

Cluster Ideas for Development

- ❖ Churches Audit for skills and talents.
- ❖ Gideon way of walk and talk within each cluster area.
- ❖ Easter/Christmas cards delivery within cluster offering a message and when/where services are held. Follow-up with door chats.
- ❖ Church and non-church groups users invited to a gathering say, every quarter or six months for a care and share.
- ❖ Book clubs for families.
- ❖ Soft play area hires quarterly for families, an away-day Messy Church!
- ❖ Hybrid church worship getting to know each other better in the cluster.
- ❖ Seeking Gods guidance through prayer and evangelism taking on board different people from different churches.
- ❖ Several folks not understanding the clustering idea and which church meets where? Also, not online for contacting and sharing.
- ❖ A Saturday morning group at one church assisted by a group from another cluster church and exchange the meeting places. Shared help and reciprocal arrangements.
- ❖ Reach out more with evangelism, doing fewer things but do them better.
- ❖ Rural churches feel they need some more positive examples. Villages feel they are each unique.
- ❖ Find out what works or not, in different churches.
- ❖ Start small and expand ideas.
- ❖ Greater awareness and use of social media.
- ❖ Take out mince pies at Christmas or chocolates as Easter to break down barriers between church and community.
- ❖ Some churches already working together.

Some extra ideas!

- ❖ Street clean with local council support with bags and pickers.
- ❖ Who is your neighbour? - safe-place conversations.
- ❖ Splash for pre-school age and families.
- ❖ Gossip the Gospel or Knit and Natter.
- ❖ Listen to readers in schools.
- ❖ Church without Walls.
- ❖ Cafe church at regular intervals.
- ❖ Month of Sundays Mission and Outreach.
- ❖ Messy Bears!
- ❖ Radical hospitality.

Circuit Meeting Group Ideas

- ❖ Lune Valley, Dolphinhholme/Hollins Lane and the Morecambe group of churches are all blessed by knowing their proposed new partner churches well and have worked with them before; either supporting each other's events or working on projects together in the past. A good starting point for the future and an element of trust between the partners
- ❖ Church members are generally 'up for it' – they see the benefits when they are explained. Emma's Lune Valley church conversations on Zoom have certainly helped.
- ❖ Needing fewer church officers in a one church/multi-site arrangement is good news but those jobs are more onerous with more property and more complexity.
- ❖ It was a struggle to grab hold of big new ideas at this stage when horizons have been so limited for the last year. The group thought that starting small, perhaps developing existing

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work for the new situation post-Covid makes sense, particularly for smaller churches – but each of the churches represented were doing some outreach/community service work, so there are positive things to build on.

- ❖ The gifts and graces given by God to individuals should be used to benefit the cluster of churches and beyond - shine your light for the Lord.
- ❖ Where the local fellowship has good projects for an outreach/evangelism background - support in prayer and physical help could be given by the cluster so personal local contacts can be developed
- ❖ Suggest that the cluster groups try to meet up in some way to discuss as we were trying to in the breakout groups.
- ❖ Share examples of rural clusters that have been successful to boost vision.
- ❖ Getting hybrid worship - especially now when there are those who cannot get out, and in the future with two less ministers, less input from supernumeraries, and less Local Preachers.
- ❖ Getting to know each other better.
- ❖ Importance of seeking God's guidance.
- ❖ Prayer Meetings.
- ❖ Meeting New People.
- ❖ Using Prayer to discern the way ahead among the Clustering.
- ❖ Evangelism and how it is essential to what is happening next.
- ❖ Importance of willingness to take onboard people's perceptions and views even if their communities are different.
- ❖ There is little historically that connects the people of Warton, Tewitfield and Silverdale.
- ❖ What does clustering mean? The things that were mentioned was, "Does it mean sharing officers? Sharing services? Sharing meetings?"
- ❖ Positive - getting hybrid worship - especially now when there are those who cannot get out, and in the future with two less ministers, less input from supernumeraries, and less Local Preachers.
- ❖ How do we get to know each other? [My note: someone gets a grip and organises a meeting(s) and invite the other Churches in your cluster - do not expect the minister/Circuit Steward to do it all for you.]
- ❖ There needs to be more clarity on the process for how this is going to happen.
- ❖ Find out what each church is doing and what is working and what is not working.
- ❖ Agree what can be supported at each church. Each church should be willing to accept support but also give support.
- ❖ Evangelism is especially important for every church but appropriate to the community. e.g., if your congregation is elderly you should focus on reaching the elderly not worrying that you cannot reach young people.
- ❖ We need to re-build the churches when we return following the pandemic.
- ❖ The pandemic has made us aware of the loneliness of many people who attend church: we need to address this.
- ❖ We should do less things at first but do them well.
- ❖ We need to reach out in evangelism as in the past in Methodism.
- ❖ We need to go back and do some of the things that "worked" in Methodism in the past but do it BETTER (this was the view of only one member of the group!)
- ❖ List of different roles in the churches and share what their strengths are on a list to pool who is good at what.
- ❖ Learning from people who are outside in the community.

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- ❖ Rural Communities to have positive examples of how other rural communities are clustering.
- ❖ Uniqueness of different villages.

- ❖ Positive through lockdown at meeting different people.
- ❖ What is working at each chapel, supporting others whilst having grace and flexibility.
- ❖ House to House.
- ❖ Engage more on Social Media.
- ❖ Community Needs.
- ❖ Gideon way of meeting and greeting.
- ❖ Christmas & Easter Cards.
- ❖ Room Lettings – quarterly/sixth monthly all groups who hire the room to non-church & church groups to come together for a social evening.
- ❖ Book Clubs for Families/ Soft Play areas.