

What is Appreciative Inquiry?

Appreciative Inquiry is a way of exploring and evaluating what is happening in a group or organisation.

Appreciative Inquiry always begins by asking, 'what is good?' rather than, 'what are the problems?' It then explores four key areas:

DISCOVER

DREAM

DEVELOP

DO

You may find Appreciative Inquiry to be a useful tool for the Mission Action Planning Process. Here are a few questions based upon the Appreciative Inquiry process that those doing the Mission Action Plan could use. Those doing this process could be the PCC, the LMDT, a specific Mission Action Planning Group, or the whole congregation.

For more information please contact:

Revd Canon John Sinclair
Email: johnsinclair247@aol.com
Mobile: 07746 743 857
Work Phone: 0191 232 1939



Diocese of Newcastle

Appreciative Inquiry:
An Approach to
Mission
Action
Planning

Sustaining Local Christian
Presence

FIRST KEY AREA: What have you **DISCOVERED** together as you have engaged with Mission Action Planning in the past?



Some questions to look at:

What have been the highlights so far - the most satisfying moments, events or achievements?

Pick one of the highlights from the list and describe it in 300 to 500 words - think of it as writing a short article for Link! Or summarise a highlight in the form of a short statement or headline.

Try and identify what really helped you to achieve what you did.

Consider how inclusive you have been in your way of working?

How have you collaborated with other parishes in the deanery, other Church and community organisations? How you have managed to involve new people and what difference has it made?

Tip: List all highlights identified by group members in their own words.

SECOND KEY AREA: What do you **DREAM** for when you think about the future?

What would the PCC or LMDT hope for the future mission of their church and congregation?

Tip: Ask each person to name their three top wishes for the future – simply list the wishes that emerge.

THIRD KEY AREA: How is your Mission Action Planning group going to **DEVELOP** its life and work in the light of what you have discovered and dreamed about?

HOW might you achieve the Dreams listed above in small practical steps which ensure:

- that future vision in the parish is shared and owned?
- that mission and evangelism are part of your parish's day to day life?

Are there particular challenges for your Parish / Benefice / Team in achieving your goals that you would want to share with the Evangelism or Local Ministry Development Task Groups?

Tip: try to stay focused on the positive, what is possible, not past failures.

FOURTH KEY AREA: What are you now going to **DO** as a result of undertaking the M.A.P. process?

What will you now put in your M.A.P? What specific things are you going to do before the end of 2013 that you would like us to share with Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council?

