

Elders and mission – transcript of video

Speaker 1

Our mission initiatives come from all corners. About three years ago, the congregation was asked to come up with suggestions as to mission projects that the church could be involved in. We hold outreach services; we hold events in our local park to which the community is invited; we work ecumenically with other denominations in that area; we support charities, some local, some international.

Speaker 2

Mission is very difficult to, you know, to pinpoint, especially since the start of the pandemic where things totally changed. We are currently working on our mission statement but our church is about faith; it's about hope, family, friendship, children and young people and the elderly. Our mission is about everyday lives. It's about the community and beyond. We aim to create a sustainable community among the congregation out life and the outreach projects that we're very passionate about.

Speaker 3

I don't think we actually stopped to think about our church's mission until we became vacant and we were not Minister led. All of a sudden, we realized that the responsibility was ours to provide worship and everything else that goes with church life. I am pleased to say there is an awful lot of help out there to to, to, just tap into, and that helps us to look at small steps. Where are we now? What is the next step? It doesn't have to be big just small things and we've been doing small changes.

Speaker 4

One of the things we're doing is really trying to listen to our local community and the URC has been doing a lot with us with members of the church to stress how important that is. So when trying to listen, we're trying to reach out to people to try and find out what they need, not what they're looking for from a spiritual perspective necessarily, but what they need the church to be. So we've been looking at first aid sort of food cycle groups as well to see what we can provide. So it's, we have been taking the steps of listening to the community and trying to decide, like divine, our mission from that.

Speaker 5

We are mission focused, but we're community focused as well. We're very conscious of the community around us. You know, if we sow the seeds, then it's up to God to water them and to bring them through in his way. So I think, you know, we've taken off with that really.

Speaker 6

Let's face it, we're church, we've got to get God involved in this, it's prayer. And I think that sometimes it's difficult to get congregations shifting but mission is, everybody knows it's a hard thing, it's stirring people up and sowing those seeds and I think prayer is the answer.

Speaker 7

With mission, it's important that the congregation see the Elders being engaged in it in all the different facets that it takes. And because there is an element of following the leadership as such. So the Elders need to be prepared to get involved in whatever way. And then, you know, people will follow on from that.