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Get playful

Encourage people to explore creative ways in which they can use the liturgy. Are there imaginative ways that the prayers can be said or structured? What is the most appropriate context in which the service can take place? Generally the church authorities are more flexible about the creative use of liturgy than people imagine.

Involve people

Are there ways in which congregations can be involved? For instance, at a Confirmation Service, invite those attending to write some words of advice, or a Scripture, or a prayer that helps them in life, which they might pass onto those being confirmed.

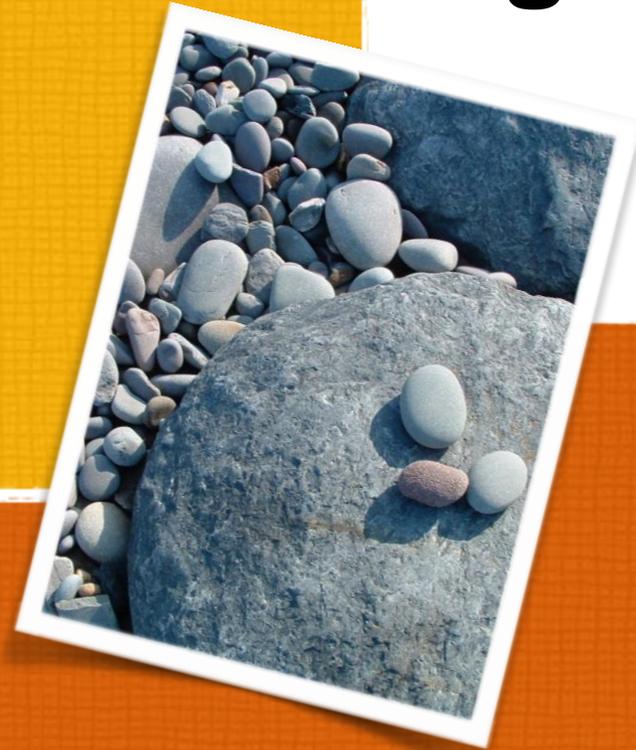
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Hints & Tips

Big Events



Me reach
In reach
Out reach

Big Events

As part of the **God for All** vision to help everyone across Cumbria discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, how can we make the most of the structured services and events that will usually involve the senior Church Leaders across the county? Often these events bring together a significant number of people who would not normally come into contact with church, or who have little understanding of God, they provide an opportunity to both make clear that God is for All and also to help those who are part of the church grasp more clearly what their involvement is in bringing about the God for All Vision. Senior leaders will already be engaging in this, so what follows are some suggestions of ways in which we can strengthen what is already happening by emphasizing, explaining and encouraging people to be part of the delivery of the vision.

1

God is for All

Many of the more formal services of the church are likely to attract a significant number of people who know little or nothing about God. It is important to ensure that style of welcome, choice of hymns and language are all accessible – and that, above all, the sermon points people to Jesus, and invites them (in an appropriate way) to explore what it means to discover more of God.

Installation of new Vicar or Minister

This is a great opportunity to ensure that the new Minister's ministry is set within the overall context of reaching the 2020 Vision, so that they are publicly charged with helping all Christians to be involved in living, showing and sharing their faith so that everyone in their community discovers more of God – and also that, as appropriate, Mission Communities are clearly explained as a key vehicle through which the vision is delivered.

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3

Confirmations

The service includes a section which commissions those attending to go out as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus. This is an opportunity to explain what that might mean for them in their context, perhaps giving them something as a tangible reminder of this.

Central gatherings

Where clergy are drawn together (eg for Anglicans the Chrism Eucharist) this occasion should contain encouragement and reflection on the God for All vision, and its delivery. Clergy and Lay teaching events, whilst probably covering a wide range of subjects, should nevertheless ensure that one of the aims of the event should be to reinforce the delivery of the 2020 vision.

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Synods

It would be good if each meeting could have a major item helping them engage with some aspect of the 2020 vision, and its delivery, such as one aspect of Reach (*Me, In, Out, Big*) being explored in relation to the context of that Synod, as well as something on how schools are enabling everyone to discover more of God, a look at some of the fresh expression projects that have been developing. These are not just good news stories, but help Synod reflect on what is happening.

Tell stories

There is huge power in story, thus having a repertoire of relevant, recent stories to tell of ways in which God is impacting the lives of local people can make a massive impact if people can relate to them. Ideally, they will be stories that you have picked up on your travels from first-hand experience.

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