

Growing in God in the Countryside Discernment Process for next steps for the Lightwave Community and other growth areas from the Project after 2024

Growing in God in the Countryside is a project with time-limited funding and a big vision. The vision is

1. to make and grow new disciples and disciple-making leaders in the countryside
2. for our rural environments to be transformed for good as Jesus is made visible by loving service
3. for our church culture and structures to be continually shaped for and by mission so that God's mission continues to flourish in the countryside for years ahead

The Growing in God in the Countryside Project has two workstreams:

- Development of the Lightwave Community as a county-wide community of small groups making new disciples
- Activity which enables long term cultural change (county-wide) for Rural Mission

You can find out more about what we sense God has been doing through the Growing in God in the Countryside Project by watching a short YouTube video – find the link at www.light-wave.org/discernfuture

National funding from the Strategic Development Fund started in 2019 and will end in 2024. It has always been envisaged that the leaders of the Lightwave Hub Churches will be become funded by the giving of Lightwave Community members after 2024. However, other posts such as the project director and project manager will come to an end and the ministry they do be undertaken in different ways.

To help us to plan beyond the end of the project funding, we are seeking God's vision for how the Lightwave Community will look in the year 2030:

- Who will be part of the community?
- How will it bless the rural areas in our county?
- What sort of leadership will it have?
- How will the Lightwave Community enhance the wider diocesan vision?
- How will the Lightwave community work with local churches, both CofE and those of other denominations ecumenically?

For all Christians, the most important way to discern and plan is to seek God's guidance through prayer. The Lightwave Community's journey so far has been one of deeper discovery of the reality of the importance of prayer. Therefore, between Sept 2021 and February 2022, the members of the community will have a times of prayer and fasting for seeking the way ahead – both for their individual small groups and for the wider Lightwave teams which support the groups. There are some small group resources for this, including materials for young families, children and young people. You can access these at www.light-wave.org/discernfuture

We would deeply appreciate the input of wider stakeholders and friends into this discernment process. Please come join us at our prayer and discernment afternoon on 6th November 2-5pm at Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket. Lunch will be served free from 1pm. Book your place (and lunch if you would like this) at <https://lightwave.churchsuite.com/events/ugl20lwk>