

Imagine

START HERE

A quick guide to using the Imagine Church Discernment Resource

WHAT IS IMAGINE?

Imagine is a ready-to-use process that helps a whole congregation step back, listen to one another and prayerfully consider where God may be leading them next. The day focuses especially on loving the community, developing a culture of invitation and helping people encounter Jesus. The aim is discernment, not a hurried action plan.

THE WHOLE JOURNEY

PREPARE

IMAGINE

LISTEN

CAPTURE

ANALYSE

DISCERN

RESPOND

REPORT

1. BEFORE THE DAY — PREPARE

- Read the Leader's Guide in the main Imagine Church Discernment Resource.
- Choose a date and invite the whole church family, not only existing leaders.
- Plan tables of around 5–7 people and number each table.
- Print the participant material and discussion sheets; identify a recorder for each table.
- Prepare the presentation and adapt only the local details you need.

2. ON THE DAY — LISTEN & IMAGINE

LOVING OUR COMMUNITY

Celebrate • Change • Imagine

A CULTURE OF INVITATION

Celebrate • Change • Imagine

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

Celebrate • Change • Imagine

KEEP THIS LENS IN VIEW

Would what we're talking about genuinely help someone with little or no church connection take a step towards Jesus?

Possibilities first • Practicalities later

3. BEFORE PEOPLE LEAVE — PRIORITISE

- Complete What Are We Hearing? — one thing not to lose, one idea worth exploring, and one thing God may be drawing attention to.
- Complete Looking Forward — imagine what you hope people will be thankful for about your church three years from now.
- Collect every original sheet and keep each table's responses together.

4. AFTER THE DAY — CAPTURE & ANALYSE

- Enter every group's responses into the Blank Master Feedback Form. Preserve the original wording; use [unclear] rather than guessing.
- Upload the completed master form to ChatGPT and work through the four prompts in the Feedback + ChatGPT section in order.
- Do not jump straight from raw feedback to 'What should we do?' Build and test the evidence first.

IMPORTANT

Treat the GROUP, not each individual written comment, as the primary unit of evidence. Frequency shows recurrence; it is not a vote.

5. LEADERSHIP — DISCERN BEFORE DECIDING

- Use the Leadership Discernment Guide and meeting sheet to test the strategic issues that emerge.
- Agree which issues are NOW, which need further EXPLORATION, and which should be KEPT IN VIEW.
- Only after strategic direction is clear should you evaluate programmes, staffing, finance, venues, timing and feasibility.

6. REPORT BACK

- First tell the congregation what you heard.
- Then explain what leadership believes it may mean.
- Later communicate what you believe should be done and why.

YOU SPOKE → WE LISTENED → TOGETHER WE DISCERN → WE TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

ONE FINAL REMINDER

Imagine works best when the church is given permission to speak honestly, leadership resists the urge to solve everything immediately, and the evidence is allowed to shape the questions before anyone decides the answers.

What could God do through us?

Developed by Chryston Parish Church