

Saint Michael's, Bramcote

Transforming Churches: Communities of Grace



A report upon the use of our buildings

December 2015

Compiled by: Revd Paul Reynolds and Jonathan Portwood

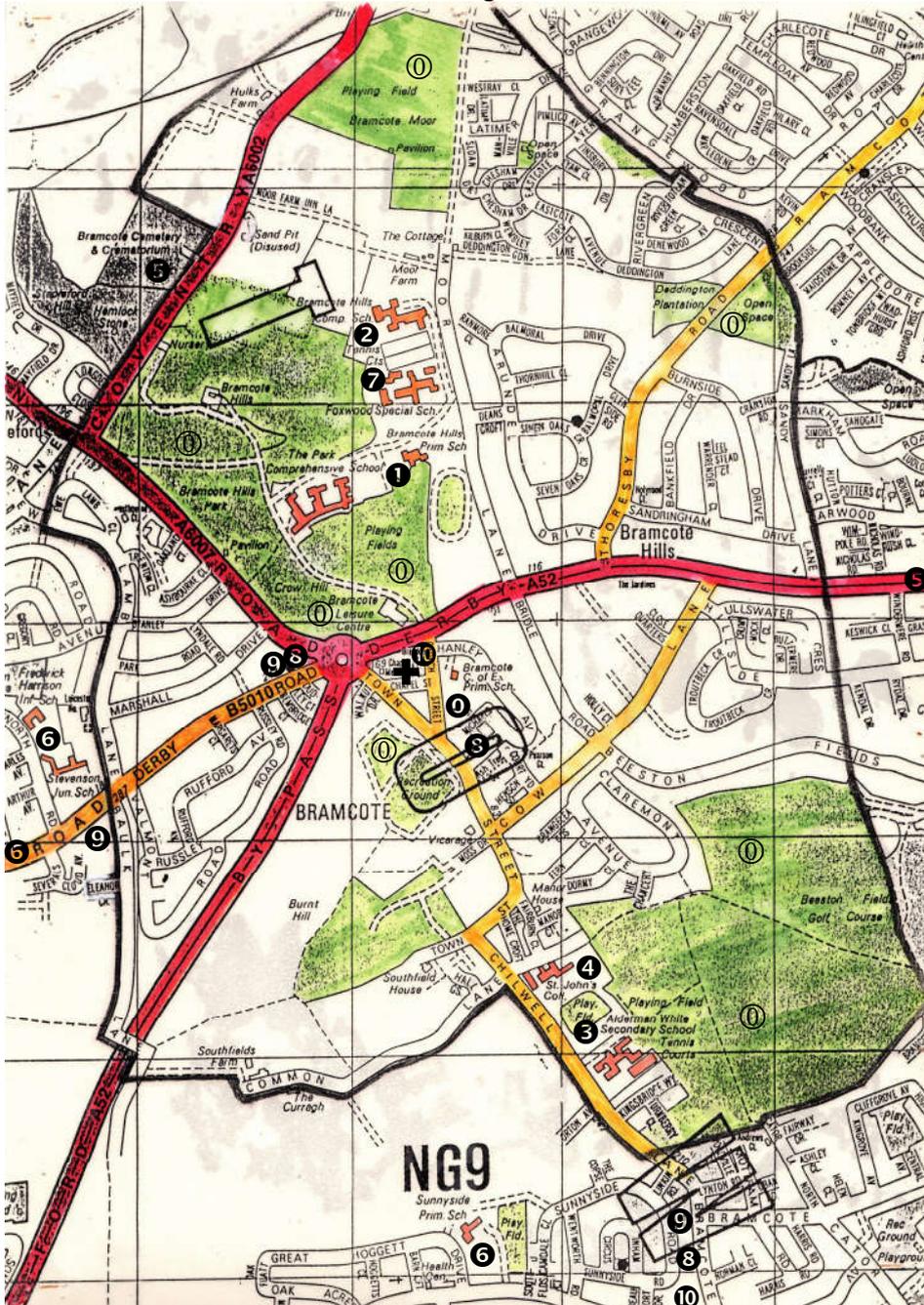
Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote

Transforming Churches: Communities of Grace

Section 1 - Internal Factors

Name of Church: Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote

1. A diagram of the stakeholders in your Church building/s (those with an interest in it continuing to be) – don't forget those who might normally be invisible like English Heritage if your building is Listed and local schools, bell ringers etc.



KEY

- ⓪ Bramcote CofE Aided
- ① Bramcote Hills Primary
- ② Bramcote Hills Secondary
- ③ Alderman White Secondary
- ④ St John's College
- ⑤ Crematorium/Cemetery
- ⑥ Primary Schools
- ⑦ Special School
- ⑧ Public House
- ⑨ Shops
- ⑩ Doctors Surgery
- ✚ Methodist Chapel
- ⓪ Sports/Leisure Facility

②

③

Details of specific church users are to be found in other sections of this report

- NOTES:** Indicators on this map are not necessarily to scale nor in a precise location. The church is grade II listed. English Heritage provided funding for the spire project and did not oppose the recent refurbishment. A Memorial Hall is located adjacent to the church complex and is often used in tandem with the church.
2. In an average year how much money do you spend on the upkeep, insurance and maintenance of your building excluding utility bills;

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- a) in total £11,548 (2014 accounts)
- b) as a percentage of your annual expenditure 7% (2014 accounts)
- c) as a percentage of your annual income 8% (2014 accounts)

3. Do you have a separate fund for building maintenance and/or capital projects and if so how much money does it contain?

- a) in total Yes - £3,202 (2014 accounts)
- b) as a percentage of your annual expenditure 2% of expenditure (2014 accounts)

4. When did you last spend more than £10,000 on the building and how did you raise the money?

£180,000 in 2013 - £16,000 grants, £94,000 church funds, £70,000 donations
£80,560 in 2011 - £56,500 grants, £24,000 donations

5. Are there major structural or other issues (e.g. new boiler) that you know about that will need to be addressed in the next 3-5 years?

- (1) Yes – Reroofing of main church building and flat roof to church centre
(2) Yes – Disabled access to church centre

What will they cost to the nearest £5k? What is your plan, if you have one?

- (1) Unknown – Estimated to be in the region of £100,000+
Currently applying for grants from various grant making bodies
(2) Unknown - Estimated to be in the region of £10,000
Significant (restricted funds) already in place from recent legacies

Note: See finance section for further information.

6. How accessible are all the parts of the building which visitors may want to see – especially for those with disabilities?

The main church building is readily accessible with a tarmacked path from the street which leads straight into the main worship area without the need for steps or ramps. Access from the church centre is by means of 10 stairs or an electric chair lift which presents no major problems for disabled visitors. Wheelchair access into the main worship area is freely available, and standard chairs are readily removable to accommodate wheelchair users.

Access to the church centre is far more limited, either by means of a short flight of steps to the rear of the centre, or else by means of a set of double door at the top of a gentle incline. The PCC is currently investigating the possibility of creating a tarmacked ramp from the street (as for the main church building) including the installation of double doors which may be operated automatically by wheelchair and other disabled users. It is hoped that this will be realised during 2016.

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7. Answer the following questions as honestly as possible by choosing an average week which does not include a major festival;

How many hours per week is your church's worship space accessible to anyone?
(please circle)

<10 11 – 20 21-30 **31-50** 51 -70 > 70

*The above excludes any special church events or occasional offices (eg, funerals)
Access is possible at other times by prior arrangement.*

What is the "footfall" per week in the worship space (this may include non-worship events if your building is multi-purpose) i.e. the number of people who enter it.

245+	Midweek and Sunday services
Unknown	Ad-Hoc visitors
60-300	Ad-Hoc school visits, services and presentations
10-100	Ad-Hoc Deanery, Diocesan and College events

Note: See attendance by group section for further information.

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Section 2 - External Factors

Name of Church: Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote

1. How accessible is the church by

a) car: Very accessible with ample off-street, local council and church parking spaces.

b) foot: Access to the church buildings is generally flat with no major obstructions.

c) public transport: Public service transport is effectively limited to buses and taxis. The nearest railway station is in Beeston, with local access to the new tram network either at Bardills Garden Centre or by the Valley Surgery.

2. Is there good access for people with disabilities? **Yes/ ~~No~~**

Please give details Access is extremely good with respect to the main church building, but less so with respect to the church centre – please see further details elsewhere in this report.

3. What on-street and off-street car parking spaces/availability are there? Are these adequate for the footfall at all times?

There are 8/9 off-street parking spaces outside of the church, a local council car park offering 20 spaces within a three minute walk, and a further 30 spaces within the main church car park. Additional car parking spaces would always be beneficial to the work of the church.

4. If the church has a churchyard / graveyard (open or closed) describe how people interact with it and again what is the footfall in an average week

The churchyard is closed for new burials but open for the interment of ashes within a Garden of Remembrance. It is hoped to extend this area during 2016. The churchyard is highly valued within the local community (and beyond) and is visited by families on a regular basis. Although no official figures exist, it is estimated that there are up to 10 visitors a day, increasing significantly at weekends and at major festivals (eg, Bereavement Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Easter and Mothering Sunday).

(and also, for an open graveyard what are the numbers at major festivals). How does the congregation view the churchyard, how has it been developed and what interaction is there with these visitors if at all?

Together with staff from the Leisure Department of the local Council, members of the congregation take great pride in maintaining the churchyard as a whole, and the Garden of Remembrance in particular. The Verger takes special care to interact with all known visitors, as do members of the congregation when present.

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Section 2 - External Factors

5. Describe the picture as you stand at the main entrance of the church and you are looking outwards?

A leafy suburban landscape, well cared for and well utilised.

What is striking? The leafy (almost rural) nature of the suburban vista presented.

Are there any public buildings in view? What is the Church's relationship with them?

Only the local Memorial Hall with whom we have very good relations, with members of the congregation and retired ministers team serving on the Management Committee.

Walk

- a) to the boundary of the church grounds and look back at it – what do you see? Are the Noticeboards attractive and visible?

A church building set in attractive grounds and well cared for. The external notice boards are easily visible but not in the best of repair. There are plans to renew them during 2016.

- b) now stand about 250m from the church (choose a suitable direction) and look back to it. How visible is it? What else do you notice?

The church buildings are easily visible from all directions. A beautiful clear blue sky with children from the local school walking to the church in order to rehearse for their annual Christmas presentation.

What public buildings (health centres, schools etc.) are within 250m of the church building (draw a circle on a map)?

Please refer to the section entitled 'Buildings – Internal Factors' for a map and associated information.

What is the Church's relationship with them?

Generally speaking, very good indeed. With no obvious centre to Bramcote, Saint Michael's strives to be the spiritual heart of the village.

6. Find two people to spend a spare typical weekday morning or whole day at the church site from before schools are open.

Count the number of people who pass by on foot over a set time.

Do people stop to chat with each other or even meet together near the church?

Yes – some people will come into the church to engage with the team of office volunteers, attend a coffee morning or some similar activity.

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Section 2 - External Factors

Draw the paths people take as they pass by on a map of the surrounding area of the building.

The only access path is up and down Church Street.

Please refer to the photographs included below for a detailed context statement.



The church, church centre and churchyard taken from the air.

The church, church centre and churchyard taken from the air.



The church centre and car park taken from the air.



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Section 2 - External Factors



The churchyard and surrounding houses taken from the church spire.

The local leisure centre taken from the church spire.



The local council car park, recreation ground, and one of the local nurseries taken from the church spire.

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Section 3 - Financial Factors

Based upon the accounts for the last full accounting year (2014):

The monies spent on general upkeep amounted to £11,548

The Maintenance Fund stood at £3,202

The major refurbishment project (Project 2012) completed in 2013 cost £180,000 and was funded by:

Grants	£16,000
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Church Funds	£94,000
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Donations	£70,000
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An earlier project (Church Spire) completed in 2011 cost £80,560 and was funded by:

Grants	£56,560
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Donations	£24,000
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Frank Mellon (Treasurer)
(December 2015)

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Section 4 - Buildings Use By Group

<u>Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Attending</u>
Baptism Preparation	Lounge/Church	Quarterly	15-45+
Bell Ringing Team	Church	Weekly	6-10
Bramcote History Group	Lounge/Centre	Monthly	70+
Bramcote Lectures	Church	Ad-Hoc	40+
Café Bramcote	Lounge/Centre	Monthly	50-80+
Centre Hire (External)	Centre	Monthly (plus)	30-150+
Centre Hire (Members)	Centre	Bi-Monthly	30-150+
Choir Rehearsal	Centre/Church	Weekly	8-15
Coffee Morning	Lounge/Centre	Weekly	30+
Come Alive (Keep-fit)	Lounge	Weekly	15-30
Concerts/Recitals	Church	Ad-Hoc	60-180+
Concerts/Recitals	Centre	Ad-Hoc	60-120+
Dads and Kids	Lounge/Centre	Monthly	6-12
Deanery Events	Centre/Church	Ad-Hoc	10-100+
Diary Meeting	Lounge	Weekly	3-10
Fayres (Christmas)	Lounge/Centre	Ad-Hoc	50-350+
Festival Services	Church	Annually	200-350+
Flower Arrangers	Church	Weekly	1-5
Funerals	Church	Ad-Hoc	5-400+
Lent Course	Church	Annually	25-50+
Little Angels (Toddlers)	Centre	Weekly	40-60
Marriage Preparation	Centre	Annually	10-30+
Men's Fellowship	Centre	Monthly	10-20
			(80+ twice a year)
Messy Church	Centre/Church	Bi-Monthly	30-120+
Mission Soirees/Suppers	Lounge/Centre	Ad-Hoc	50-150+
Music Group Rehearsal	Centre/Church	Weekly	5-10

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Section 4 - Buildings Use By Group

<u>Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Attending</u>
Open House (Study Group)	Lounge `*`	Weekly	5-15
Parish Consultation Days	Lounge/Centre	Ad-Hoc	35-180+
Parish Prayer	Lounge	Monthly	5-25+
Parochial Church Council	Centre	Bi-Monthly	20-30
PCC Committees (Various)	Centre/Church	Bi-Monthly	3-8
Prayer Group	Lounge	Weekly	3-8+
Prayer Labyrinth	Church	Ad-Hoc	5-25+
School Presentations	Centre/Church	Annually	20-300+
School Services	Church	Termly	180-250+
Silver Surfers	Lounge/Centre	Weekly	40-50+
Sunday Lunches	Lounge/Centre	Monthly	30-80+
Sunday Services (All)	Centre/Church	Weekly	160-210+
Training Events	Centre/Church	Ad-Hoc	10-50+
Weddings	Church	Ad-Hoc	10-250+
Wednesday Lunches	Lounge/Centre	Monthly	12-35+
Women's Meeting Point	Lounge/Centre	Monthly	10-20

Notes:

The location of each activity/event may vary throughout the year.

The frequency of each activity/event may also vary throughout the year.

The above attendance figures demonstrate a wide variance, and it should not be assumed that typical attendance levels are median.

`*` Open House are currently meeting off-site.

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Section 5 – Parish Demographics

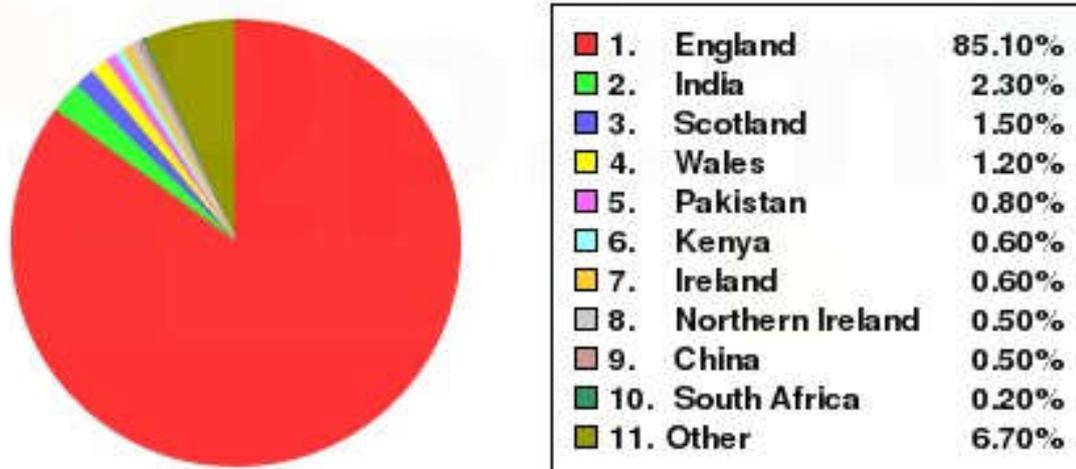
Contextual Summary

In the 2011 census the population of Bramcote was 7,270 and is made up of approximately 51% females and 49% males.

The average age of people in Bramcote is 46, while the median age is higher at 48.

Life expectancy is currently 81 for males and 85.5 for females.

85.1% of people living in Bramcote were born in England. Other top answers for country of birth were 2.3% India, 1.5% Scotland, 1.2% Wales, 0.8% Pakistan, 0.6% Kenya, 0.6% Ireland, 0.5% Northern Ireland, 0.5% China, 0.2% South Africa.



60.5% of people are married, 6.7% cohabit with a member of the opposite sex, 0.7% live with a partner of the same sex, 17.6% are single and have never married or been in a registered same sex partnership, 5.6% are separated or divorced. There are 273 widowed people living in Bramcote.

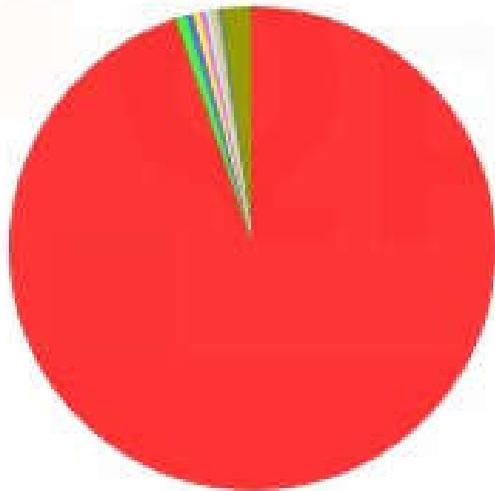
The top occupations listed by people in Bramcote are: Professional 32.1%; Managers, directors and senior officials 13.9%; Associate professional and technical 13.8%; Administrative and secretarial 12.0%; Teaching and educational professionals 10.6%; Corporate managers and directors 9.8%; Administrative 7.9%; Business and public service associate professionals 7.6%; Health professionals 7.5%.

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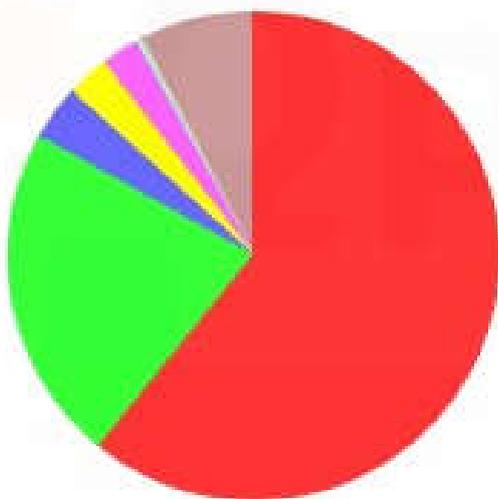
Section 5 – Parish Demographics

94.8% of people living in Bramcote speak English. The other top languages spoken are 0.7% Panjabi, 0.5% Arabic, 0.4% Urdu, 0.4% Gujarati, 0.3% Polish, 0.2% All other Chinese, 0.2% Italian, 0.2% Spanish, 0.2% Greek.



1.	English	94.80%
2.	Panjabi	0.70%
3.	Arabic	0.50%
4.	Urdu	0.40%
5.	Gujarati	0.40%
6.	Polish	0.30%
7.	All other Chinese	0.20%
8.	Italian	0.20%
9.	Spanish	0.20%
10.	Greek	0.20%
11.	Other	2.10%

The religious make up of Bramcote is 60.8% Christian, 22.3% No religion, 3.6% Muslim, 2.8% Hindu, 2.5% Sikh, 0.3% Buddhist, 0.1% Jewish, 0.1% Agnostic.



1.	Christian	60.80%
2.	No religion	22.30%
3.	Muslim	3.60%
4.	Hindu	2.80%
5.	Sikh	2.50%
6.	Buddhist	0.30%
7.	Jewish	0.10%
8.	Agnostic	0.10%
9.	Other	7.50%

482 people did not state a religion, whilst 12 people identified themselves as being a 'Jedi Knight'.

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Section 6 – Questions for Discussion by the PCC

Section 'A' (Discuss in groups of 4)

(a) How do the findings of the report fit with your perception of the current reality concerning our buildings?

The findings of the exercise provide an accurate reflection of reality, detailing the positive benefits of the remodelled church (flexibility, possibilities etc).

Disabled access to the church is excellent, but disabled access to the church centre still needs significant attention (although this is in hand).

The numbers clearly demonstrate that the buildings are very well used, although there is still the possibility of greater utilisation.

(b) What, if anything, appears to be missing?

Current usage could be broadened to make greater use of the buildings for activities such as music, drama and the arts.

Better disabled access to the church centre would not only improve access for those currently disenfranchised, but would also open up fresh possibilities for use in completely new areas (eg, work clubs, meeting points etc).

The buildings would clearly benefit from being available for general access for longer each day, and even greater use being made of the new facilities.

(c) What does God appear to be doing in Bramcote at this time?

Engaging with people 'where they are' and drawing them to Himself.

Calling for more people to be engaged with Him mission through the generous giving of their time, talents and treasure.

Calling upon the church to work within the local community as well as within the physical church buildings.

(d) How does our use of our buildings, and the space it provides, fit in with our vision and/or mission?

Generally very well, but the church centre is beginning to show its age and is need of some physical refurbishment and decoration.

The flexibility of the buildings enables the church to serve the local community and seek to become the spiritual heart of the parish.

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Section 6 – Questions for Discussion by the PCC

The flexibility of the buildings (especially the kitchens) provide us with enormous potential to reach out into the community with the gospel. The provision of good food and drink are often ideal bridge-builders between the church and the community it serves, and enables the church to present the gospel in non-threatening ways (eg, Café Bramcote).

(e) Given our buildings as they are now, how is God sending us out in mission?

By taking the gospel to people 'where they are', particularly by going out into the community (eg, prayer walks, visits etc) as well as inviting them to join us.

To engage more effectively with the Great Commission so that we might make more active Christian Disciples rather than merely adding to our numbers.

By providing an open space wherein the real physical and spiritual needs of the local community may be met (eg, debt, loneliness, relationships etc).

Each group to report back to the full meeting.

Section 'B' (Discuss in groups of 4)

(a) Discuss, and then create an agreed completion of this sentence

"In 3-5 years' time we would like to see our buildings ..."

"... full, making extensive use of our light, bright and welcoming facilities."

"... full of more people of all ages, fully committed to their faith and reaching out to others"

"... being used all day, every day, reaching out to people, helping them to find faith and grow in that faith as active Christian Disciples."

Each group to report back to the full meeting.