

Inclusive Church Action Group (ICAG): Launch Reflection

Event Date: Sunday, 11th January 2026 **Organisers:** Wivine T. & Babs B.

The Spirit of the Gathering

Following the All-Age Worship (AAW), we hosted a 45-minute interactive launch in the church hall. Our goal was to "**notice**" one another and our community through three distinct Activity Stations.

Engagement Highlights:

- **Attendance:** We were encouraged that of the **36 people** (including 5 children) who attended the morning service, **13 adults** chose to stay and participate in the launch—representing a high level of commitment to this mission.
- **Format:** Despite using "old-fashioned" pen and paper due to a lack of digital resources, the engagement was high. Many noted how valuable these reflections would be for the wider Seal community.

The Three Activity Stations: A Summary of Responses

Station 1: Noticing Each Other (The "Belonging" Station)

The Activity: Participants completed the sentence: "*I feel I belong when...*" by writing on paper plates.

The Outcomes:

- **Active Welcome:** Responses highlighted the power of being greeted by name, receiving a warm smile, and being put at ease if arriving late.
- **Deep Connection:** Attendees valued "a listening ear" and queries that went beyond social small talk.
- **Radical Acceptance:** A strong theme emerged around feeling loved and valued specifically when belonging to a minority or under-represented group.

Station 2: Noticing God's Word (The "Scripture" Station)

The Activity: Participants reflected on Romans 15:7, Ephesians 3:17-18, and Galatians 3:28, selecting words to create short, personal prayers.

The Outcomes:

- **Universal Love:** The group focused on "Love for All," emphasizing empathy and being present in others' key life experiences.
- **Equality:** Reflections centred on "Accepting one another" with no judgment, and "Respect" for both self and others, acknowledging we are all one in Christ.

Station 3: Noticing Our Church & Community (The "Mapping" Station)

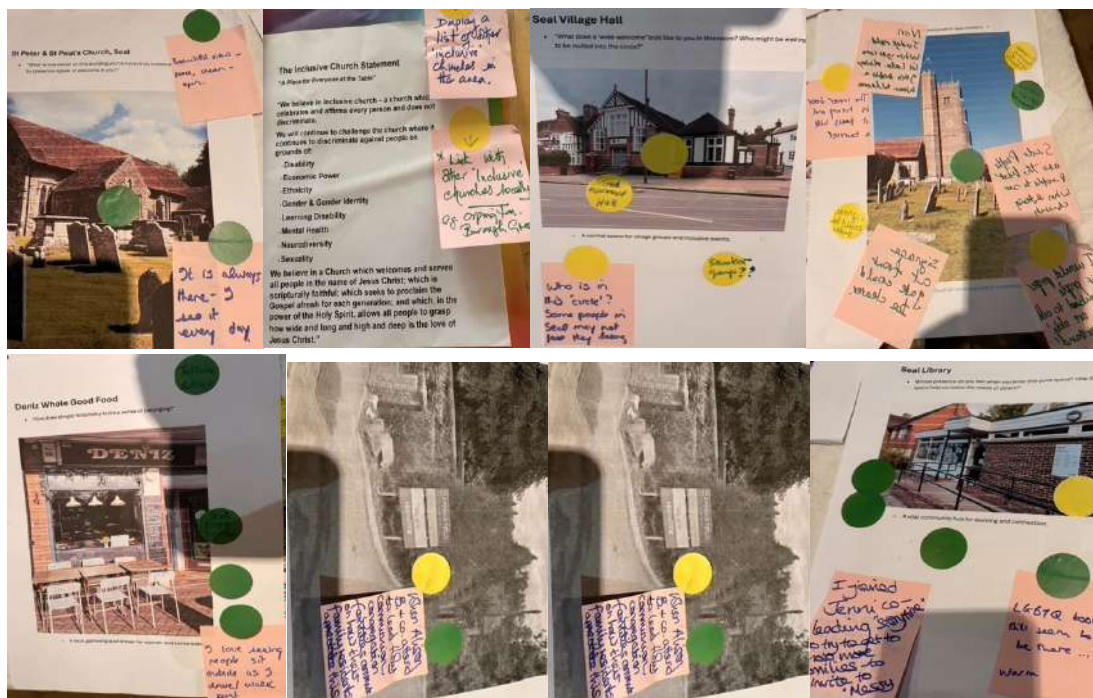
The Activity: Photos of Seal community venues were displayed. Participants used **Green Dots** to celebrate positive practice and **Yellow Dots** to identify areas for prayerful discernment.

The Outcomes:

- **Celebration (Green):** We identified several areas where our welcome is already flourishing.
- **Prayerful Discernment (Yellow):** Several locations were marked for further prayer. Accompanying Post-it notes provided specific thoughts on how we can remove barriers in these spaces.

Visual Highlights

Please refer to the photos below, which capture the vibrant engagement and the "mapping" of our local community venues during the session.



An Invitation to the PCC and Congregation

To ensure every voice is included, **these three stations will be set up in the church starting Sunday, 18th January.** We invite those who were not present at the launch to visit the display, read the current responses, and add your own thoughts to the plates, the prayers, and the map.

Join the Journey: We warmly encourage anyone who feels called to this mission to join the **Inclusive Church Action Group (ICAG)**. We are looking for diverse voices to help us turn these reflections into reality.

Moving Forward

The display will remain in place for the next three weeks to allow for a full period of review and contribution. In **early February**, our working group will gather all final responses (Congregation + PCC) to help shape our next steps and formalise an Action Plan for the church.