



Are you Ready to Dream Dreams and See Visions?

Thank you to everyone who responded to the *Our Churches Future Story* (OCFS) questions in the 'Listening phase' of this project.

You will see below we have summarised the key themes to use as the focus of our 'Dreaming phase.' This is the stage where we all imagine how our church could look in the future.

We want to hear from everyone. So don't worry if you didn't fill in a questionnaire, or you feel as an older person it is not your place to help decide the future.

The material from the questionnaires can be grouped under the following eight themes:

1. Our Community and Welcome is strongly valued

How can we develop what we have in order to maintain and improve our role as a welcoming Christian community? What does a strong welcoming community look like?

2. There is concern about our Ageing Congregation

What does our ideal congregation look like in two or three years' time? How can we change the age profile of the congregation while maintaining links with everyone that we currently serve?

3. There is a desire for more Diverse and Contemporary Worship

We have developed several alternative types of worship in the past. Is it time to consider this again? What might that look like?

4. There is a desire for greater Spiritual Formation and Faith Development

What sort of courses could we offer to both new and experienced Christians to explore and develop their faith? What else should we be doing to encourage sharing our faith with one another?

5. Inclusion and Accessibility

How do we make our Sunday services and our other activities accessible to as many people as possible. How do we welcome everyone who comes through our doors or is thinking of us as a helpful place?

6. Buildings, Facilities and Technology

What do our buildings look like if they are as usable, flexible and sustainable as possible? What do we need to change to serve the community and worship as well as possible?

7. We have a Strong Community Mission but we need Better Visibility

How do we become more visible in Hucclecote and Gloucester? How do we effectively promote what we do and why we do it?

8. Culture, Governance and Change

Lots of the headings involve changing what we do. How do we become more comfortable with having to change? How do we make decisions in an effective and responsible way without taking too long?

There are lots of questions about what our church could look like. Please start dreaming what the answers could be so you can bring them to the meeting. Bring your 'dreaming mindset'. At this stage let your imagination run wild, don't worry about money or people or anything else, just think about what the best case scenario would be, and what we can do to prevent the worst case scenario.

Our 'Dreaming Time' will be on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th October. We will be holding three sessions with a chance to dream together and share refreshments on Friday afternoon; Friday evening or Saturday morning. You are welcome to any of the sessions (even all three if you want!). There will be a list for each event by the end of September so that you can sign up.

Later, I will give my Spirit to everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old people will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. (Joel Chapter 2 v 28)

Please save the date and get ready to dream