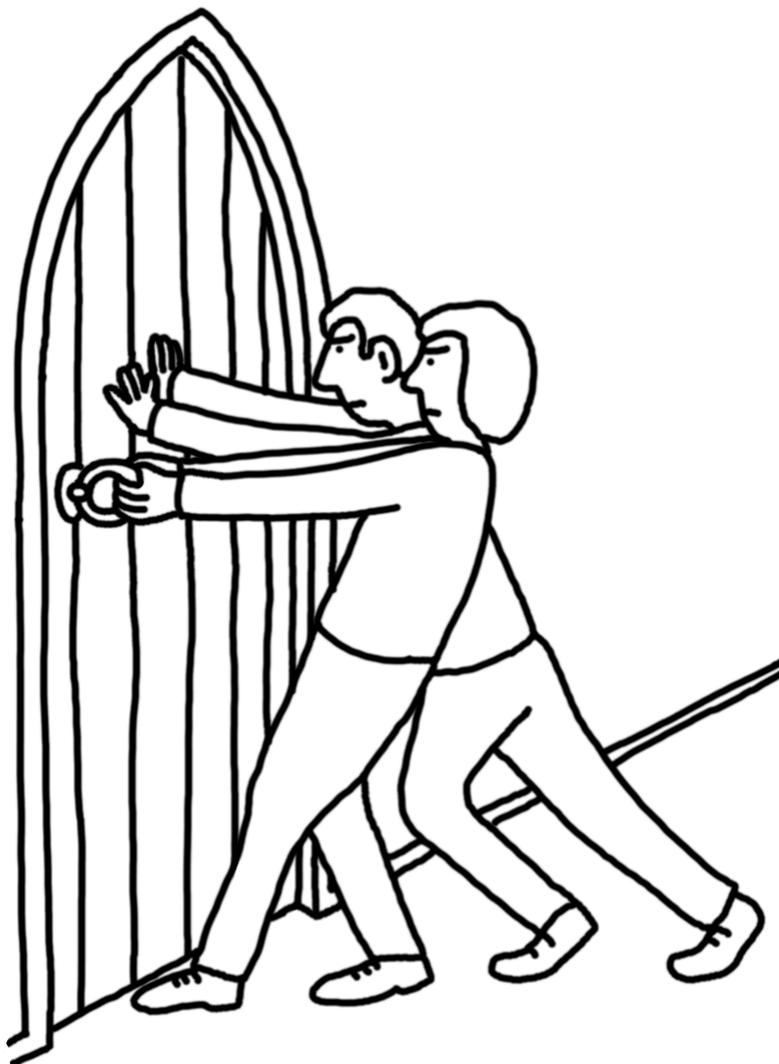


# EMERGING FROM CORONAVIRUS

A tool to aid reflection



# Introduction

Our vision and calling as a Diocese is to be a more Christ-like Church: more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous for the sake of God's world. This vision will remain the same as we continue to live through the pandemic and with its ongoing effects, but what lessons can we learn?

The journey of recovery will be slower than our journey into lockdown. Life is not going to be a quick return to the old normal, but rather a new living with the virus, certainly for the rest of this year and through next year. Lockdown has been difficult but has also brought new insights, opportunities and priorities to the surface. Part of being a contemplative church will be to reflect carefully on lessons learned and next steps.

We are therefore offering this new tool, loosely framed by the Anglican Five Marks of Mission, to aid reflection, to prayerfully discern, and to strategically plan the shape of the mission of the Church in each of our contexts. This is an offering, and in no way a requirement, nor is it to compete with your present ministry or our Diocesan common vision. It may be used together as parish, deanery, and archdeaconry ministry teams, and also for reflection to aid the discerning of our individual callings to share in the mission of God at this time.

The Five Marks of Mission connect very closely with our calling to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world. These are five different aspects of the work and character of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus does these things, so do we, his Church.

Part of the challenge for all of us will be to discern what is sustainable into the future rather than sustain what we always have done and add more. Part of the aim of the tool is to encourage careful thinking about finding a healthy balance and priorities in prayer, rest and ministry together.

The grid overleaf invites you to ask five questions to help take stock and look forward, framed by the Anglican Five Marks of Mission.

I am very grateful to my chaplain Paul Cowan for the preparation of this tool and the Emergency Planning Team for their leadership through this crisis.



June 2020

## The Anglican Five Marks of Mission

- 1** To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- 2** To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- 3** To respond to human need by loving service
- 4** To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- 5** To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

# Strategic Questions Based on the Five Marks of Mission

for use in parishes, deaneries, archdeaconries and the Diocese

## Five Questions - a journey from grief to new life

Five Marks of Mission for a Christ-like church	What has been lost that we need to grieve?	What has been paused or reduced that we have an opportunity to let go of?	What has been paused or reduced that we need to work at to renew?	What has been discovered that we will need to respond to?	What is positive, new and emerging to be developed and resourced?
1. Prayer & Worship return to church buildings, online provision, services provision...					
2. Catechesis for new and previously hidden sheep...					
3. Pastoral Care local community, occasional offices, memorials, continued shielding...					
4. Social Justice economic crisis, poverty, abuse, mental Health...					
5. Environment carbon neutral, opportunities coming from C-19...					

Overleaf are some simple worksheets based on the above grid for you to use if you wish. If you've used the five questions, or a version of them, and have come to some initial answers, who would it be good to share these reflections with?

We would also welcome your insights, discernment and feedback. Please share these via your area bishop and archdeacon.

# 1. Prayer & Worship

*return to church buildings, online provision, services provision...*

What has been lost that we need to grieve?

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What has been paused or reduced that we have an opportunity to let go of?

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## 2. Catechesis

*for new and previously hidden sheep...*

What has been lost that we need to grieve?

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### 3. Pastoral Care

*local community, occasional offices, memorials, continued shielding...*

What has been lost that we need to grieve?

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## 4. Social Justice

*economic crisis, poverty, abuse, mental health...*

What has been lost that we need to grieve?

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# A Psalm for people like us

Psalm 23 has been a source of strength for thousands of years. People across the Diocese are pausing to say it every day during the crisis.

*When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in his hands...*

> **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

*When we are tired and confused...*

> **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

*When we are worn out with worry...*

> **He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

*When we are sick and afraid and if we lose those we love...*

> **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.**

*When we face difficulties today and we hope for a better tomorrow...*

> **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

*In the face of trouble & difficulty of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death...*

> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

Finish reading Psalm 23 with the Lord's Prayer. Bible verses used here are NRSV, the commentary is by the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford.

[oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus](https://oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus)

