Individual Discipleship

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

John 23:8

Overview

This outcome focuses on the way that members of the worshipping community are "envisioned, resourced and released to live as disciples".

Discipleship is central to the Church's mission yet can sometimes be missing from conversations because other measures, such as attendance numbers, are easier to measure.

This measure aims to enable church leaders and dioceses to discuss discipleship. The approaches need to be proportionate to the work and the way that the learning will be used.

*For work funded through SMMI (Strategic Ministry and Mission Investment), this is an "Amber shared outcome", which means that where this is an integral part of funded work, the below tools **or** alternative tools can be used to measure this.*

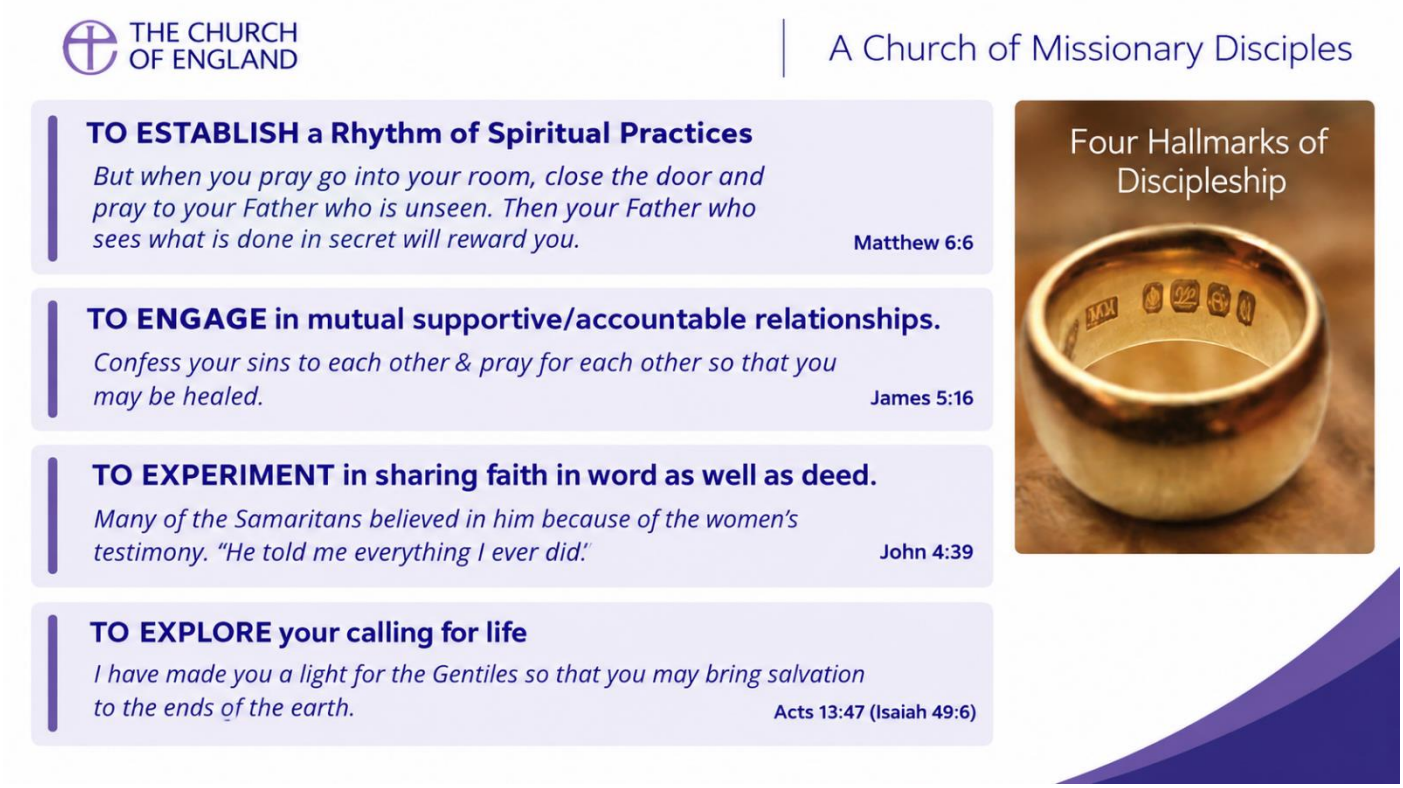
Support with the Shared Outcomes can be requested through contact us. This includes support for dioceses around reflecting on discipleship surveys through a workshop/learning circle, and further resources around discipleship development.

Recommended approach

1. **Share congregational survey** with worshipping community members.
2. **Reflect, pray and discuss responses** to discern ways to give further support around discipleship.

What's measured?

Responses to questions about discipleship, in line with the following hallmarks of discipleship:

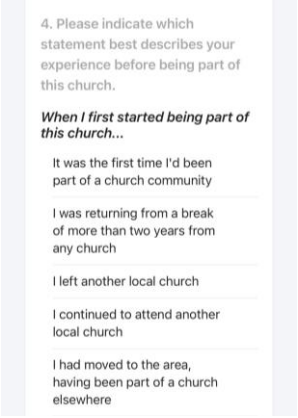


The hallmarks were developed by the Church of England's Mission and Discipleship Enablers Network.

Tool

Questions related to each of the 4 hallmarks are included in the Church Development Tool, a congregational survey.

The survey also asks if respondents are new to church or returning to church.



Churches and dioceses can see their results on Online Parish Returns.

Dioceses and church leaders need to think in advance about how the results, and the change over time, will be discussed and influence decision making.

Reflecting, praying and discerning the way forward is itself part of discipleship. Churches may consider:

- What are we noticing about how people are living out their faith?
- What is already nurturing discipleship in our community?

- Where might people be longing for something more, and what practices or opportunities could help?

Frequently asked questions

How frequently would churches complete the survey?

Some churches complete surveys annually, but for others, once every two or three years is sufficient to enable them to understand changes in their congregation.

How is the survey set up?

The survey and the results can be set up through the front page of Online Parish Returns. Dioceses select the question modules and then make them available for churches. The survey is then accessed using a QR code.



How do I find out more about the Church Development Tool?

Guidance and publicity materials are available on the Church Development Tool site and a communication pack has been shared with all dioceses.

What if churches are doing other surveys?

Some churches use an alternative survey with questions around discipleship that can also be used for this measure. Some churches have used the Cornerstone survey on giving, and this may need to be factored into timing of surveys so that no one is asked to do more than one survey in a year.

Link with other Shared Outcomes

- Discipleship groups

To access information about this, and the Shared Outcomes as a whole, see the page on Church Support Hub.