

Questionnaire Feedback

- Transforming Churches
- Transforming Communities
- Transforming Lives

In total 37 adults and 4 children returned a feedback form.

As you can imagine, one of the concerns is that of our changing dynamic within the leadership.

May I suggest that, as the day progresses, and we discuss firstly: 'Leading the Church into Growth' and secondly: 'The Faith we share', if there are things that crop up in discussion that ONLY an ordained person could fulfil, just give it a mark of recognition to easily identify, eg a cross

Listening to Others



“LEADERSHIP IS VITAL!”

“Thinking about All Saints as it is now, I wonder if we are having the same thoughts or fears as the early churches of Corinth and Ephesus after Paul left them. So perhaps we should take heart, that not having a dedicated priest is part of God’s plan for us to grow more as a vibrant, vivid and welcoming church”.

In total 37 adults and 4 children returned a feedback form.

There are voices that differ and voices that agree but throughout, we all strive towards a common goal:

To be a Church that continues to grow:-
In faith; in discipleship; in commitment to personal growth and in service to one another...

To be a Community of Disciples that seeks to serve:- Through prayer; action in the community; and the nurturing of others in faith and discipleship...

All Saints helps me grow in my faith.
The lowest response was 5/10
with the majority being between
8 and 10. many who responded,
also attend a mid week group,
not only house-group but mid
week services and groups that
meet in church.



- **All Saints helps me grow in my faith.**

“More diverse house-groups meeting regularly as these are the backbone to individual growth and support.”

“Café Church and Messy Church are a welcome part of the diversity in worship for families.”

“Alpha course or similar with a structure in place for continuity beyond the course. “

“More trainee ordinands welcomed to lead our worship.”

... “I sometimes have problems with the sound system”

Young People in our Church

The older children enjoy taking responsibilities and have expressed the wish to be more involved in the following ways:

- Getting a music group together to play/sing at special services.
- Having an opportunity to share their talents with one another eg 'bring a hobby' day.
- Start a sports league with other churches and their youth churches.

Younger children:

Parents gave lots of positive feedback on behalf of their children and wanted to express much appreciation for the hard work of Elizabeth and her team. Also, one child added:

- “We love the crafts in Sunday school and would always like more”

What is your experience of Pastoral Support?

This question highlighted significant differences in our experience of pastoral support. Whilst half of those who responded, gave 8/10 or more, the remaining numbers ranging as low as 1/10. Several gave no response but some added they were new and, as yet, had no experience, or need of pastoral support. It would appear that those who attend mid week groups gave higher marks, but not in all cases. This makes the final comment included on the next slide, quite relevant and needy of further consideration.



- **What is your experience of Pastoral Support?**

“Well supported through difficult times”.

“If the ministers are busy, who do I turn to first?”

“Do people know we offer prayer support, bereavement support, a chance to seek forgiveness?”

“More spiritual guidance needed”.

“What is the pastoral framework? Is there one?”

All Saints has an effective presence in the community of Newton Hall

Largely, we are in agreement that we have both a significant and effective presence, not only as a community centre but with rites of passage, and warm relations with Lindisfarne and local schools. But, considering the size of Newton Hall, our first comment on the next slide has some credence as well.



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



- **All Saints has an effective presence in the community of Newton Hall**

“I think we are appreciated by some but largely ignored.”

“I would like to get involved in a quarterly newsletter for the community.”

“Could we organise some family fun nights? We seem to be lacking the 20’s and 30’s with young children... or are these in Messy Church?”

“The Christmas Fair is a good idea and hopefully the shape of things to come by way of community events.”

“Our building is recognised and well used as a community centre.”

I feel part of a Community of Faith

This question had, in the majority, an extremely positive response, but let us not forget, approximately half our church membership did not respond to the questionnaire. Our second quote on the next slide may represent more than one voice.

Transforming Communities



- I feel part of a Community of Faith

“yes” “yes” “yes” “yes” “yes”

“Some social groups to involve newcomers to feel part of the church family.”

“More united services or social opportunities for both congregations to get to know one another.”

“I feel in a minority group... I don’t know how other people pray or express their faith.” (score 3)

“Do people know what we offer in terms of spiritual and pastoral support?... We need to assess and appropriately advertise ourselves both to our members and the community”.

All Saints shows an awareness of the most vulnerable in the community of Newton Hall

During the preparation for the Vision Day, a brief overview of statistics from the Church Urban Fund and the last Census, raised some interesting figures, some not so surprising – the number of single parent families is on the rise, and the number of single person households is on the rise, but some were surprising – 1/6 residents on Newton Hall are from overseas. For those of us who stand with those at the school gates, maybe these figures aren't so surprising. However, one growing trend on Newton Hall, did raise concern...

Transforming Lives



- **All Saints shows an awareness of the most vulnerable in the community of Newton Hall**

The numbers of Elderly residents on Newton Hall is increasing. Those who once moved here to bring up their families, are now left alone; their children having left home, many having moved away. Statistics show a large number of elderly carers, as well as an increasing numbers of elderly people living alone.

All Saints attempts to serve the most vulnerable...

..... given the scale of numbers in need, our final comment on the next slide might be something to consider.

Transforming Lives



- **All Saints attempts to serve the most vulnerable...**

“Support the creation of a communal orchard and/or garden in the region of the most deprived area.”

“Visit Lindisfarne Home residents.”

“What happened to those with learning disabilities who moved from Hawthorn House?”

“Given the large scale of the community, relative to the size of the congregation, perhaps we have to recognise how we can work in partnership with organisations already serving the vulnerable... Age UK; Durham County Council etc.”

In addition to the comments that fit neatly into the previous headings, there were also concerns raised about communication and information.

How do people know what's going on within the inner workings of the church?

How can decisions made on church council and other committees be shared, within the constraints of confidentiality?

How do people know what needs doing? How do we know how to help?

“LEADERSHIP IS VITAL!” ... but what kind?

“Thinking about All Saints as it is now, I wonder if we are having the same thoughts or fears as the early churches of Corinth and Ephesus after Paul left them. So perhaps we should take heart, that not having a dedicated priest is part of God’s plan for us to grow more as a vibrant, vivid and welcoming church”.

And so we come full circle.
Having considered our response to the
questionnaire,
having listened to God and to one another,
we have an opportunity to respond further in
our remaining discussions

Discussion 1:

LEADING THE CHURCH INTO GROWTH

Discussion 2:

THE FAITH WE SHARE

There are voices that differ and voices that agree but throughout, we all strive towards a common goal:

1. LEADING THE CHURCH INTO GROWTH

To be a Church that continues to grow:-
In faith; in discipleship; in commitment to personal growth and in service to one another...

2. THE FAITH WE SHARE

To be a Community of Disciples that seeks to serve:- Through prayer; action in the community; and the nurturing of others in faith and discipleship...



How might we work together to achieve our common goal?

Listening to Others

“LEADERSHIP IS VITAL!”

“Thinking about All Saints as it is now, I wonder if we are having the same thoughts or fears as the early churches of Corinth and Ephesus after Paul left them. So perhaps we should take heart, that not having a dedicated priest is part of God’s plan for us to grow more as a vibrant, vivid and welcoming church”.



DISCUSSION 1 LEADING THE CHURCH INTO GROWTH

Leadership is vital!

•**What comes to mind when you think of leadership?**

Leadership is vital!

•**How important is it that there is an ordained leader?**

Leadership is vital!

•**What is the difference between an Ordained person in leadership and a Lay person in leadership?**

... so perhaps we should take heart...

•**Imagine the early Church, before ‘clergy’ were created. How did they survive? How did they grow?**

... so perhaps we should take heart...

•**How do you personally feel about this statement in the light of present changes in leadership within All Saints?**

Transforming Communities

DISCUSSION 2. THE FAITH WE SHARE



“Do people know what we offer...?”

- What do YOU know what is on offer in terms of spiritual and pastoral support?

“Do people know what we offer...?”

- What do YOU personally need for spiritual and personal growth and support?

- What helped you in your journey of faith?

How might these things inform the Church as it asks: ‘where to now?’

“I feel in a minority group...”

- On what occasions, or periods of your life, have you felt in the minority, or even an outsider within the Church? What helped?

- How might these things inform the church as it asks: ‘how might we



Consider the different 'cogs' working in All Saints Church:

- What/who are the 'cogs'?
- How might they effectively work together?