaged with the needs of your community, in prayer, biblical reflection, and outreach, on a scale of one to five?

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Programme

More than twice as many evangelical churches in the UK now offer practical support to their communities than before the COVID-19 crisis. ➔ As you plan to restart your programme post-COVID, which activities take priority? Do your plans reflect the lived experiences and pressing needs in your community at this time?

Your programme allows you to be present, to listen and to understand the changing needs of your community. ➔ To what extent are you a) seeking to fully understand these needs and b) imagining what kingdom transformation would look like in these areas?

Leadership

➔ Describe where you have been present, listening to and praying for your local community as a leadership team. Which issues do you sense God leading you towards?

Looking ahead, 97 per cent of church leaders were concerned about the economic consequences of the pandemic, and 78 per cent were concerned about the mental health impact. ➔ What is your strategy – in terms of teaching, vision and mentoring – for leading your church into bringing kingdom transformation in these areas, and more, among your local community?

Scattered

➔ Can you identify individuals in your church who serve the local community through their work, volunteering or local relationships? For example, social worker, charity worker, police, board member or carer.

➔ Describe how these people are being disciplined to bring kingdom values into their everyday places? Are they given opportunities to share good news stories, to inform leadership and to feed into programme planning?



Culture

➔ In what ways are you forming God's people into the counter-cultural ways of His kingdom? Consider your teaching and practices around topics such as sacrificial giving and generosity, hospitality and welcome, and attitudes to those from a different cultural background.

Civic life

Coronavirus has impacted the social infrastructures that support your community, and the local church has a vital role to play in society at this time. ➔ Are you connected with any civic authorities, such as local council and government representatives? How might you partner with them, pray for them and proclaim the kingdom as you do so?

➔ How could you advocate to these civic authorities on behalf of your local community? For example, a hustings event, a community think tank or public consultations. [Link to Connect booklets]

Local churches

Throughout the pandemic, 72 per cent of churches were serving local community needs in partnership with local authorities, other churches or charities. ➔ What opportunities might there be for you to partner with other churches, charities and organisations in community transformation? How might this church unity make an even bigger witness to your local community?

Local community

➔ Perhaps referring to a local map, which specific geographical area do you consider to be your local community? Who are the stakeholders in this community? For example, local businesses, schools, parks, GPs or care homes.

➔ How might your church go out and bless these stakeholders, bringing kingdom transformation in all areas of your community? For example, auditing, prayer walking, community events and gatherings.

As you have reflected on the good news people in your place graphic, identify three key action points as you reset the place of community transformation within your church:

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