

The Light Project College Church Mission Snapshot



Introduction

This mission snapshot is a template for a survey to help a church look at how they do mission. It should always be carried out with the permission and blessing of the church leadership. The results and synthesis of the survey should be fed back to the church leadership in the hope that it will help them develop their mission and evangelism.

If you are using the survey as part of an academic course, please be aware of anonymity guidelines.

For this survey, you will need to be

- **Praying**
- **Going** and visiting (neighbourhood, church services, activities, observations)
- **Asking** people (chatting or more formal questionnaires and focus groups)
- **Listening** to them (conversation, activities, literature, we searches, meetings, prayer)
- **Searching** through online info, websites, church reports and newsletters etc.



You cannot conduct the survey well from behind your computer screen, you need to meet the people and see and experience the place and activities.

Use the following headings and sections to help you. Try not to analyse the information or comment on it, just collect and in the last section 'synthesis' ,try to understand what is happening.

You can feedback and make recommendations later.

1 - Historical Factors

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

- When and how was the church planted/ started?
- Historical changes?
- Founding vision?

What are the limitations to your information?

2 - Social & Economic Context of the Area

Where have you looked?

Try this website for starters:

<http://datashine.org.uk/#table=QS208EW&col=QS208EW0009&ramp=RdYIGn&layers=BTTT&zoom=11&lon=0.3914&lat=50.8343>

What have you found?

- Who are people living in the area?
- Census info / Statistics?
- Go and meet and see them in their context
- What are the facilities: schools, clubs, buildings, housing?
- Age, ethnic background, employment, health, crime levels?

What are the limitations to your information?

3 - Congregation

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

- Numbers of people attending
- Is there growth / decline?
- What are the skills of the people?
- What is the feel / morale of the group?
- Age and background of people?
- Challenges for the congregation?

What are the limitations to your information?

4 - Church Activities

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

- What activities are going on in the church?
- Clubs, weddings funerals, courses, outreach, services etc.?

What are the limitations to your information?

5 - Spiritual Factors

- Is there a vision statement?
- What is the spiritual temperature of the church: prayer, devotion, worship, prophetic etc?

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

What are the limitations to your information?

6 - Economic Factors within the church

- What is the financial situation of the church?
- Where is the money spent?

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

What are the limitations to your information?

7 - Theological / Liturgical Influences

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

- What is the theology of the church – how is it lived out?
- What do the services / liturgy / format of worship look like?
- How does mission and evangelism feature in these things?

What are the limitations to your information?

8 - Leadership of Church

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

What are the limitations to your information?

9 - Buildings /Architecture

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

- What are the buildings like?
- What facilities does the church use?
- What is the aesthetic / feel of the space?

What are the limitations to your information?

10 - Communications

Where have you looked?

What have you found?



- How does the church naturally communicate: to each other and to the outside world?

What are the limitations to your information?

11 – Relation to the wider Church

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

- How does this church relate to other churches in the vicinity?
- Is it formally related, does the leadership relate, does the congregation do things together with other churches?

What are the limitations to your information?

12 - Other Factors

Where have you looked?

What have you found?

- Are there other factors you have noticed in your survey?
- Are there any elephants in the room?

What are the limitations to your information?



Analysis & Synthesis

In this section, you need to think about what you have found out and try to make some sense of the information in order to identify where you can help the church improve its mission and evangelism

Consider the following:

- From its history, activities, and how it spends its time and money, what does this church understand mission and evangelism to be?
- Who is this church called to reach? What have you learnt about these people outside the church?
- Do its current activities respond to its call to reach the people around it?
- What are its skills / strengths / good things its doing?

Using a model or understanding of mission

- Do its activities fit together as missional? Are they mostly inward looking, outward looking, discipling, evangelistic?
- Does it have a way of reaching, inviting, integrating, teaching and discipling new people?

Areas to focus on

- Try to summarise what the church does well and which things need addressing for mission and evangelism to be more fruitful?
- What are some of the opportunities or potential opportunities for this church?