

Gather Tour



WHAT DO I NEED TO LET GO OF?
Prototyping
performing

Life-giving connections

Where do you see God?

- COMMUNITY PROJECTS
- LITTER PICKING.
 - PLANTING FRUITS IN OUR PARKS + OPEN SPACES.
 - TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION VALUABLE SKILLS - GARDENING
 - D.I.Y.
 - SEWING.
 - HOW TO USE TOOLS.
 - ENCOURAGE TEAM BUILDING + SHARING KNOWLEDGE.

The arts

God is in the GROUND (foundation is essential)

Deeper anchor points

- living each moment (trying)
- Looking + treasure

Continue on the journey and continue to let it shape me for the good of the Community

simplify unheard voices + God's resonant notes

Nothing... be brave enough to wait clear space for the new to emerge + allies to gather

Walking beside me as I continue my journey into the unknown.

2023



Venues:

London
Shaftesbury
Shepton Mallet
Birmingham
Cumbria
Newcastle
Chelmsford
Online

Gather on Tour

- Gather was conceived during lockdown as a place to strengthen our connections, purpose and work.
- This year Gather has been on tour! As a movement of pioneers, our call is prophetic, our work is with the edges and our concern is what faith and the future looks like in a post Christian world.
- Therefore, this year, we have taken some time to do some deep listening ...



- We have hosted eight gatherings across the country.
- We have gathered in homes, with smaller groups, around a meal.
- We have also gathered in larger groups and spent the whole day together in galleries, churches and community centres.
- We used the art of hosting as our method of listening and capturing conversation.
- We believe the wisdom is amongst us and the future can be designed collectively, using our imaginations.



The Inquiry, 4 questions

- What time is it?
- Who are we?
- Where do you see God?
- What shall we do now?



Themes:

We examined the answers to identify the topics, ideas and patterns of meaning which came up repeatedly.



What time is it?

escapism

No faith
in power, leadership,
absolutes



NOW.
(The only time we ever
physically live in.)

END TIMES



ch + white
liberated but
of certainty

Decentralised

isis - confusion - chaos??



Climatic
Tipping Point

- Crisis
- Confusion
- Time to build the
new but have we
got the tools?

purpose

"This" time.

CONFUSING

does



Revealing / Revelation

CONFUSING TIME
↓
SEEDS OF CHANGE



What time is it?



There was a **posture of anxiety and confession** that echoed through this Gather tour. The times are **dark and uncertain**. Paradoxically, people were not looking for **recitals of triumphal confession** of what we know, but a humility and brave admission of this uncertainty. **“We don’t know what we don’t know!”**

There was a sense of being in a pivotal moment in time, a turning in the West... **Away from old paradigms** of an empirical understanding of a colonial God, mission and spirituality... **Towards a yet known, native God**, mission and spirituality.

Who are we?



WE ARE EACH OTHERS
UBUNTU
WE ARE WHO WE ARE
THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE

no are
Creative
Curious
Spiritual



The community's

questioners
to the "why?"
's endless possibilities

SEEKERS +
SEARCHERS
Blind, lost

The
ancestors



• vision holder
• Listeners
• Caretakers of
vision



Who are we?



The key word that cut across the inquiry is **connection**. From the chaos of times we live in, we hear the invitation to **be connectors**, we see **God's presence in connections** and are committed in **making connections to cross over** into a future horizon together.

We recognised that connections **invite space to be curious**, question, explore and experiment with **who and where we see God**.

Where do you see God?

In unexpected places + relationships.
In small moments



Moving
not staying
still



outside in
a natural
creation

GOD IS IN THE
JOURNEY
(Destination are
overrated)

selfless
in
div
In unexpected places + relationships.
In small moments
Things being worked out
over time
Openness to possibilities



where do you
God is in
the dingy boat
the back of a lorry
waiting } Home office
writing }
writing }



Where do you see God?

The margins

**Unexpected
places and
relationships**

Moving not still

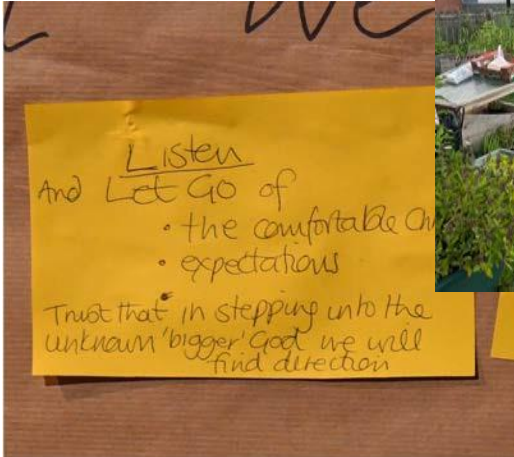
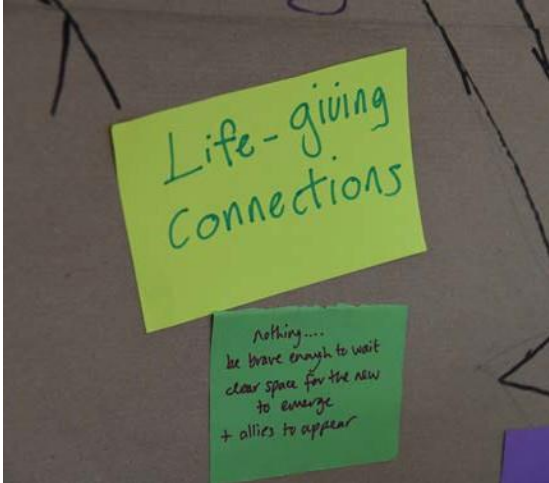
**Nature
Creation**

Connections

We were invited to **avoid the arrogance of Peter** in his revelation of Jesus as Christ. To confess **we don't always see Christ** beyond the **conditional pictures we have framed** of him within the theological landscape we already know.

There is a growing migration beyond this cultural backdrop. How do we make room **to see the Christ we don't yet know** in the geography of our life, and the world?

What shall we do now?



What shall we do now?

**Build
connections
and community
and reconnect
with nature**

Pray

Let go

Listen

**Pay attention
Notice**

We heard the ancient call to **pray, worship and serve**. We also heard a **prophetic voice** of insurrection asking, 'yes but how?' We perceived the challenge to **not simply do more**. More intercessory prayer, more fervent worship and more radical acts of service - we recognise **the misdirection of a consumer logic** in this, that more will make us happy. There was an appeal to **explore the darker contours of pilgrimage**, critique the confessions of our faith and **place into the furnace of inquiry** the assumptions that shape our **communities of practice**. In this listening inquiry the incitement is to do less of the busyness of doing, **explore a different way**, that forms a new practice of **being, good at doing good**, better.

Closing Prayer, The Journey, David Whyte.

Above the mountains the geese
turn in to the light again
painting their black silhouettes
on an open sky.

Sometimes everything has
to be enscribed across the
heavens
so you can find the one line
already written inside you.



Sometimes it takes a great sky to find that first, bright and indescribable wedge of freedom in your own heart.

Sometimes with the bones of the black sticks left when the fire has gone out someone has written something new in the ashes of your life.

You are not leaving. Even as the light fades quickly now, you are arriving.

