

# Discovery

Celebrating Who We Are and Where We Live

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# **Discovery**

**By Bill Crooks and Jackie Mouradian**

## **Introduction**

### **Toolkit 1: Celebrating who we are and where we live**

**Toolkit 2**

**Toolkit 3**

**Toolkit 4**

**Toolkit 5**

**Toolkit 6**





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## **Introduction**

### The Objectives of This Toolkit

1. To affirm the history, experiences and talents which are currently in the church and the community.
2. To help participants reflect on how they can build a better future on the history, experiences and talents in the church and community.
3. To develop a picture of all the activities the church is doing within the community and where its strengths are and possible gaps lie.

## Why is celebration important?

Builds confidence in  
what we can do

Lifts our spirits and  
encourages us

Helps us to  
appreciate  
each other

Gives us energy  
to take on new  
opportunities

Is part of our  
worship to God



Helps us think  
about our potential  
as a group  
to do good  
things together

Helps us realise  
what we do best

Helps us think  
about what we  
could build on









## **Activity 1: Celebrating with balloons**

### **Purpose:**

To help the group think positively about both their church and community as well as the things they have achieved and the things that they appreciate.

### **Contents:**

- Step by step guide
- list of useful questions for small groups
- tips for running the exercise

## Step By Step Guide

1. Split the group into pairs to discuss the things they are proud of in their church or community

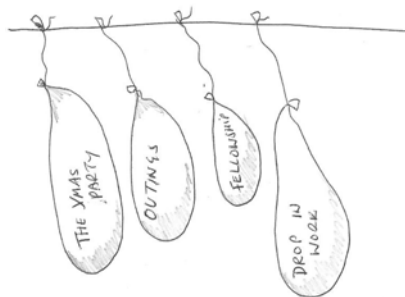


2. Each pair blows up a balloon

3. They write one thing they are proud of on the balloon

4. The pair feed back to the main group. Write down the feedback on a flipchart or on cards.

5. The facilitator groups the main themes and discusses the 3 questions with the group, before everyone bats the balloons in the air as an energiser.



## Running the exercise

### Materials required:

- Pack of coloured balloons
- Marker pens
- String to tie balloons to washing line or long piece of string
- Flipchart paper to write up the answers to the questions

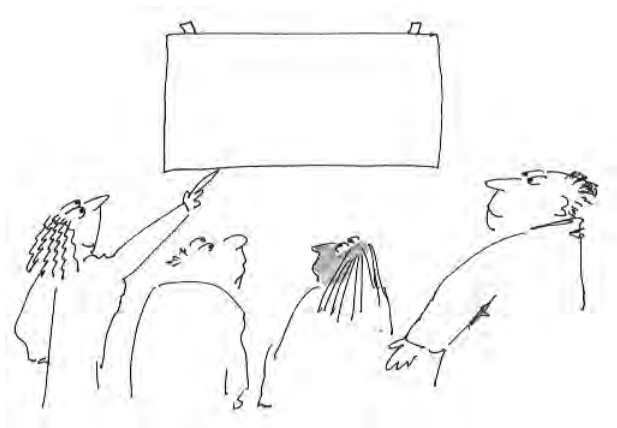
### Tips:

1. Check everyone is happy blowing up balloons. You might need to have some balloons already blown up.
2. Make sure you have enough marker pens that work properly.
3. This activity can also be used to get participants to review something they've learnt from another activity or project.

**Questions:**

1. What are the common themes?
2. What could we build on?
3. What areas give us most energy?







## **Activity 2: Celebrating with pictures**

### **Purpose:**

To help the group appreciate the good things about their church and community

### **Contents:**

- Step by step guide
- Tips for running the session
- Questions for discussion

## Step by step guide



1. Split into small groups to discuss what they appreciate about their church and community

2. Provide a selection of magazines and newspapers for the groups to look through



3. The participants cut out suitable pictures which reflect the things they appreciate and create a collage







4. Each group shares their pictures with the other groups
5. The facilitator groups the pictures and then everyone discusses the three questions
6. Summarise the activity and help the group identify 3 actions they could do as a result of this exercise



## **Tips for running the exercise**

### **Materials required**

- Pile of varied magazines and newspapers
- Glue and scissors and marker pens
- Sheets of A3 or A2 paper to stick the pictures on
- Washing line and clothes pegs to hang up collages

### **Tips:**

Make sure the small groups have had time to discuss the things they are proud of before they have the magazines

If possible try to put the small groups around tables, not more than 4-5 in a group

Monitor the progress of the groups and give them a 5 minute warning before the time of giving feedback

Invite the groups to comment on each other's posters

### **Questions**

1. What are the common themes?
2. What could we build on?
3. What areas give us most energy?

Worked example of things people are proud of in their church and community



Select pictures that reflect your ideas

Write your reflection around the picture





### **Activity 3. Celebrating through story telling**

#### **Purpose:**

To use our stories to reflect on truths that apply to our church and community

#### **Contents:**

- Step by step guide
- Tips for running the session
- Story telling questions

## Step by step guide

1. Form a circle and explain how the session will run



2. Write the story-telling statements on pieces of paper or card and put them on the floor. Invite people to pick up the one that best fits their story

3. Give everyone a few minutes to think about their story and then invite someone to kick off



4. Thank the story teller and leave space for comments or questions from the circle. Then move on to the next story teller

5. When everyone has told their story, reflect on what truths you have heard in the different stories

6. Spiritual reflection



THANKS FOR  
THAT.....  
NOW ANY  
COMMENTS.....



## Tips for running the exercise

### **Materials required**

- Cards or paper with questions on
- Candles or wooden spoon
- Food and drink

### **Tips:**

1. If possible, tell people in advance about this session so they will have time to think about their experience of church and community

2. Try to create a cosy relaxed atmosphere with comfortable chairs and low lighting and food and drink

3. Think of an object that could be passed from story teller to story teller. While they are holding the object, no-one else can speak (eg a wooden spoon, candle or stone)

4. Encourage anyone who is shy or reluctant to tell their story, and explain why story telling is so effective. Stories stay in the memory whereas hard facts are often forgotten



## Questions

1. My best moment in this community was.....
2. I am proud of my church because....
3. The person I most admire in this community is.....
4. The best day with my church was when.....
5. I feel safe when.....
6. The funniest thing that happened to me in church was.....







## **Activity 4. Celebrating our history**

### **Purpose:**

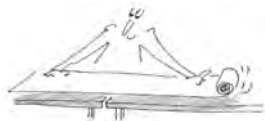
To look back at the key events that have shaped both our church and the local community and to see what to build on for the future

### **Contents:**

- Step by step guide
- Tips for running the exercise
- A worked example
- Questions

### Step by step guide

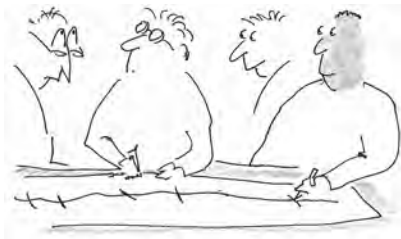
1. Get a long piece of paper and lay it across some tables with enough room for people to walk round it

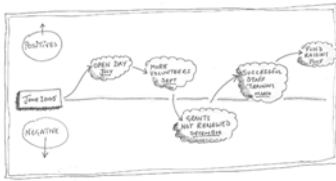


2. Draw a line from one end of the paper to the other and decide the length of time this represents which could be 1 year or 10 years or more



3. As a group, decide the key events in the order in which they occurred and mark them on the line

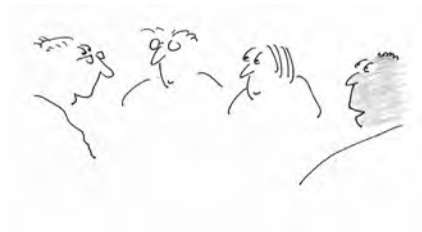




4. Write the things that went well above the line and the things that did not go so well below the line

5. Discuss why things went well and other things didn't go so well using the questions and decide what lessons there are for the future

6. Spiritual reflection



## Running the exercise

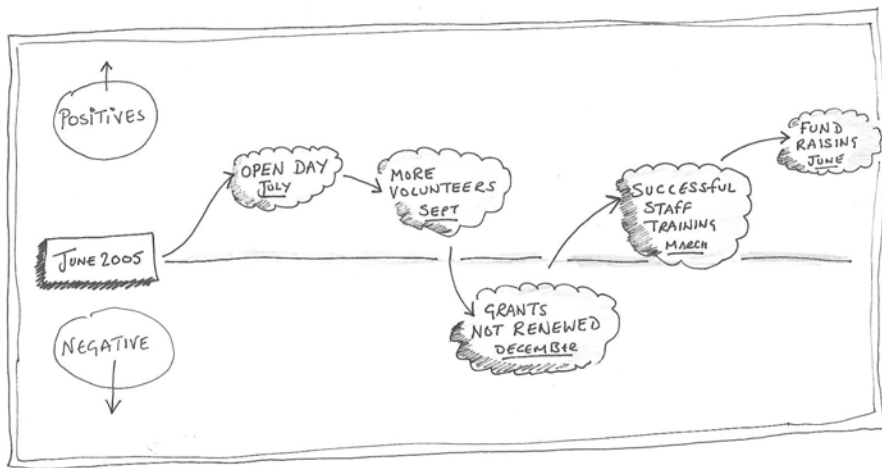
### Materials required

1. Long piece of paper
2. Marker pens
3. Newspapers and/or magazines

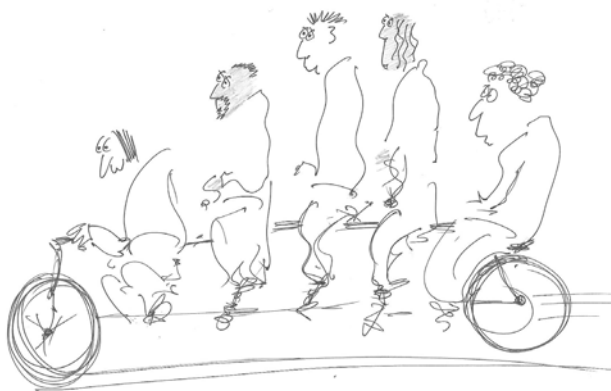
### Tips:

1. You could use pictures from magazines or newspapers to illustrate the events on the timeline.
2. If there is a large group (more than 10) make sure everyone can see the timeline and can contribute. Otherwise do 2 or 3 groups and compare timelines at the end of the session.
3. It is important as a facilitator to keep the momentum of the activity going and don't get too stuck on one particular event. It is also important to explore with the group why an event was good or bad and what lessons or insights have they gained from it to apply to the future.

## Worked example



Please note in the worked example, the positives go above the line and the negatives or challenges go below the line.







## **Activity 5. Celebrating what our church does**

### **Purpose:**

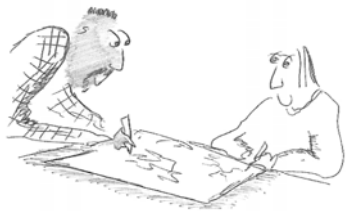
To get participants to review and celebrate what their church does with the community and to identify possible gaps where they could do more

### **Contents:**

- Step by step guide
- Questions

## Step by step guide

1. Draw a picture of a church and brainstorm all the things the church does. For some ideas, see the list provided.



2. Find pictures in newspapers and magazines representing what the church does or draw them on paper or card and place them around the church



3. Discuss which areas they think the church does best with the community and why



4. Discuss where the gaps are and what might be done about them

5. Write up the findings on to a flipchart and keep this for reference



## Ideas for what your church does

Sports

Cultural activities

Mums and toddlers

Information

Mobility community transport/car share

Income generation

Social activities

Camps/outdoor adventure activities

Activities for older people

Disability

Drop in cafe

Young children

Teenagers

Vocational training

Health

Advice and counselling

Men

Women

Homelessness

Informal spiritual support

Inter-faith activities

Inter-denominational



### Case study: Bootle After School Club

Having been through the Discovery process, a team of volunteers from Bootle decided the greatest need in their area was for an after school club. They sent a questionnaire to a local school asking the kids to draw a picture of their ideal after school club. Interestingly, most children, girls and boys, drew a quiet area which reflects that for a lot of these children life at home is noisy and maybe conflictual. The after school club was a great success and this group has since started a men's group which has over 20 members.

The Bootle team ministry is typical of many church groups in inner cities. When they embarked on the programme they were themselves vulnerable and marginalised individuals. The programme enabled them each to find acceptance and confidence in their abilities and was as much about building them up as individuals as it was to identify and initiate a small community project which was within their capability.





## **Activity 6: Celebrating what we have**

### **Purpose:**

To enable the participants to realise the potential within themselves to bring change and transformation to the community

### **Contents:**

- Step by step guide
- Tips for running the exercise
- List of what we have
- Sketch on feeding the 5000
- Questions

## Step by step guide

1. Use the sketch to reflect on the story of the feeding of the five thousand



2. Use the questions to discuss the relevance of this story to our community and church

3. Make paperchain men and cut them up. Lay them out on the floor and invite everyone to write on at least one or two of them, the gifts and talents that exist in the church





4. Lay sheets of paper on the floor in the shape of the cross

5. Invite participants one by one to share what they've written and lay their figures on some part of the cross

6. Answer the questions and record on a piece of paper



## Running the exercise

### Materials required:

1. Paper to make paperchain men
2. Large sheets of paper to make a cross
3. Marker pens
4. Large sheet of paper to record gifts and talents of the group
3. Newspapers and/or magazines

### Tips:

1. Ask for volunteers to read the sketch and give them a few minutes to read through before they do it in front of the group.
2. With the paperchain men, provide an example of writing on one of the figures. If the activity is a bit slow getting going - put people in 2s and 3s to discuss for a few minutes before writing on the figures.
3. Play music once all the figures have been placed on the cross for people to reflect on the range of gifts and talents

### Questions

1. What skills and knowledge do we have in our church or community that could be used to make things better?
2. What experiences do we have in our church or community that could be shared with others?

## Sketch - Feeding the Hungry

**One** And in those days Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee

**Two** And a great crowd of people followed him because they had seen the miraculous signs he had performed upon the sick

**One** And the disciples said to Jesus, Where shall we find food for all these people to eat?

**Two** But Andrew spoke up and said, 'Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and -

**Boy** Oh sorry

**One** What?

**Boy** I've eaten them

**Two** You've what?

**Boy** I've eaten my sardine rolls

**One** But - you can't

**Boy** I have

**Two** No, you don't understand - you're supposed to offer your loaves and fishes so Jesus can feed the 5000

**Boy** Well, like I said, I'm sorry

**One** Sorry?? That hardly seems adequate -

**Boy** Look, it was my packed lunch wasn't it, I was hungry

**Two** But what about the crowd?

**Boy** What crowd?

**One** This crowd. (pointing to the audience) The 5000 that are supposed to be fed

**Boy** What about them?

**Two** Look, you stupid little boy, it was your sardine rolls  
that were supposed to feed them

**Boy** Yeh, well you said it - they were my sardine rolls and  
I've eaten them. Anyway if this Jesus is such a hot  
shot, he ought to be able to pull a gourmet meal  
out of thin air

**One** But the whole point of the story is that God wants us  
to use what we've got, however little...

**Two** To share around what he's given us.....

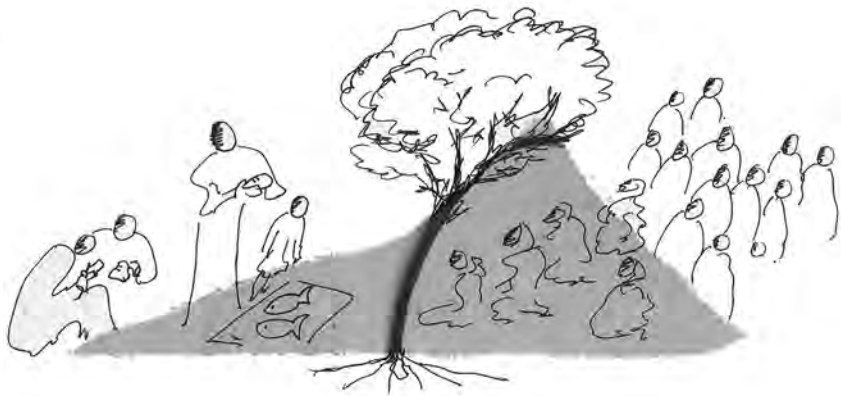
**One** And you've just wolfed the lot

**Two** And the 5000 are still hungry

**Boy** Yeah, well like I said - sorry

## **Spiritual Reflection**

Feeding the 5000 - Building on what we have



Read Mark 6: 30-44

Questions:

As a group brainstorm

1. Who are the main players in this story?
2. What specific actions did they do?
3. What was the need in this story? What were the resources?

In pairs:

4. List the steps that Jesus took to perform the miracle
5. In this story, what did Jesus focus on? What did the disciples focus on?
6. How were the resources used to meet the need identified?

As a group

7. Why do you think Jesus used those steps?
8. How could he have performed this miracle differently? Why did he not do it differently?
9. What does this passage tell us about the way we should facilitate the church and the community to meet their needs?
10. What would a miracle look like for our community?

## **Jesus' Actions**

Challenged the disciples to feed the people

Blessed the bread

Directed the people to be in groups

Directed that the disciples collect the food left over

## **Jesus focused on:**

- the importance of even the smallest resources - not to be wasted but to be appreciated
- the limitless power of God - he gave thanks to God
- the resources locally available - "What do you have? Go and check"
- the ability of the disciples to solve the problem - "You feed them"





### **The disciples' actions**

Identified the need - the people were hungry  
Identified the resources - two fish and five loaves  
Arranged the people into groups  
Served the people with food  
Collected the remains

### **The disciples focused on**

- the desolation of the site
- their poverty - no food and not enough money to buy it
- the magnitude of the need - too many people for what they had
- the seriousness of the problem -  
“the people are hungry and it’s getting late”
- shifting the burden to the people -  
“send them away that they may go to look for food”



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