



# 1000 WORDS

SHARE THE WORLD YOU SEE



USING 1000 WORDS  
IN YOUR MISSION  
COMMUNITY





1000 WORDS is a project which use photographs to start a real conversation about what's important, in our relationships, our communities and our faith. This booklet introduces 1000 Words and gives some ideas how your Mission Community could use it to *Grow in Prayer, Make New Disciples and Serve the People of Devon with Joy.*

First, take a look at the short video on [www.share1000words.info](http://www.share1000words.info) which explains that participants are invited to take these three photos with a title and caption:

1. A photograph of a person or group of people who are important to you.
2. A photograph which shows the biggest issue in your area.
3. A photograph of a place or object that you think of as sacred or spiritual.



### How will these photographs be used?

Images have the power to unlock different ways of communicating and these photographs will be the focus of a discussion, either during an existing group or service or at a special event arranged as part of the project.

Participants are invited to bring their photos to the group in any format, to print them out, e-mail them to the group organiser or share them on social media using the *#share1000words* hashtag.

## RESOURCES

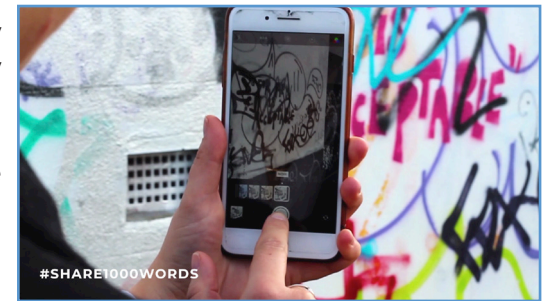
Resources for running a group can be downloaded from [www.share1000words.info](http://www.share1000words.info) or by contacting The Mission and Ministry Team (details on the back of this booklet). You can see examples of what people are sharing by searching Instagram or Twitter for *#share1000words*.

## USING 1000 WORDS TO SERVE WITH JOY



A core aspect of *1000 Words* is that it opens up a conversation about how people perceive the needs of others in the communities where they live, work and worship. We ask participants to take a photograph which shows "the biggest issue in your area" and this can be interpreted by the people you've invited in many different ways.

Some people will be drawn to the needs of the most vulnerable in society such as poverty, addiction, loneliness. Others will focus on the problems that they see in their local environment such as litter, graffiti, empty houses or shops or rough sleeping. Still others will identify a bigger issue in society such as modern slavery, climate change, inequality or exclusion.



## USING 1000 WORDS TO DISCERN WHERE TO FOCUS YOUR SERVING

When faced with such overwhelming need, how do you know what you can do to help? Rather than trying to meet all the needs you encounter in your area, try and choose one thing where you can work together to really make a difference.

- Look at the photographs which people bring to show the 'biggest issue in their area'. Are there things which keep cropping up or which show the same problem from different perspectives?
- If you've invited people from your community to share their photos, what are they most passionate about? Could they be part of the team, joining the church family to serve with joy?
- As a church, pray for the issues highlighted by the photos (see next page for ideas). Pray that God would put one issue on you hearts.

# USING 1000 WORDS TO GROW IN PRAYER



Photographs are a powerful stimulus to prayer, especially when they show us people, places and issues in a new way. Seeing how their images lead to conversation and prayers will also give people the confidence to invite their friends, family or colleagues to a *1000 Words* event for your local community.

## USING 1000 WORDS IN A SERVICE

If you want to use 1000 Words in a large group or service then plan to involve as many people as you can, so give them advance notice and show the video in a service. Here are some ways you could invite people to participate and pray:



- Ask a different person each week to bring their three photos. Display these on a screen or notice sheet and ask that person to explain their images, and pray for what they show, during the intercessions.
- Ask everyone to bring one image per week for three weeks. During the intercessions, ask them to show them to people sitting close to them and then place printed images on the communion table as prayers.
- Ask people to send in their images ahead of time and make a PowerPoint presentation for each topic which shows images for five to ten seconds in a loop. Show this before or during the service, or as a meditation during the intercessions.
- If you have children in your service, ask them to borrow a parent's phone (or be accompanied if more appropriate) and take their photos around the church and churchyard before the service.

## USING 1000 WORDS IN A SMALL GROUP OR PRAYER MEETING

A group of six people will take about an hour to present and pray for all three images. If you are spreading it out over three sessions then allow 20 minutes per session for a group of six to ten people. Two weeks before the session, explain what you are going to be doing and show participants the promotional video on [www.share1000words.info](http://www.share1000words.info)

At the group itself, take turns to go around the group showing the first photograph and explaining what it means. Then continue with the other images. You could then turn this into prayer in one of the following ways:

- Spread out your photographs in front of you and ask everyone to pray silently (or out loud all at once) for the person on their left and right for three minutes, as prompted by photographs.



- Put all the photos in the middle and pick out three at random. Pray for the things those photographs prompt.
- Light a candle and place the printed images one by one in front of it. As you place each one, offer up what it shows to God.
- Take away your own photos (or swap with other in the group) and stick them up at home somewhere where you will see them every day and pray.
- During the week, post your photographs in the group's Facebook group or share them in a WhatsApp group. Pray for each other during the week as you see the images.
- If you have a group who don't attend regularly or a youth group, you could take photos during the session. Give people 20 minutes to take their three images and then share them on their phones.

# USING 1000 WORDS TO MAKE NEW DISCIPLES



Nearly all of us have contact with people outside the church, but our conversations don't often get onto talking about what's really important. *1000 Words* uses the three photos to get straight into a real conversation about people and relationships, local community and what people think about faith. You don't have to be a Christian to take part, in fact, it's far more interesting to find out what those outside the church think of as spiritual or sacred.

## PLANNING YOUR EVENT AND INVITING PEOPLE

- A good place to start is to think about the people who you could invite. Those who you already have some contact with are called the 'fringe' of the church and could include the family of church members, groups who use your buildings, bell ringers and other volunteers, families you have contact with through schools work or children's clubs and those who come along at Christmas and Easter or for other special events. In some villages your fringe might be the whole population!
- Once you have identified who your fringe are, write it down. It might surprise you how many people you've listed.
- Now decide who you particularly want to invite from this list and pick a date, time and venue which is most likely to work for them. It can be very effective to hold the group alongside something that people would come to anyway, like a coffee morning.
- At this point we can help you by producing publicity materials. There is a short promo video on *YouTube* and at [www.share1000words.info](http://www.share1000words.info) and we can also send you this as a file to play offline. We also have a pre-printed A5 flyer which is blank on the back so that we can print on your event details.
- Your church family will be more motivated to invite friends and family if they have experienced *1000 Words* for themselves. If you use some of the ideas from the 'growing in prayer' section of this booklet then

- this will allow them to see for themselves before your main event.
- Now it's down to your church family to get inviting people. You can distribute leaflets, but a personal invitation is much more effective. Show the promo video in services or other events and make use of any social media accounts that you or your congregation have.
- Give people a taste of what is to come. There are promotional images which you can download from the website and photos from other groups can be seen on *Twitter* and *Instagram* by searching for *#share1000words* or on the *@share1000words* *Instagram* account.



## RUNNING YOUR EVENT

- Set up the space so that participants can see the *1000 Words* branding. You could use a projector screen or large TV, or borrow some poster sized boards from us.
- Make people welcome, give them a good quality coffee or other drink and introduce them to each other. If you're meeting in a cafe then decide in advance whether people will have to pay for their own drink or if the first one is complimentary.
- Work out in advance (or chat with us) about how you can display photographs that are brought on the day. This could mean having a Wi-Fi enabled laptop set up with a projector screen so that people can e-mail their photos across to you or share them on social media on the day. You could also buy or borrow an iPhone 'Lightning to VGA adapter' so that people can plug their iPhone directly into a big screen.
- Go around the group asking people to talk about their first image and see if this prompts discussion. Then move to the second and finally the third images. Allow the conversation to flow, making sure that everyone (especially visitors) has the chance to join in.
- Ask all participants to fill in a consent form (see back page).



## BORING, BUT IMPORTANT!

Photographs and captions, especially where they are of people, can be considered to be 'personal data' under the Data Protection Act. As such it is important to be sure that participants in your group have been given the opportunity to say how their photographs will be used.



Please ask all participants to use the consent form and one-page privacy notice which has been written for the project. This ensures that you are compliant with data protection legislation and gives participants complete control about how their images will be used. The form can be completed on a computer and sent by e-mail, or printed out and handed in on the day. **Visit [www.share1000words.info](http://www.share1000words.info) to download the consent form and all the other resources you might need to use 1000 Words.**

## KEEP IN TOUCH

If you've got an idea for an event you can just download and go, but if you let us know what you're planning then we can help you promote your event and offer advice about how to get the most out of it. Contact:

The Exeter Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team  
m&m@exeter.anglican.org  
or communications@exeter.anglican.org

