

# Growing Good films discussion guide: Goathurst Church



## Film context

The **Church of St Edward, King and Martyr** stands at the centre of the small rural village of Goathurst in Somerset.

Their vision is for the church to be at the heart of a thriving community through hospitality, connection and service.

Despite change and challenge, they are committed to identifying and working with the gifts and resources they have.

## Themes and Contexts

Rural; Lay leadership; Hospitality; Presence; Adaptability, Perseverance

## Film URL

[Click here to watch the film](#)

## Discussion intro

When the idea of starting a 'stay and play' group was first suggested, some members of the team thought the idea couldn't work. The church has very little space, no toilet and no kitchen. However, they were encouraged to give it a go and have found ways to adapt to and overcome the various challenges. The group has been a lifeline for a new generation of parents, creating connections that enable relationships and support beyond the weekly sessions.

This spirit of 'working with what you have, not what you don't' has also been shown through:

- heritage days, where showcasing the history of the church is an opportunity for building connection and extending hospitality.
- an annual harvest festival that celebrates their rural setting.

- a fundraising campaign involving the whole community that will provide a church toilet, and hopefully a kitchen too, enabling the building to be more widely used.

The familiar story of Jesus feeding over five thousand people with the gift of five loaves and two fishes also reminds us to look again at what is in our hands. What are the gifts and resources that we may have overlooked, but that can be transformed by faith and imagination into a blessing for others?

## Scripture

*Matthew 14: 13 – 21: Five loaves and two fish*

## Suggestions for discussion

- Discuss what assets, gifts and skills already exist in your group, congregation and community. **What might you have overlooked because it seems insignificant or too challenging?**
- Discuss how the film and scripture reading demonstrate how stepping out in loving service transforms scarcity into abundance for the sake of others.

