

Missional Listening Q&A Handout – What Happens Next?

May 2026

The Thrive Sundays across both ministry centres have been encouraging, with a high level of engagement. Thank you to everyone who has participated, and for the positive attitude shown in this time of discernment and change.

Based on the feedback shared via group facilitators for the Thrive Sunday at the Brightons Ministry Centre, a number of common threads came out, and it appeared that a follow-up Q&A handout might help engage with these, as well as clarify what is happening and what is looked for at this time.

1. What was the purpose of Thrive Sunday?

To help us:

- hear what has emerged from our Missional Listening Project
- reflect together as a church family
- begin discerning where God may be leading us next

2. Are we trying to launch lots of new activities now?

No. At this stage, we are **not launching lots of new things**.

Instead, we are taking a much simpler next step:

👉 identifying people who feel **drawn to explore one idea further**

As a reminder, here were the 8 areas of invitation:

1. Menopause Café
2. Roding Crossings Advocacy
3. Online Meeting Space
4. Christmas Event
5. Litter Pic(k)nics
6. Men's Wellbeing Group
7. Intentional Neighbouring
8. Helping Slamannan Thrive

3. Why do the proposals focus on certain groups in the community?

Through our Missional Listening, we became aware that while we have strong engagement with:

- under 18s
- and older generations

we have **less connection with working-age adults (18–65)** in our parish.

The proposals therefore focus particularly on:

👉 areas where we currently have fewer natural connections

This is not about replacing what we already do well, but:

- strengthening it
 - and responding to where there are gaps
-

4. Do we need more ideas?

Thanks for your creativity, but we already have a wide range of ideas from the proposals and discussions, which we believe meet a need in the community.

So, the focus just now is:

👉 not *more ideas*, but **which ones we might begin to explore**.

5. So what are you asking people to do now?

Simply this - if an idea:

- interested you
- stirred your curiosity
- or felt like something you might want to explore

👉 we invite you to express interest in being part of a small group to explore it further.

6. What does “exploring an idea” mean?

It means:

- meeting with 2+ others
- praying and reflecting together
- taking a small, simple step that you feel is workable
- seeing what we learn

It does **not** mean:

- starting a long-term commitment
 - running a full programme
 - having everything worked out
-

7. What if I have concerns or questions?

Many helpful concerns were raised on Sunday, including:

- capacity
- sustainability
- leadership
- practicalities

These are important and will be addressed in time. However:

👉 if we try to answer every question now, we may never take a first step

So, for this stage:

we want to reassure you that **we hear your concerns**, and we will return to them in time as we plan for, and learn from, the first steps we take.

8. What if I'm already busy?

We are **not expecting** you to take on more.

Instead, you are free to consider:

- stepping back from an existing ministry to make space
- waiting a bit longer to discern your next step
- or simply continuing where you are, if you already serve in an outward-facing ministry

This is about:

👉 responding where we sense God's nudge, not adding pressure

9. What if I'm already involved in something?

You may already be part of something that is helping connect church and community — and that really matters.

Some of our existing groups (for example, those supporting children, young people, and older generations) are already creating spaces of connection with the wider community.

👉 These are an important part of our shared mission and are not being replaced.

For some people, the next step may not be starting something new, but asking:

- Could our group become more intentional in how we connect more deeply with others?
 - Is there a way we could gently widen our reach into the community?
 - What small step is God nudging us to take outward, or forward, at this time?
-

10. Do I have to start something new?

No. Some people may feel drawn to explore a new idea.

Others may feel led to **develop or reshape something they are already part of**.

👉 All of these are valid responses.

This is about:

- listening for God's nudge
 - and responding in a way that is right for you
-

11. What does success look like?

At this stage, “success” is simply:

- taking a small step
- learning from it
- listening to God and to others

It is **not**:

- getting everything perfect
 - attracting lots of people
-

12. How does this connect to our faith?

This is part of how we live out our purpose:

“To invite, encourage, and enable people to follow Jesus Christ.”

We believe God is inviting us to:

- be present in our community
 - build relationships
 - and reflect His love in everyday ways
-

13. What happens next?

We will:

- gather names of those interested in exploring ideas by the end of May 2026 as a “first wave” of responses (there will be opportunities to join later as people are ready) – please return the feedback form on the back of the Missional Listening Proposal booklet
 - help form small exploratory groups
 - offer support and encouragement as they begin
-

Final Encouragement

Rather than trying to do everything at once, we are simply taking:

👉 the next small step together trusting that God will lead us as we go.