



Engaging the Community:

# Where do we start?



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# Where do we start?

## Introduction

Experience has shown us that the creative Bible studies can be truly motivational and can provide the energy for church members to want to be active in their community and make a difference.

But that same experience has also revealed that this is not straightforward. Often people don't know how to start – how to make those important links that can be built on and eventually become a way of life. So here are just a few ideas for engaging with the community, starting small and realising that every connection, however small is a seed that is planted and can grow and flourish.



### 1. Join in with what is already going on

Find out what is already going on in the community, particularly things that you enjoy or feel strongly about. Find out what matters to people by attending residents association meetings and make sure the church is represented in any community campaigns, particularly those that involve addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

Also, look at the church projects you are already involved with. Are there ways these projects could be improved to be more owned/led by the community? There are two other supplementary resources on the website that help us to think about these things, *Building on what we have* and *Turf and Terms*.

### 2. Community conversations

We live in a very individualistic, materialistic society where people tend to look out for number one. Also, with so much use of texting, messaging and emailing, we are talking to each other less and less. More than ever, it is important to take the time as individuals and a church to talk to people. Make the most of every opportunity, whether it's at the checkout or taking the dog for a walk.

To help with this it would be good to remind yourselves of the listening skills found in Module 3 of 'Stories on the Street'. Also two resources on the website that revolve around having conversations are *Strangers to Neighbours* and *the Power of the Story*.

### 3. Start small projects

Based on the information you have gathered using some of the tools in 'Stories on the Street', such as mapping and the hot air balloon, start a small project that people have a passion for and which makes the most of the resources you have available. See the supplementary resources, *Crossing the River* (a mime with a message) and *The Big Idea* which is a fun activity that helps us think about how to use the resources we have creatively.

WHERE DO WE START?



1. I AM JOINING IN!

COMMUNITY EVENTS, SUPPORT GROUPS TO THE COMMUNITY, LOCAL CHARITIES

BE OPEN TO LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES



OH WHAT DIDN'T WORK WELL? WHY? OH WHAT SHALL WE DO NEXT TIME?

Here are some options

3.



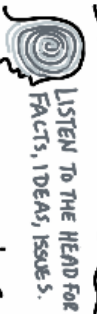
BEFRIENDING THE VULNERABLE  
RUNNING A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE  
DEBT ADVISOR  
COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS  
Eg Projects  
FOREST CHURCH  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
Mental Health  
Mentees & Mentors  
SUPPORT

2.

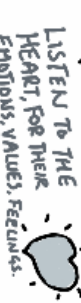


MAKING CONVERSATIONS BEING KIND  
LISTENING, SHOWING INTEREST IN OTHERS

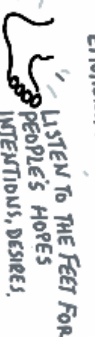
HOW TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE



LISTEN TO THE HEAD FOR FACTS, IDEAS, ISSUES.



LISTEN TO THE HEART FOR EMOTIONS, VALUES, FEELINGS.



LISTEN TO THE FEET FOR PEOPLE'S HOPES, INTENTIONS, DESIRES.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS



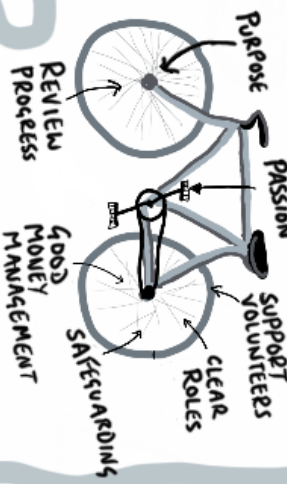
OH HAVE A PARTY  
CELEBRATE INDIVIDUALS' HARD WORK  
OH HAVE FUN!

3 QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK...



WHO SHOULD WE WORK WITH?  
WHAT LASTING CHANGE CAN WE BRING?  
HOW CAN WE USE OUR RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY?

KEEPING GOING



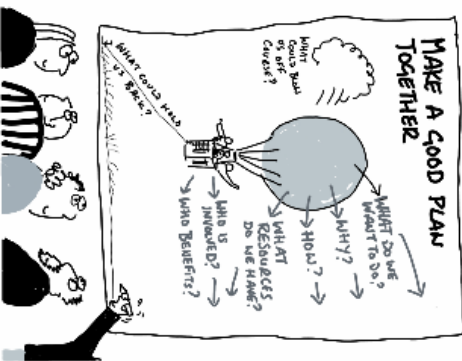
PURPOSE  
PASSION  
SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS  
CLEAR ROLES  
SAFEGUARDING  
GOOD MONEY MANAGEMENT  
REVIEW PROCESS

UNDERSTANDING A PROBLEM



SYMPTOMS WHERE SHALL WE FOCUS?  
THE PROBLEM  
ROOT CAUSES  
WHAT LASTING CHANGE CAN WE BRING?

MAKE A GOOD PLAN TOGETHER



WHAT CAN WE WANT TO DO?  
WHY?  
HOW?  
WHAT RESOURCES DO WE HAVE?  
WHO IS INVOLVED?  
WHO BENEFITS?  
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?  
WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?