

A great deal of research has been done to find ways of assessing church health. These include Natural Church Development, Growing Healthy Churches, Anecdote to Evidence/Evidence to Action and Leading your Church into Growth. Our diocese has combined all this research and has identified six qualities which make a church healthy. These qualities are Worship, Vision, Strong sense of Community, Outward looking focus, Leadership and Discipleship.

This was created as a quick tool to enable a group to arrive at an indication of the how healthy various areas of church life are. If you wish to explore these areas in more detail, we recommend using the detailed tool instead of this one.

Using the healthy church audit below score your church on a scale of A to F by putting a circle around the appropriate letter for each of the health qualities. Scoring A means being very healthy and F means being very unhealthy. Don't try to over analyse the score you give as a 'gut impression' is often the most honest response. Write some action points to improve your church health in the box under each of the headings.

1. Worship

A healthy church offers worship which inspires, encourages, has depth and richness, and connects with people and helps them encounter God. A church that has a deep rooted commitment to prayer which is demonstrated in every area of its life.

Score: A B C D E F (A – very healthy F – very unhealthy)

Actions

2. Vision

A healthy church has a clear sense of purpose and direction, a current Mission Action Plan (or similar), has clear priorities and seeks to build God's Kingdom in its local communities. A church which seeks to find out what God wants and then does it!

Score: A B C D E F (A – very healthy F – very unhealthy)

Actions

3. Leadership and Collaborative Ministry

A healthy church embraces a positive pattern of Christian leadership, promotes collaborative working and encourages all people to find opportunities to put their faith into action. A church that encourages Christian vocations and encourages people to explore God’s call upon their lives.

Score: A B C D E F (A – very healthy F – very unhealthy)

Actions

4. Active Discipleship

A healthy church actively encourages people of all ages to grow in their relationship with Jesus through prayer, bible study and other devotional activities. A church that actively encourages people of all ages to find expression for their faith in the church and the world.

Score: A B C D E F (A – very healthy F – very unhealthy)

Actions

5. Strong sense of Community

A healthy church has a church community that is open, warm, caring and supportive, that nurtures a sense of belonging for people of all ages and backgrounds and that is open to new people joining the life of the church. A church that actively reaches out to others and has a warm and positive relationship with the communities it serves.

Score: A B C D E F (A – very healthy F – very unhealthy)

Actions

6. Outward looking focus

A healthy church seeks to reach out to the local community and further afield with God’s love and compassion. It is committed to helping people find faith and seeks to build the Kingdom of God in all situations.

Score: A B C D E F (A – very healthy F – very unhealthy)

Actions
