



# Diocese of Hereford

Proclaiming Christ ✦ Growing Disciples



## The Five Marks of Mission

A resource for our church's Mission

[www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org)



# What are the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion?

The diocese's 2025 Year of Engagement is based on the Anglican Communion's 'Five Marks of Mission'.



## **Tell**

the Good News of the Kingdom of God



## **Teach**

people to be followers of Christ in God's mission



## **Tend**

to the needs of others in loving service



## **Transform**

unjust structures and work for peace and reconciliation



## **Treasure**

God's creation and nurture and protect our world

These are not separate tasks, but all part of one mission to see the Kingdom of God come on earth as in heaven, as Jesus taught us to pray. Each of the Five Marks flows from the others, so our evangelism is to call people to be part of this vision – to tell and teach – and our discipleship is to equip us to live out this vision as people who tend to those in need, transform society and treasure creation.

## How do the Five Marks of Mission help us with our mission to engage with our communities?

They can be used as a kind of mission 'health check', a guide to help us think broadly about how we understand our mission to our local community and how we might practise it. For many of us, when we think about mission and evangelism, certain images often come to mind of things like big rallies with famous speakers, or street preachers, or foreign missionaries in far flung parts of the world. This can make us feel we are not the people called to do this. The Five Marks tell us mission is not just about what we say but what we do and how we live, that things like helping at a food bank or working to become an Eco Church are all part of God's mission.



# A Mission 'Health Check'

As we think about what our church is involved in and compare it to the Five Marks of Mission, we will find that some of what we already do is part of God's mission and we may see it in a new light. It is also likely that we realise that other areas of the Five Marks are things we need to work on. In this way, looking at what our church is doing in its ministry alongside the Five Marks is like a mission 'health check'.

Following are some ideas and questions to explore on your own, or as a team project in your parish, benefice or deanery.

- Use each of the Five Marks as a heading and list under it all the things your church already does that fit under that Mark. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Many churches are doing a lot to tend to those in need, it is much more challenging to seek to transform society, so those needs don't arise. South American Catholic Bishop Helder Camara said 'when I feed the poor, they call me a saint. But when I ask why they are poor they call me a communist'. Seeking to change our society so that people don't need foodbanks or homeless shelters, or refuges, debt relief etc. requires more time and commitment and often gets political. As a church pursues such questions it often finds it needs to work with others including those outside the church in seeking to 'transform unjust structures' in society. What issues do we see in our community that need a deeper transformation of society? What might that look like? What might we do to understand more about that issue? Who else is working for such change and how might we work with them?

- The Five Marks of Mission broaden our understanding of mission. They mean that all Five Marks are part of an evangelistic call to follow Christ in seeking the Kingdom of God in our community. Each one invites those involved to go deeper in faith and catch a vision of the Kingdom, so participating in mission is itself transforming of those involved. This means it is always good to invite all sorts of people to be part of running our ministry, not just church people. Those who volunteer are often those most affected. How might you help people involved in the ministries you are part of to make the connection from the work itself to following Jesus? How might you live out that connection as you minister? Who might you invite to minister alongside you from beyond your church community?
- Many people realise that the fifth Mark, treasuring creation is a good thing. They care about climate change and environmental crisis. Often this has not been at the centre of the church's ministry. In Romans 8, Paul pictures the ultimate end of God's mission as all creation becoming part of the family of God with us. How might that change how we relate to creation? What might our evangelism look like if the goal of God's mission was the Kingdom of God in all creation?
- All of the Marks of Mission require people to change. People are in need, society is unjust, and the environment is in crisis largely because of how people live. The good news is that God changes lives. All of the Five Marks require people to be transformed by God. How might this affect our approach to evangelism and discipleship?



# Next steps for your church



A number of churches are also using The Growing Good toolkit, developed to help us gain a better understanding of our community and foster links between social action, discipleship and holistic growth.

To find out more about this interactive resource contact Rev'd Joe Simons:  
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