



Celebrating What We Currently Do

Offering Christian care to families

Introduction

Finding out, valuing and celebrating what those in any group are doing to serve God and the Church is always encouraging, affirming and builds confidence. It's important to value the range of ways we each care for others, through prayer, individual acts of kindness, practical activities and campaigns, recognising that the way we each do this will be unique to us, determined by our gifts, skills, resources, time, health, family commitments, etc.

Activity

Invite the group to share what they or members they know are doing. Encourage everyone to share things that might seem big or 'small' in their eyes, as in God's eyes, there is no such thing as a small initiative – none of us can ever know the impact that reaching out to others, sensitively reflecting the love of God, can have.

The group may find it easier to share details of what they are doing by writing them down – provide A5 cards or sticky notes that people can use.

Encourage everyone to write one idea per card, and then display them so that the group can look at them all.

You could also share/display some ideas from other dioceses, see a range of activities that you can download from here: inspired.mothersunion.org/inspired-ideas



Questions to promote discussion could include:

- How did we feel as we learnt about the different ways we are each serving God?
- What are the most important things to bear in mind as we consider how we might serve our families, churches and community in the future?
- How can we support each other?

The following prayer may offer a helpful closing to your time together

Jesus Christ, light of the world, inspire us with your vision for the part of your world that you have called us to serve. As we fix our gaze on Christ may we shine ever more brightly with the outworking of his love in the plans he inspires us to follow. Amen



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Handouts and resources

The collection of Inspired ideas on the Mothers' Union website can be found here:
inspired.mothersunion.org/inspired-ideas

You could have copies of some of the above Inspired ideas available for people to choose from and take away.

Consider giving out Key Approaches to Faith Based Community Engagement handout (see below).

Provide A5 cards or sticky notes for people to write on, naming the ways in which they and members they know are currently supporting families.

Take 'blu tac' or pins so you can display these.



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Key approaches to faith based community engagement

As we consider the best ways to listen to, engage with and support parents and families, what are the most important things we can do?

- **Nurture**
Our relationship with God.
- **Celebrate**
Our skills, gifts, resources and activities.
- **Listen**
To each other, our family friends, parish and community, building relationships.
- **Support**
And work with the clergy.
- **Pray**
What is God **inspiring** us to do?
- **Ensure**
All our activities are effective and safe, reflecting the overall vision of Mothers' Union, to offer Christian care to families.

**"Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builder labours in vain."
Psalm 127:1**

Inspired is a Mothers' Union initiative encouraging faith based community engagement.
For further information please see inspired.mothersunion.org

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