

"Now to him who is able
to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine ..."

Ephesians 3:20

IMAGINE

WHAT WE HEARD

*What could God
do through us?*

*A summary of what
we heard at Imagine*

Thank you for being part of Imagine

On **5 September 2026** we came together to listen, to pray and to imagine what God might do through our church over the next three years.

66 people took part, discussing big questions in **11** small groups. This booklet shares what we heard. It's a summary of the main themes – not a vote, and not an action plan. It's a starting point for prayer, conversation and discernment together.

Thank you to everyone who took part, and to all who prepared, facilitated and prayed. Your honesty, wisdom and love for our church and community were a real encouragement.

OUR PRAYER

"Lord, give us eyes to see what you are already doing, wisdom to discern your leading, and courage to play our part in your plans for Chryston and beyond."

"It was encouraging to hear so many people who care deeply about our church and community."

WHO TOOK PART?



66
people took part



11
discussion
groups



A morning
of listening,
prayer and hope

*Same God.
New possibilities.*

What we don't want to lose

Across all 11 groups, there was a remarkably strong and consistent sense of what we value about Chryston Parish Church. These are the things we want to protect as we look to the future.



Our Christian identity

Jesus at the heart, Scripture, prayer and faithful teaching.



Our church family

Caring relationships, fellowship, support and a sense of belonging.



A warm welcome

A church that is inclusive, friendly and open to all.



Ministry and service

Faithful teams, serving in church and in the community.



Christian witness

Being a light in our community and seeking to make a difference.

"A caring church family, rooted in God's Word and prayer."

These are not just activities or programmes – they reflect who we are as a church family. As we look to the future, we want to build on these strengths, not lose them.

"People care here and really notice each other."

What we value today helps shape tomorrow.

A more present church in our community

One of the strongest themes was a desire to be more outward-facing – to connect more with people in our community, rather than simply hoping they will come to us.

“Meet people where they are.”

We heard a desire to:

- Be more visible and involved in local community life.
- Build relationships and be known in our community.
- Explore creative ways to serve local needs.
- Look for opportunities in places such as schools, community spaces and local organisations.
- Consider new initiatives, including practical help, hospitality and possibly a community presence such as a shop (suggested by some).



*“Be part of the community,
not just a building in it.”*

Across the generations

Many groups spoke with concern about children, young people, younger adults and families, and the need for a more intergenerational church.

WE HEARD:

- A desire to better understand why younger generations are not connecting as well as we would want.
- The need to strengthen links with children, young people, younger adults and families.
- A hope for more opportunities for different generations to learn from and encourage one another.
- Recognition that existing activities are valued, but may need to be rethought or developed.
- A sense that this is about more than activities – it's about belonging, faith and discipleship across the generations.

"We want a church for all ages – where every generation belongs, contributes and grows in faith."

KEY QUESTION:

"How can we become a church where every generation finds a place to belong, grow and serve?"



"A church where every generation has a place."

Making the journey easier

Many groups felt that Sunday worship can be a big step for people who are new to church or exploring faith. We heard a strong desire for more accessible first steps into church life.

"Create stepping stones into church life."

WE HEARD A DESIRE TO:



Gather in different ways

Alternative or less formal ways to meet alongside Sunday worship.



Be more accessible

Different times, days and venues, including midweek and community settings.



Provide opportunities to explore

Informal gatherings such as discussion groups, shared meals or creative events.



Be welcoming and clear

Clearer communication about what to expect for newcomers.



Help people take next steps

Exploring well-known courses such as Christianity Explored or Alpha (suggested by some).

"Small steps can lead to life-changing conversations."

IDEAS THAT EMERGED:

- More informal gatherings for those exploring faith.
- Clear information about what to expect.
- A warm, intentional welcome for newcomers.
- Creative events that connect with real life.
- Exploring Christianity Explored or Alpha as a next step.

"Different ways in for different people."

EXPLORE

BELONG

GROW

*Same God.
New possibilities.*

Helping people encounter Jesus

Alongside community and welcome, there was a clear sense that we want to be unmistakably about Jesus. Several groups reflected that the church must always point people to Jesus – not just what we do, but who we are and why we exist.

WE HEARD:



Clear and faithful teaching

A desire for Bible-centred, relevant and accessible teaching that helps people understand who Jesus is.



Opportunities to explore faith

More chances for people to ask questions, be honest and explore the Christian faith.



Personal invitation

The importance of relationships, conversation and personal invitation in helping people take next steps.



Prayer

A greater confidence that we need to pray for friends, family and neighbours who do not yet know Jesus.



Next steps

Courses such as Christianity Explored or Alpha (suggested by some) as helpful ways for people to investigate faith further.

"We're not recruiting but sharing the Gospel."

KEY QUESTION:

"How can we be a church that helps more people encounter Jesus?"

"Lives changed when people meet Jesus."

"Real relationships can lead to real faith."



Looking forward together

As we look ahead, we hold together both faithfulness to what is strong and openness to what God might be doing next.

Our three-year hopes

- A more intergenerational church.
- A stronger presence in our community.
- More people exploring and coming to faith in Jesus.
- A church that is known for welcome, care and Christian witness.
- A church community that continues to grow in faith, prayer and love.

The direction we heard

Protect what is healthy • Move outward
Create accessible pathways • Help people encounter Jesus
Grow across the generations

What happens next?

The Kirk Session and leadership teams will now prayerfully consider all that we heard. This booklet is the beginning of a wider conversation about what God might be calling us to do.

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*“What could God
do through us?”*

Let's keep praying, listening and imagining – together.

