

Present

Frameworks for an interview on the Present themes

These frameworks of questions can be used for short interviews on each of the Present themes. Interviews could be verbal, in print in the church magazine or produced for release on social media. In whatever format, they offer a way of familiarising members with the Present themes and earthing them in congregational reality.

Present to God as his people

Present to God on my own

Q1. In what ways do you try to make yourself present to God each day?

This question may encourage answers which highlight personal devotion through Bible reading and prayer.

Present to God throughout the day

Q2. In what ways do you try to retain an awareness of God's presence throughout the day?

This question may encourage answers which highlight slowing down to reflect on where and how God is particularly present in circumstances which arise or conversations with others throughout the day and praying about situations, challenges, opportunities and relationships.

Present to God in worship each week

Q3. In what ways do you prepare for worship and try to participate as fully as possible each week?

This question may encourage answers which highlight prioritising attendance at worship, preparing our hearts for worship, giving our attention fully in worship, entering in to prayers lead by others, thinking about the words of what we sing, listening attentively to the sermon and reflecting on what God has said to us and our response.

Present for one another in God's family of the church

Present for others in church life

Q1. In what ways do you try to make yourself present for others in your involvement in church life?

This question may encourage answers which highlight simple ways of making time for others, taking time with others in conversation, seeking to encourage others in their walk with God and work for him, committing to pray for others.



The influence of the presence of others in our Christian lives

Q2. In what ways has the influence of the presence of others in our Christian life been significant?

This question may encourage answers which highlight how we have learned from the example, guidance or teaching of others, been encouraged by others, been supported by others in particularly difficult times, been prayed for by others.

Present for one another across the generations

Q3. In what ways might we exercise a significant presence in the lives of others who are of a different generation than we are?

This question may encourage answers which highlight simple things like going out of our way to make time to speak with others from a different generation, learn about the particular joys and challenges of their age and stage of life, offer to pray for them.

Present where God has placed us to be his witnesses

Present as a church in our community

Q1. In what ways have you noticed that the community in which our church is set has changed over the years?

This question may encourage answers which highlight changes in who lives there, how connected they are with the activities of the church, age profile, sense of community, new housing, decline of some features of local life such as schools, shops or other services.

The places I will be present as a witness this week

Q2. In what particular places will you be present as a witness for God this week?

This question may encourage answers which highlight home, neighbourhood, school, college, workplace, school gate, volunteering role, sports club.

How can we pray for your witness where God has placed you?

Q3. In what ways might we exercise a significant presence in the lives of others who are of a different generation than we are?

This question may encourage answers which highlight particular challenges and opportunities for witness such as difficult working circumstances or relationships that have been built with individuals who God has brought into our circle of influence.