# SAMPLE MODELS

If you have been inspired by this research and would like to run similar gatherings in your local area, this section provides some ideas on how to go about it

- · 3 models which can each be adapted to suit time, budget and context
- Options of half-day, full-day or evening
- These models are free to use and have no copyright attached to them
- · Information can be printed off and shared widely
- The sessions are aimed at women-only groups
- Encourage attendance from as many different churches as possible because greater diversity promotes greater learning

### Model 1: Receiving from the Other - Small Groups

Participants: 4-10 women

Time: Approx. 4 hours

Suggested themes: Ministry, Mission, Prayer, Liturgy, or any suitable theme

### Model 2: Receiving from the Other - Conference Style

Participants: 16 women upwards
Time: Approx. 6 hours

Suggested themes: Ministry, Mission, Prayer, Liturgy, or any suitable theme

### Model 3: Receiving from the Other - Being Inspired by Scripture

Participants: 4 women upwards
Time: Approx. 2 hours

Number of Gatherings: 3

Model 3 would work well as a three-week Advent course through Advent, particularly if women from different churches want to journey through Advent together

### Each model has two versions:

- 1) Facilitator's Guide
- 2) Participant's Guide

### Model 1 - Facilitator's Guide

### Receiving from the Other – Small Groups

Participants: 4-10 women
Time: Approx. 4 hours

Suggested themes: Ministry, Mission, Prayer, Liturgy, or any suitable theme

### **Outline**

- Welcome and refreshments (30 mins)
- Introduction to the theme and to receptive ecumenism (15 mins)
- Prayer and Bible reading (15 mins)
- Group discussion if there are larger numbers split into smaller groups of 4-8 women (70 mins)
- · Lunch (30 mins)
- Time to reflect (15 mins)
- Feedback and group discussion (50 mins)
- Prayer and farewell (15 mins)

### Resources

- A venue (with disabled access)
- A facilitator
- · Seats for participants
- Tea
- · Coffee
- Milk (include a dairy-free option)
- Sugar
- Biscuits/Cake/Fruit (including gluten and dairy free)
- Lunch (find out dietary requirements beforehand or you can ask people to bring their own lunch)
- Participant guides printed if required
- · Flip chart or equivalent
- · Flip chart paper or equivalent
- Markers/felt- tip pens

### Facilitator's job description

- Encourage people to be respectful of each other's traditions especially where they might differ radically
- Think about how to help everyone speak and how you are going to discourage one person from dominating discussions, if this arises
- Be sensitive when wounds and challenges are shared, however small they seem to you

- Encourage a focus on gifts to be received this will guard against the session becoming over shadowed by challenges
- Keep to time
- · Be kind
- Listen well and encourage others to do the same

### Welcome and refreshments (30 mins)

Begin by offering refreshments – always. If people do not know one another, this provides an
opportunity for them to chat and relax. Never underestimate the reassurance offered by a cup
of tea, especially in England!

### Introduction to the theme and to receptive ecumenism (15 mins)

- The facilitator or someone who is prepared should present this section
- The metaphor of the tea party is effective for helping people grasp the concept and aim of receptive ecumenism
- Explain that receptive ecumenism is a journey towards Christian unity which involves
  listening to, learning from and receiving gifts from the other. This gathering is about taking
  time to recognise the brokenness in our own church and seek to receive gifts from the other.
  If you prefer, you could introduce it by playing short introduction video which is available on
  the Durham University website:
  - https://vimeopro.com/user50612072/receptivity/video/265761120
- Say that you hope each person will feel safe and able to share what she thinks
- Encourage confidentiality
- Note that the participants are from different traditions and encourage everyone to be re spectful of other

### Prayer and Bible reading (15 mins)

- Be aware that people prayer differently even within the same church and be sensitive. You
  might keep a few minutes silence for people to offer themselves to God. Invite the Holy
  Spirit to lead the gathering
- Ask someone prior to the gathering to read John 17:20-26, which is Jesus' last prayer for his friends, 'that they may be one':

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

# Group discussion (70mins)

- Use this time for the women to introduce themselves to one another in small groups and invite
  them to share some of the gifts of their tradition according to the theme. For example, if the
  theme is ministry, the women might like to think about how their church encourages ministry
  for women and the different gifts and/or wounds they have experienced
- · Be sure to allow time for each person to say as much as they would like to
- Invite everyone to respond to what they've heard and to explore what their church might learn and receive from the other

### Lunch (30 mins)

Break together for lunch and encourage conversations to continue

### Time to reflect (30 mins)

- · Back into the small groups. There 2 options for this section:
  - a. Emphasizing Gifts In light of what they have heard and discussed, encourage the group to note (on a piece of flip chart paper) some of the prominent gifts which arose during their conversation. Encourage each person to ask 'What might I receive from the other?'
  - b. Gifts and Challenges/Wounds In light of the discussion before lunch, gather the group to discuss what stood out to them in what other women were saying about their experiences. Write down the gifts and challenges/wounds on 2 pieces of flip chart paper respectively

### Feedback and group discussion (35 mins)

The facilitator will offer some gathering thoughts and the groups may explore together the
themes which have evolved from discussions. If you like to write or create, or know someone
who does, the feedback does not need to be verbal only. It can be as simple as filling two
sheets of paper entitled 'Wounds' and 'Gifts' respectively. Or, let your creativity flow

### Prayer and farewell (15 mins)

- Give the women the opportunity to spend some time in quiet with God
- Encourage them to ask God to show them how they might continue to receive gifts from women in different churches
- You could play some background music if you know someone who is a gifted musician and worship-leader

Conclude with this prayer:

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We ask that you would help us to allow your Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out to you and one another in trust.

Give to us, we pray, the humility to accept that our church is broken.

Give to us, we pray, the discernment to recognise where we may learn from others.

Give to us, we pray, the gift of hospitality so that we may receive gifts from others.

Thank you, gracious God, for all your gifts to us.

### Model 1 - Participant's Guide

'Receiving from the Other'

**Welcome and Refreshments** 

### Introduction to the Theme and Receptive Ecumenism

Receptive ecumenism is a journey towards Christian unity which involves listening to, learning from and receiving gifts from the other. This gathering is about taking time to recognise the brokenness in our own church and seek to receive gifts from the other.

### Prayer and Bible reading

John 17:20-26 - Jesus' last prayer for his friends, 'that they may be one'

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

### **Small Group Discussion**

Lunch

Time to Reflect in Groups

**Feedback and Group Discussion** 

### **Prayer and Farewell**

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We ask that you would help us to allow your Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out to you and one another in trust.

Give to us, we pray, the humility to accept that our church is broken.

Give to us, we pray, the discernment to recognise where we may learn from others.

Give to us, we pray, the gift of hospitality so that we may receive gifts from others.

Thank you, gracious God, for all your gifts to us.

## Model 2: Receiving from the Other - Conference Style

### Facilitator's Guide

Participants: 16 women upwards
Time: Approx. 6 hours

Suggested themes: Ministry, Mission, Prayer, Liturgy, or any suitable theme

- This is designed to cope with large numbers but works equally well with as few as 16 women
- You can choose the theme to suit your needs
- Once you have done one conference, it is much easier to get the next one organised so you
  might want to consider running a series

### Outline

- Welcome and refreshments (30 mins)
- Introduction to the theme and receptive ecumenism (15 mins)
- · Prayer and Bible reading (15 mins)
- Small groups meet and greet (30 mins)
- 4 short talks on the conference theme by women in different churches (60 mins)
- · Lunch (30 mins)
- Small group discussion (60 mins)
- Feedback and large group discussion (50 mins)
- Prayer and farewell (10 mins)

### Resources

- A venue (with disabled access)
- A facilitator
- Seats for participants
- Tea
- Coffee
- Milk (include a dairy-free option)
- Sugar
- Biscuits/Cake/Fruit (including gluten and dairy free)
- Lunch (find out dietary requirements beforehand or you can ask people to bring their own lunch)
- Participant guides printed if required
- · Flip chart or equivalent
- Flip chart paper or equivalent
- Markers/felt- tip pens
- Women designated to facilitate the small groups

### Facilitator's job description

- Encourage people to be respectful of each other's traditions especially where they might differ radically
- Think about how to help everyone speak and how you are going to discourage one person from dominating discussions, if this arises
- · Be sensitive when wounds and challenges are shared, however small they seem to you
- Encourage a focus on gifts to be received this will guard against the session becoming over shadowed by challenges
- · Keep to time
- · Be kind
- · Listen well and encourage others to do the same

### Welcome and refreshments (30 mins)

Begin by offering refreshments – always. If people do not know one another, this provides an
opportunity for them to chat and relax. Never underestimate the reassurance offered by a cup
of tea, especially in England!

### Introduction to the theme and to receptive ecumenism (15 mins)

- The facilitator or someone whom they have asked should deliver this section
- The metaphor of the tea party is effective for helping people grasp the concept and aim of receptive ecumenism
- Explain that receptive ecumenism is a journey towards Christian unity which involves listening
  to, learning from and receiving gifts from the other. This gathering is about taking time to
  recognise the brokenness in our own church and seek to receive gifts from the other. If you
  prefer, you could introduce it by playing a short introduction video which is available on the
  Durham University website: <a href="https://vimeopro.com/user50612072/receptivity/video/265761120">https://vimeopro.com/user50612072/receptivity/video/265761120</a>
- · Say that you hope each person will feel safe and able to share what she thinks
- Encourage confidentiality
- Note that the participants are from different traditions and encourage everyone to be respectful of the other

### Prayer and Bible reading (15 mins)

- Be aware that people pray differently even within the same church and be sensitive. You
  might keep a few minutes silence for people to offer themselves to God. Invite the Holy Spirit
  to lead the gathering
- Ask someone prior to the gathering to read John 17:20-26, which is Jesus' last prayer for his friends, 'that they may be one':

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

### Small groups meet and greet (30 mins)

Gather everyone into a small group, depending on numbers. The facilitator should ask each
person in their group to introduce themselves, say what church she is from, why she has
come to the conference, and what she hopes to take away

### 4 talks on the conference theme by women in different churches (60 mins)

- When you are organising the conference think of women who would be able to come and talk very briefly on the conference theme. Try and have a broad range of churches and a broad range of ministries. Invite the women to share about what they do and what it's like being a woman in that role
- As you introduce this section, invite the women listening to think about what gifts are being spoken about and how this compares to their own church. Ask them to think about what they are learning

### Lunch (30 mins)

Break together for lunch and encourage conversations to continue

### Small group discussion (60 mins)

- Move back into the same small groups as before
- Suggested discussion points
- What were your reactions to the talks?
- · What is your understanding of 'ministry'?
- Do you have a ministry in your church? What ministries might you have in the world, in public life, with family, friends etc.
- Share examples of ministry inside and outside of church. What ministry have you seen in other churches that you might like to bring into your church?
- What obstacles might there be to (your) ministry?

### Feedback and large group discussion (50 mins)

- Gather the small groups back together into one large group
- The facilitators from each group will offer some gathering thoughts which summarise the discussions in the groups. What gifts were shared and which challenges or wounds were identified, for example?

 If you like to write or create, or know someone who does, the feedback does not need to be verbal only. It can be as simple as filling two sheets of paper entitled 'Wounds' and 'Gifts' respectively, or you could think of a creative way to feedback the main thoughts and learnings from the day

### Prayer and Farewell (15 mins)

- · Give the women the opportunity to spend some time in quiet with God
- Encourage them to ask God to show them how they might continue to receive gifts from women in different churches
- You could play some background music if you know someone who is a gifted musician and worship-leader

Conclude with this prayer:

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We ask that you would help us to allow your Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out to you and one another in trust.

Give to us, we pray, the humility to accept that our church is broken.

Give to us, we pray, the discernment to recognise where we may learn from others.

Give to us, we pray, the gift of hospitality so that we may receive gifts from others.

Thank you, gracious God, for all your gifts to us.

### Model 2 - Participant's Guide

### Receiving from the Other

### **Welcome and Refreshments**

### Introduction to the Theme and Receptive Ecumenism

Receptive ecumenism is a journey towards Christian unity which involves listening to, learning from and receiving gifts from the other. This gathering is about taking time to recognise the brokenness in our own church and seek to receive gifts from the other.

### Prayer and Bible reading

John 17:20-26 - Jesus' last prayer for his friends, 'that they may be one'

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

### **Small Group Meet and Greet**

### 4 Talks on Conference Theme

### Lunch

### **Small Group Discussion**

- What were your reactions to the talks?
- What is your understanding of 'ministry'?
- Do you have a ministry in your church? What ministries might you have in the world, in public life, with family, friends etc.
- Share examples of ministry inside and outside of church. What ministry have you seen in other churches that you might like to bring into your church?
- What obstacles might there be to (your) ministry?

### Feedback and Group Discussion

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# **Prayer and Farewell**

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
We ask that you would help us to allow your Holy Spirit to work in us and through us
Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out to you and one another in trust
Give to us, we pray, the humility to accept that our church is broken
Give to us, we pray, the discernment to recognise where we may learn from others
Give to us, we pray, the gift of hospitality so that we may receive gifts from others
Thank you, gracious God, for all your gifts to us
Amen



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### Model 3 - Facilitator's Guide

## Receiving from the Other - Being Inspired by Scripture

Participants: 4 women upwards
Time: Approx. 2 hours

Number of Gatherings: 3

- This could be used as a three-week course through Advent it would particularly well if women from different churches want to journey through Advent together
- Due to the shorter timing of this model, it could be held in the morning, afternoon or evening. Venues could range from a coffee shop to a church hall, through to someone's home, if that is appropriate

### **Outline**

- · Welcome and refreshments (15 mins)
- Introduction to the theme and receptive Ecumenism (10 mins)
- · Prayer (5 mins)
- Read the Passage for the week (5 minutes)
- Time to share groups of 4-6 women (60 mins)
- Time to reflect (15 mins)
- Prayer and farewell (10 mins)

### Resources

- A venue (with disabled access)
- Seats for participants
- Tea
- Coffee
- · Milk (include a dairy-free option)
- Sugar
- Biscuits/Cake/Fruit (including gluten and dairy free)
- Participant guides printed
- · Flip chart or equivalent
- · Flip chart paper or equivalent
- · Markers/felt- tip pens

### Facilitator's job description

- Encourage people to be respectful of each other's traditions especially where they
  might differ radically
- Think about how to help everyone speak and how you are going to discourage one person from dominating discussions, if this arises
- · Be sensitive when wounds and challenges are shared, however small they seem to you



MODEL

- Encourage a focus on gifts to be received this will guard against the session becoming overshadowed by challenges
- Keep to time
- · Be kind
- Listen well and encourage others to do the same

### Welcome and refreshments (15 mins)

Begin by offering refreshments – always. If people do not know one another, this
provides an opportunity for them to chat and relax. Never underestimate the reassurance
offered by a cup of tea, especially in England!

### Introduction to the theme and to receptive ecumenism (10 mins)

- The facilitator or someone who is prepared should do this section
- The metaphor of the tea party is effective for helping people grasp the concept and aim of receptive ecumenism
- Explain that receptive ecumenism is a journey towards Christian unity which involves listening to, learning from and receiving gifts from the other. This gathering is about taking time to recognise the brokenness in our own church and seek to receive gifts from the other. If you prefer, you could introduce it by playing a short introduction video which is available on the Durham University website:
- https://vimeopro.com/user50612072/receptivity/video/265761120
- Say that you hope each person will feel safe and able to share what she thinks
- Encourage confidentiality
- Note that the participants are from different traditions and encourage everyone to be respectful of the other

### Prayer (5 mins)

Be aware that people prayer differently even within the same church and be sensitive. You might keep a few minutes silence for people to offer themselves to God. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead the gathering

### Read the Bible passage for the week (5 minutes)

- Ask 2 people earlier to be prepared to read not everyone is comfortable with being put on the spot
- Listen to the passage twice it can be helpful to hear different voices
- Allow silence between each reading

### Week 1

John 17:20-26 - Jesus' last prayer for his friends, 'that they may be one'

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their wordthat they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they 9

also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

### **Week 1 Discussion Questions**

- · Think about how Jesus has made himself known to you
- You might like to give thanks for the people in your life through whom you have come closer to God
- What do you feel about unity, and how do you see your own role regarding the unity of your local church, and churches more widely?

### Week 2 The Spirit's call for churches to transform

Revelation 2:7; 2:11; 2:29

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

### **Week 2 Discussion Questions**

- In what areas do you think the Spirit might be calling for your church to be transformed?
- How do you feel about change?
- How might the Spirit be calling you to be part of the work of transformation?

### Week 3 God the Giver of Good Gifts

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!



### James 1:17

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

### **Week 3 Discussion Questions**

- What gifts do you see in other churches, which you would like to receive?
- What gifts has God given to you, through which you might bless your Church?
- What gift/s has God given to your church?
- · Could these gifts be shared with others?

### Discuss the questions in groups of 4-6 women (60 mins)

 Be sure to allow time for each person to say as much as they would like to. Invite every one to respond to what others are saying

### Time to reflect (15 mins)

- The facilitator will offer some gathering thoughts
- · Give the women the opportunity to spend some time in quiet with God.
- Encourage them to ask God to show them how they might continue to receive gifts from different churches
- Depending on your context, you could play some background music if you know some one who is a gifted musician and worship-leader

### Prayer and farewell (10 mins)

Conclude with this prayer:

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We ask that you would help us to allow your Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out to you and one another in trust.

Give to us, we pray, the humility to accept that our church is broken.

Give to us, we pray, the discernment to recognise where we may learn from others.

Give to us, we pray, the gift of hospitality so that we may receive gifts from others.

Thank you, gracious God, for all your gifts to us.



### Model 3 - Participant's Guide

Receiving from the Other - Being Inspired by Scripture

**Welcome and Refreshments** 

### Introduction to the Theme and Receptive Ecumenism

Receptive ecumenism is a journey towards Christian unity which involves listening to, learning from and receiving gifts from the other. This gathering is about taking time to recognise the brokenness in our own church and seek to receive gifts from the other.

### Prayer

### Read the Bible Passage

### Week 1

John 17:20-26 - Jesus' last prayer for his friends, 'that they may be one'

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

### **Week 1 Discussion Questions**

- Think about how Jesus has made himself known to you
- You might like to give thanks for the people in your life through whom you have come closer to God
- What do you feel about unity, and how do you see your own role regarding the unity of your local church, and churches more widely?

### Week 2 - The Spirit's call for churches to transform

Revelation 2:7; 2:11; 2:29

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.



### **Week 2 Discussion Questions**

- In what areas do you think the Spirit might be calling for your church to be transformed?
- How do you feel about change?
- How might the Spirit be calling you to be part of the work of transformation?

### Week 3 - God the Giver of Good Gifts

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

### James 1:17

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

### **Week 3 Discussion Questions**

- What gifts do you see in other churches, which you would like to receive?
- What gifts has God given to you, through which you might bless your Church?
- What gift/s has God given to your church?
- Could these gifts be shared with others?

### Discuss the questions in small groups

### Time to reflect

### Prayer and farewell

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We ask that you would help us to allow your Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out to you and one another in trust.

Give to us, we pray, the humility to accept that our church is broken.

Give to us, we pray, the discernment to recognise where we may learn from others.

Give to us, we pray, the gift of hospitality so that we may receive gifts from others.

Thank you, gracious God, for all your gifts to us.