



Christ-centred in life and worship

- lives motivated by faith
- inspiring worship that enables people to meet with God
- people living out their faith visibly at home, family, work and leisure
- deepening discipleship, prayer & worship
- people sharing their faith story naturally with those outside the church
- help for those starting a journey of faith

focused on God's mission and purpose

- a clear view of God's mission for the church and a determination to fulfil it
- effective communication of the church's mission inside and outside the church
- wider church, ecumenical and secular partnerships that help fulfil God's mission
- activities focused deliberately toward fulfilling God's mission
- stewardship of God's resources that is effective for and linked to God's mission
- administration and governance that adequately support God's mission

loving, servant-hearted and generous

- a good, current understanding of the communities of which the church is a part
- sharing the good news of Jesus in the community through actions and attitudes
- engagement with those outside the church
- generosity within the church and toward those outside it
- effective pastoral care and loving relationships that bear with one
- commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship locally and globally

welcoming, open and inclusive

- welcome for newcomers and visitors that demonstrates genuine love
- welcome and inclusion of those from different backgrounds and with special needs
- a joyful desire to develop new relationships with people and groups
- a willingness to welcome diversity and see it as a strength
- help for people to develop real and accountable friendships in the church
- inviting people into the full life of the church

willing to adapt for God's purposes

- regular and honest reviews of how things are going without apportioning blame
- regular celebration and thanksgiving to God of the good things in church life
- a willingness to make sacrifices when necessary for effective ministry and mission
- a willingness to listen and learn from those outside the church
- an openness to try new and imaginative ways of working without fearing failure
- an understanding and acceptance of the cost of change and of how to manage it well

encouraging in Christian vocation and service

- accessible ways to help everyone explore their vocation
- support for those pursuing their calling both inside and outside the local church
- a desire to see people serve God in a way that reflects their calling
- a wide range of people involved in a wide range of mission and ministries
- help for people to serve in new ways and to step down when appropriate
- encouragement for newcomers and younger people to serve in Christian ministry

Christ-like in leadership

- servant leadership that helps individuals and the church to flourish
- a wide range of lay and ordained people in leadership roles
- inspirational leadership that excites and motivates others about God's mission
- a wide range of skills and gifts among the leadership that are valued and used
- leaders that encourage the development of other potential leaders
- a church that loves its leaders through prayer, encouragement and support

engaging with children, young people and families

- genuine welcome and hospitality shown toward children, families and young people
- readiness to nurture the faith, prayer and worship of children and young people
- children and young people fully involved in the life of the church
- support for and work with parents and carers as they encourage faith in their children
- effective engagement with baptism families from preparation through to follow-up
- support for and engagement with local schools and their students

MAP for Derby Diocese introducing the church health check

A Mission Action Plan resource

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what is the MAP Church Health Check?

When you visit a medical practitioner, whether with a specific problem or just for a check-up, the chances are that they will ask you about your health now – how you feel, the symptoms you have, what is working well and where things seem not to be right.

They will then compare that with their own knowledge of what a healthy person should be like and, in combination with other tests, this will help them make a diagnosis of where any problem lies and form a treatment plan to help your health improve.

The Church Health Check works in a similar way, but for churches. It sits within the MAP for Derby Diocese process and uses the eight characteristics of a healthy church, developed from several research programmes, from experience in the church and, above all, through a prayerful engagement with Scripture. A summary of the eight characteristics is given on the back page of this leaflet.

The Church Health Check, through a simple tick-box or scoring survey, asks the church to consider how much it is exhibiting each of these characteristics in different ways. Once the results are collated, they can help a church, when used alongside information gathered from elsewhere, to understand and discern where God is calling them to grow and change.

how is the Church Health Check used within MAP?

The Church Health Check is a core element of the MAP for Derby Diocese process, and the only tool that is *required* in order to run MAP for Derby Diocese effectively. It is used primarily in stage 2 (reflecting on the journey toward God's calling so far), helping the church to see where they are at the present time, and in stage 3 (discerning the areas in which God is calling the church to grow and change), helping the church to understand which of the characteristics they still need to exhibit more.

It is very important that the MAP Church Health Check isn't the only way the church seeks to find out to where God has brought them. They will also need to listen:

- **To the church**, through other measures and stories coming from the members of the worshipping community.
- **To the wider community**, who will have a different and important view on the church and their place in that community.
- **To God**, most important of all, through prayer, as we seek to hear from him concerning his calling to the church.

how does the Church Health Check work?

The Church Health Check uses a simple and anonymous survey that is completed by as many people as possible from across the worshipping community. The survey offers a number of statements about church of which the person completing it is a part, and asks them to say how much they agree or disagree with each statement. **Your input is so important – the more people that participate, the more useful the results will be.**

There are three different types of survey offered by the Church Health Check to suit different people within different churches, but these surveys can also be tailored by church leaders if needs be.

Once the surveys have been completed, they are then collated and the results added together to produce a 'percentage' figure, indicating how much the church feels that they are exhibiting each characteristic.

The information, once collated, can then be presented to the wider church so that it can be used as an aid to prayerfully consider what God might be saying through it. This is often done as a part of an away day, either by the PCC and other leaders of the church or by the whole church together.

how will the information from the surveys be used?

The survey doesn't ask for any personal information and is completely anonymous. This means that nothing in the results will be able to be attributed to an individual.

It is important to understand the limitations of the Church Health Check results. The results tell the church only what they think about themselves, so it's important to test the results against other information and to seek the views of those outside the church. For this reason, the results should not be used in isolation as the basis for decision making, but should be prayerfully considered alongside other data.

The Church Health Check results can never, and should never, be used to criticise or assess individuals – the results only talk about the whole church. Neither should they be used to compare churches to see which one is 'performing' better. This is not about performance, but the call of God upon the church, and each church is in a different place on their journey, and serving in a different context, to any other.

If the Church Health Check is done regularly every few years, however, it will help the church to see how they are journeying with God and to celebrate the good things that God is doing in and through them.