



Appendix: A Practical Checklist for Churches in Lincolnshire

Responding Faithfully in a Time of Rising Cultural and Political Tension

This is not about adding another programme. It is about shaping the culture of our churches—quietly, consistently, and with intention.

Use this as a working tool for incumbents, ministers, PCCs, church councils, and lay leadership teams.

1. Clarify What We Mean by “Christian” in Our Context

Questions to work through (PCC / leadership meeting):

- Where do we see faith being confused with cultural identity in our setting?
- Are there assumptions about who “naturally belongs” in our church?
- What language do we use about nation, identity, and faith—and what does it imply?

2. Strengthen Preaching and Teaching

Action points:

Review a recent preaching series: does it reinforce assumptions, or gently challenge them?

Intentionally include themes of:

- belonging and exclusion
- identity in Christ vs identity in culture
- how Jesus engages with power and “outsiders”

3. Create Space for Conversation (Without Losing Control of It)

Practical steps:

Host a facilitated conversation evening (not an open debate)

Set clear expectations:

- listening over persuading
- no assumption of shared political views
- grounding discussion in scripture

Tip:

Do this in smaller groups first (house groups, midweek gatherings), not full congregations.

4. Equip Lay Leaders

Focus areas for training:

- How to respond when political language is presented as “Christian truth”



- How to ask good questions rather than shut conversations down
- How to hold disagreement without escalation

Practical tools:

Run a short 3–4 session internal training using:

- real-life scenarios from your church
- simple theological reflection models

5. Review Church Culture (Not Just Programmes)

Ask honestly:

- Who feels most at home in our church—and why?
- Who might feel like a guest, even if they attend regularly?
- What signals (spoken or unspoken) shape that?

Look for:

- Language in notices, sermons, and informal conversation
- Assumptions about “shared values”
- How newcomers are received and integrated

6. Use Existing Structures (Don't Reinvent Everything)

In Lincolnshire, many churches are already stretched. This work needs to sit within what already exists:

- PCC / church council agendas
- Deanery or circuit gatherings
- Existing small groups
- Confirmation or discipleship courses

CTAL encouragement:

Make use of shared learning spaces and emerging Learning Hub pathways, and CT Groupes and emails—not as additional burden, but as support for what you are already carrying.

7. Agree a Leadership Posture

This is perhaps the most important step.

As a leadership team, be explicit about the tone you want to set:

- We will not avoid difficult issues—but we will not inflame them
- We will not equate faith with any political position
- We will create space for difference—but not allow exclusionary narratives to go unchallenged

Write this down. Revisit it. Lead from it.

8. Start Small, Stay Consistent

You do not need a full strategy to begin.



Start with:

- one sermon series
- one small group conversation
- one leadership discussion

Then build slowly.

Cultural formation in churches does not happen through big interventions—but through steady, repeated signals over time.

Final Note

Much of what we are seeing across Lincolnshire is not driven by hostility, but by uncertainty, change, and a search for stability.

That matters.

Our task is not to dismiss that—but to ensure that what we offer in response is rooted in Christ, not shaped by fear.

If we can do that—patiently, locally, and together—we will be doing the work that is needed.

Some Resources from across the Denominations

[1]: <https://licc.org.uk/about/church2/church-learning-hubs> "Church Learning Hubs | LICC"

[2]: <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith> "Your faith - United Reformed Church"

[3]: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/webinars-and-training/generosity-learning-hub> "Generosity Learning Hub | The Church of England"

[4]: <https://christianformation.org> "Home - Centre for Christian Formation and Discipleship"

[5]: <https://uspg.org.uk/resources> "USPGResources - USPG"

[6]: <https://wayofdiscipleship.org> "Way of discipleship - Way of Discipleship"

[7]: <https://connect4life.org.uk/free-resources/discipleship-resources> "Discipleship Resources - Connect4Life"

[8]: <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/developing-your-faith/mission-and-discipleship-toolbox/> "Mission and discipleship toolbox - United Reformed Church"