



Appreciating Church

A practical AI resource for churches and communities

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Philippians 4.8

What is Appreciative Inquiry?

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a process for engaging people in building the kinds of organisations and world that they want to live in. Starting from strengths and positive experiences, AI co-creates a future based on collaboration and open dialogue. In Christian terms, it offers a way of looking at the tough aspects of life from the perspective of God’s grace and generosity.

Appreciative Inquiry has been used for three decades in international development, public sector organisations, voluntary organisations and churches across the world. Its use in churches is growing.

What will be in Appreciating Church?

This is a user-friendly, accessible and practical resource with theological underpinning and pointers for worship integrated with AI theory and practice.

It includes case studies from UK churches which have used AI, including the United Reformed Church, Methodist

Church, Quakers, Congregational Federation, Scottish Episcopal Church and Church of England. An accompanying website for Appreciating Church will offer supplementary exercises and content.

Who’s it for?

The resource is for existing and aspiring AI practitioners within churches and the communities connected with them. This includes churches and church-based organisations in other English speaking countries.

Where has it come from?

Appreciating Church is being produced by a group of AI practitioners drawn from ecumenical partners, advised and supported by Appreciating People, the leading UK expert in using AI in community and public sectors. For more information, see www.appreciatingpeople.co.uk.

When will it be available?

Publication is planned for early 2017. Details of the Appreciating Church programme, including local Taste of AI opportunities, are available from Tim Slack at Appreciating People: tim@appreciatingpeople.co.uk.