

Examples from across the Diocese

	How our church grows in...	How our church helps others grow in...	How others help our church grow in...
Christ-likeness	When the Revd Pam Sanders, became vicar of St Martin and St Hilary, Kirklevington, she started saying Morning Prayer at the church on a Thursday. There is now a regular congregation worshipping at the service, where there was none before.	The Revd Clay Roundtree of St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick, has written a book on 'The Daily Prayer Rosary' in the Anglican tradition, helping people to deepen their prayer lives.	St Michael and All Angels, Hull, run the St Michael's Youth Project. They've helped young people become volunteers and workers at the youth project, allowing them to serve the young people of their community.
Commitment	St. Nicholas Church in Hull runs regular Alpha Courses, encouraging people to make a commitment to God.	Beverley Minster runs a monthly Youth Café attended by 250 young people each month, many from smaller churches in the area.	St John the Baptist Church in Stamford Bridge was helped by One Voice York – St John's took part in the Easter Baptisms held by OVY, and two young boys were baptised.
Partnership	St Andrew's Church in Paull partnered with local visitor attractions including Fort Paull and the local riding school to create a heritage trail to attract visitors.	Thornton-le-Dale CofE Primary School hosts services for All Saints Church, building up the relationship between the church and pupils, teacher and parents at the school.	SS Joseph and Cuthbert RC Church worked with St Leonard's Church in Loftus on a walk of witness this year, to resurrect the Loftus May Procession for the first time in years.
Influence	St Mary's Church in Cloughton hosts the village Post Office, putting the church at the centre of the village community.	St Aidan's Church in East Hull has started a partnership with the Eden Network helping them to reach young people in deprived estates and have more influence in the Humberside area.	Working with the Church Urban Fund has helped Middlesbrough Deanery churches to have more influence working with secular organisations to help people in poverty in Middlesbrough.
Numbers	St Peter's Redcar, have set up a new monthly service for families at 5pm on Sunday afternoons, and they're seeing 50 people (children and adults) come along - people who wouldn't have come to the	St Michael le Belfrey church in York give 50% of the Revd Canon Roger Simpson's time to be the Archbishop's Evangelist for the North, helping other churches grow in numbers.	All Saints Hunmanby has been helped by Back to Church Sunday, and as a result 25 more people came to church last year.



Generous Churches Making & Nurturing Disciples

Coming out of the consultations and the reflections of the small working party was the desire to focus on growing. It was recognised that growing is multi-dimensional and Five Marks of Growing were identified:

Christ-likeness

Becoming like Christ is the fundamental call of Christian discipleship. It is not always easy to assess, but we often recognise the flavour of a life becoming more godly. How we pray and worship is a key element in this mark of growing.

Commitment

Commitment has several features, including: commitment to Christ, to seeking God's kingdom, to Christ's body the Church. The outward signs might be measured in terms of those engaged in nurture Courses, Baptisms and Confirmations, Vocations to lay and ordained ministries, and Stewardship.

Partnership

Partnership is about working with other churches, locally and globally, schools, community groups, people, organisations for the common good, peace and justice. It's about loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Influence

As disciples we are called to be salt and light to the whole world, and reflecting God's light into dark corners. We look to influence attitudes and behaviours in our communities and wider society.

Numbers

Jesus' last recorded command was to make disciples. We must be bold in our aims to increase the number of people associated with our churches, as worshippers and disciples. If a church is growing in numbers, it is often because it is focusing on other Marks of Growing. Increasing numbers is often a sign of spiritual health and certainly increases the Church's potential and capacity to do God's work.



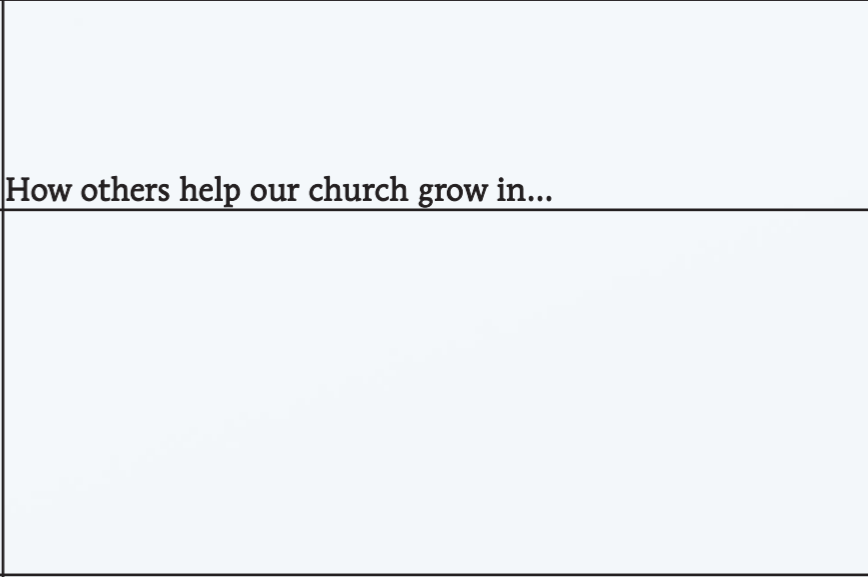
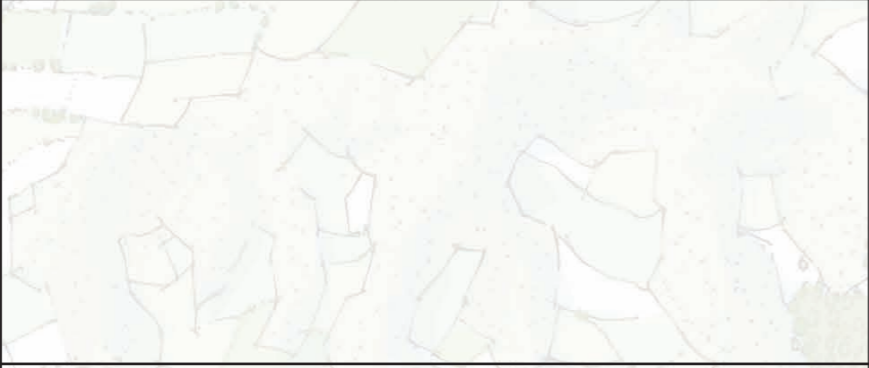

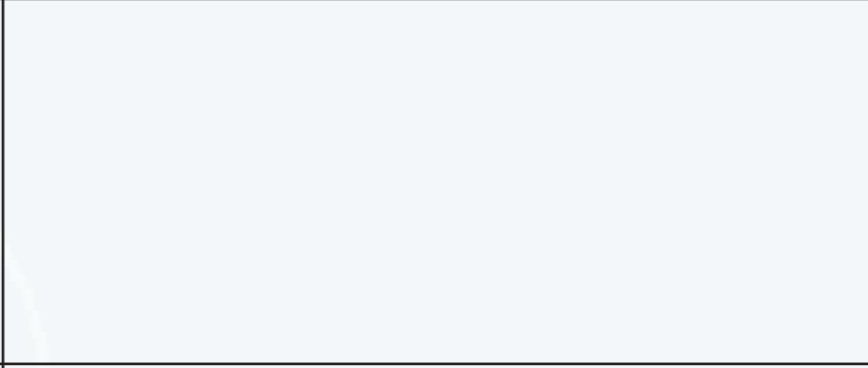






On the next sheet is a grid in which your church can make notes on how it is growing in these five areas. Part of being a generous church is working together with others, so there is also space to make notes on how you support churches, schools or Christian organisations in these areas, and how working with other churches, schools or Christian organisations enables your church to grow.

Overleaf also is a grid filled with ideas from churches across the Diocese, and how they engage with growth in commitment, partnership, influence and numbers. This grid may help your church or PCC look at your own activities, and prompt thought or inspire you to action.

Very few churches could fill in all fifteen boxes – don't worry if you can't! But your church should be able to think of your own examples of growth in at least one or two of the categories.

Once you've filled in as much of the grid as you can, your church or PCC could start looking at the empty boxes. How could you fill these in? Would working closer with neighbouring churches make your mission more effective? How is your church part of the Body of Christ at benefice, deanery and Diocesan level? Where does your church put its resources – whether its money, volunteering, resources, prayer – does this reflect the shared mission of the Diocese?

How our own church is growing...

	How our church grows in...	How our church helps others grow in...	How others help our church grow in...
Christlikeness			
Commitment			
Partnership			
Influence			
Numbers	