



## CONGREGATIONAL AUDIT

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## INTRODUCTION

The reordering of St Anne's church interior will be a major undertaking for the worshipping community. Discussion about what is required have been going on for some years; one of the biggest stumbling blocks for progressing a scheme is knowing how we will pay for this project which is estimated to cost at least £500,000.

We know the building interior needs the following:

1. A new heating scheme
2. Painting and decoration
3. A new lighting scheme
4. Improved flexibility of the church interior
5. Better provision for children during worship services
6. A kitchen or at least facilities for providing refreshments

The PCC has decided to sell some land and property that it owns to help pay for this work. The property that it owned was sold last year and negotiation for the sale of a site that it owns on Budworth Road is underway.

In addition, we will apply for grant funding.

Any grant body we approach wants to know that there has been wide consultation and agreement on any scheme we eventually decide to implement. Also, the Diocesan Advisory Committee which approves any changes to a church interior will similarly need to see evidence that the scheme will bring about the changes desired and that the scheme is supported by the church community.

The consultation of the congregation is the first step in this process. It was carried out in February 2020.

### **Future Foundation team**

In 2019, a poll was carried out to decide a name for the project and it was agreed to call our project 'Future Foundations'.

A team has been created to carry out the work to progress the project.



## WHAT DO THE RESULTS SHOW?

Broadly, the audit shows that the congregation is supportive of the direction of travel that the Future Foundation team is taking.

The vast majority of the congregation agree that the church building is an important tool for mission (74% strongly agreed with this statement).

When we asked about increasing use of the church building beyond Sunday and worship use, the response was even higher - 85% strongly agreed with this statement. Interestingly, this was one of two questions asked where nobody disagreed with the statement.

**It is clear that the congregation welcome using our church building more often than is presently the case.**

When we asked about the proposal for developing the West end of the church to allow for these facilities (separate rooms; a kitchen; space for children), less than 5% of those who were asked strongly disagreed with this idea. The overwhelming majority (90%) accepted the proposal to create a foyer with meeting rooms and a kitchen.

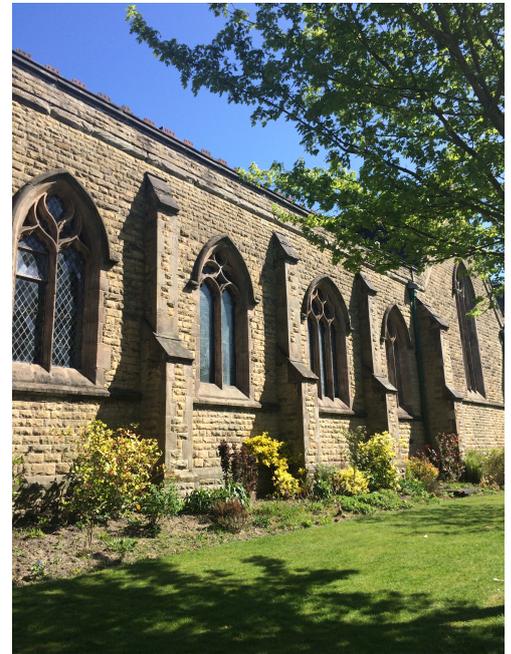
However, the re-ordering of St Anne's is not solely about improving facilities at the entrance of the church building. It has a much larger scope than that. The church has not been painted inside for more than 30 years and it is grubby; temporary lighting was installed a few years ago because the interior was gloomy - a permanent scheme is badly needed with modern LED bulbs that will dramatically reduce energy consumption; and finally, the heating is poor. A new heating scheme is desperately needed.

When we asked about detailed suggestions, we were met with strong acceptance:

- 81% of those asked would accept improvements to the heating, lighting and appearance of the church interior
- 65% of those asked would accept changing the seating in church
- 80% of those asked would accept changing the flooring to make it level
- 86% of those asked would accept the provision of a separate space for children
- 76% of those asked would accept making the church interior more flexible so that it can be used for activities other than worship

Several people asked if we can use energy saving heating and lighting, solar panels or geothermal heating. The team is very interested in pursuing options that could help to **reduce our carbon footprint.**





## CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS

We also asked for questions and gave people the opportunity to raise concerns. We received 48 comments. Broadly, they were again supportive of the scheme to improve the interior of the church. There were a number of questions on similar themes; these will be address below:

### 1. Focus on children

While most people see the need to improve our provision for children and deepen our connection with our church school, some folk worry that this will mean that we will ignore the needs of the older generations. **It is a fact that most of our worship and social activity at St Anne's are currently geared around the older generation.** The number of children attending St Anne's is poor and if we continue to channel the majority of our energy and activity (whether that is worship or social) into the needs of older people, St Anne's will be in serious decline within the next ten years. The focus on children is not to ignore the needs of the older generation but to re-establish that children are also important. Too little attention is currently paid to their spiritual development and that of their parents.

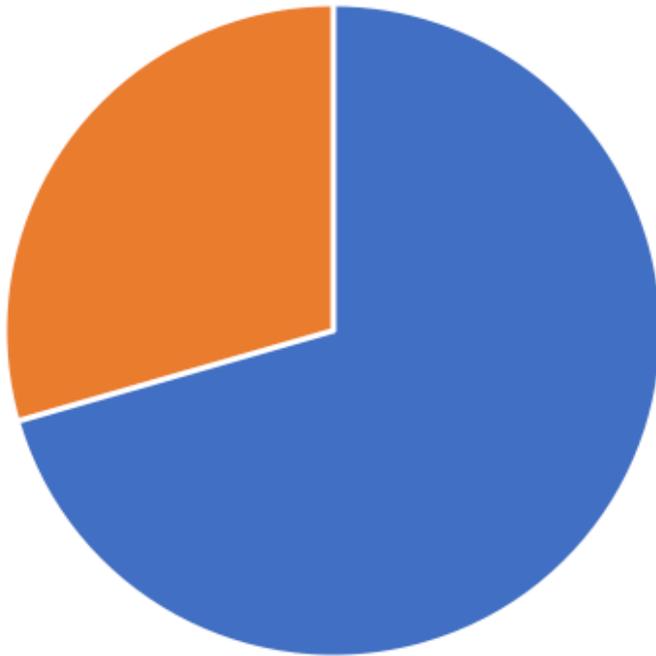
### 2. Contemporary worship

St Anne's is a eucharistic community; that means, we focus on receiving Holy Communion in practically all our worship. The question was asked about whether we should consider providing contemporary worship - which may or may not centre around the celebration of communion. Some people worried that this would happen within current worship forms; it would not. If we launch contemporary worship, this would be in addition to our main service at 10.30 am. **The aim would be to grow the church by providing a range of worship styles to suit different ages and different tastes.** For instance, a main morning service of holy communion with robed choir and liturgy at one time PLUS a morning slot of contemporary worship for 45 minutes with modern songs and videos accessed via the screen, activities for children and teaching aimed at new Christians or those on the fringe of belief. This is a well-trodden path that many churches have travelled down with great success.

### 3. Our church hall

We want to increase the use of the church building beyond Sunday and worship use Monday to Saturday. Opposite the church building is our church hall, a Victorian school room. It is let out to church and community groups. Some people expressed concerns about the future of this building. **There are no plans to sell this building.** In fact the opposite is true. We recognise the need to also invest in this facility to bring it up to contemporary standards. It was not built as a community space and it needs serious investment. For instance, the foyer area is very poor; there is no heating in the toilets; the

**Q1 Most important mission field that God has given us to work in is our parish.**



**This is the key to all the following pie charts:**

- Strongly Agree
- Neither Agree /Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

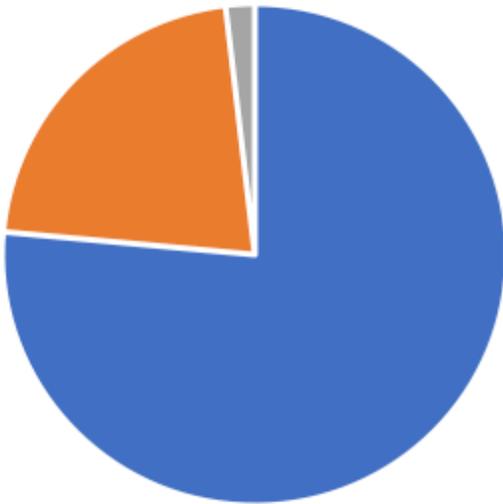
storage areas are damp; there is no flexibility within the letting space to allow several smaller groups to use the site (it is one big room). Use of the hall is in demand so if some church groups could use new rooms created for this purpose in the church instead, that would release letting space in the hall.

Currently, the church photocopier is situated in the clergy vestry and church records are kept in a locked room at the St Francis' Centre. For the future growth of St Anne's, it would be desirable to have **a well equipped parish office** with computer, desks, photocopier, stationery cupboard, phone lines and records in locked cabinets. This facility could be used by trained volunteers or employed staff such as a curate, our organist and choir leader, a new Family & Children's worker and our vicar. It makes sense to include this (a parish office) in the redevelopment of our church hall.

#### **4. The organ**

The church organ was bought from another church in the diocese and installed at St Anne's in August 1980. It is a vast instrument that occupies the whole of one transept side (north). However, it is also a very good instrument. Some people have suggested that the re-ordering of the church interior would be a good opportunity to move the organ. Architects who have been consulted about this have agreed that this is well beyond the scope of this project; the cost of relocating the organ would be prohibitive. So there are no plans to move or replace the organ at this time.

**Q2 A church building is an important tool for mission**



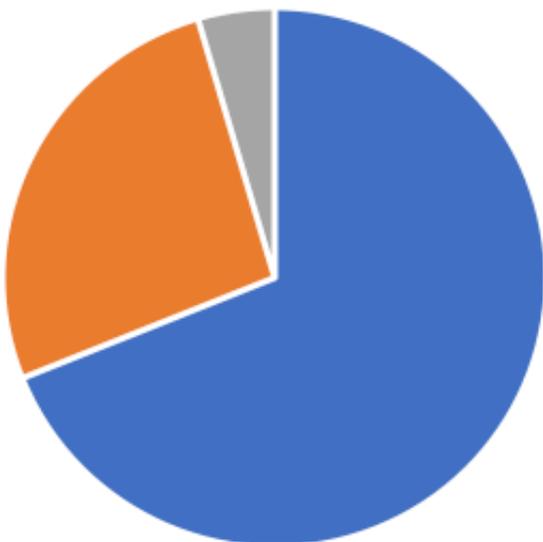
- Strongly Agree
- Neither Agree/Dis
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**Q3 Allowing the building to be used by children and adults more often is a good idea.**



- Strongly Agree
- Neither Agree/Dis
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**Q4 Creating a foyer/meeting rooms with kitchen at West End would benefit our ministry.**



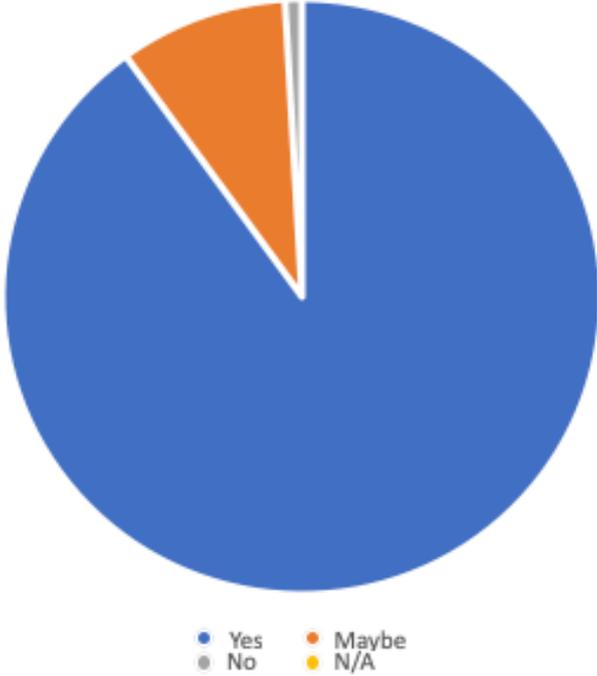
- Strongly Agree
- Neither Agree/Dis
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**Q5 Strengthening links with school**

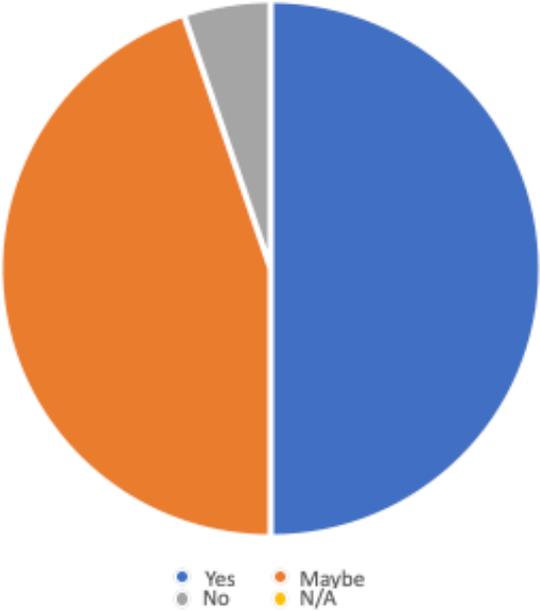


- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- N/A

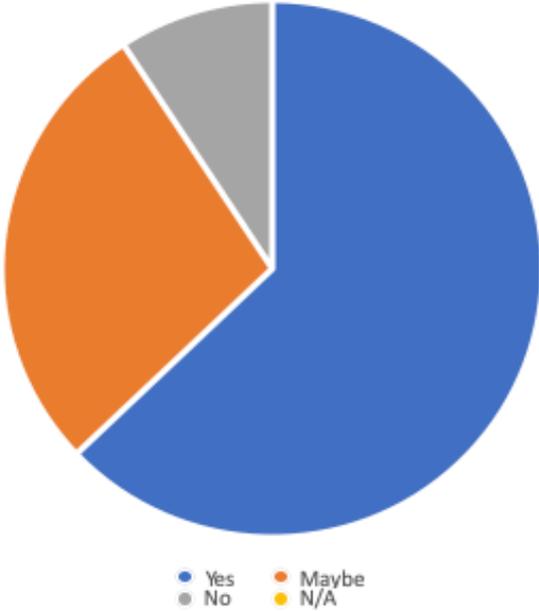
### Q5 Faith Development of Children



### Q5 Family & Childrens Worker



### Q5 Contemporary Worship



**Q6 Heating, lighting, appearance**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- n/A

**Q6 Seating**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- NA

**Q6 Ability to provide refreshments**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- N/A

**Q6 Provision of toilets**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- n/A

**Q6 Dedicated prayer space**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dissat
- Satisfied
- N/A

**Q6 Separate space for young people**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- n/a

**Q6 Provision of rooms/spaces for church groups to meet**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- NA

**Q6 Flooring**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- n/a

**Q6 Disability Access**



- Dissatisfied
- Neither Sat/Dis
- Satisfied
- NA

## Congregation Audit - 23 February, 2020

**Total Sample: 114**

**Question 1:** The most important mission field that God has given us to work in is our parish.

Strongly Disagree:	0	0%
Neither Agree or Disagree:	32	28%
Strongly Agree:	76	67%

**Question 2:** A church building is an important tool for mission. How we use our building - and how we do not - reflects our view of mission to our community.

Strongly Disagree:	2	1.8%
Neither Agree or Disagree:	24	21%
Strongly Agree:	84	74%

**Question 3:** Allowing the building to be used by children and adults more often than at present is a good idea.

Strongly Disagree:	0	0%
Neither Agree or Disagree:	11	7%
Strongly Agree:	97	85%

**Question 4:** Creating a foyer/meeting rooms with kitchen at the West end of the church (the glass door end of the building) would benefit our ministry.

Strongly Disagree:	5	4.3%
Neither Agree or Disagree:	29	25%
Strongly Agree:	74	65%

**Question 5:**

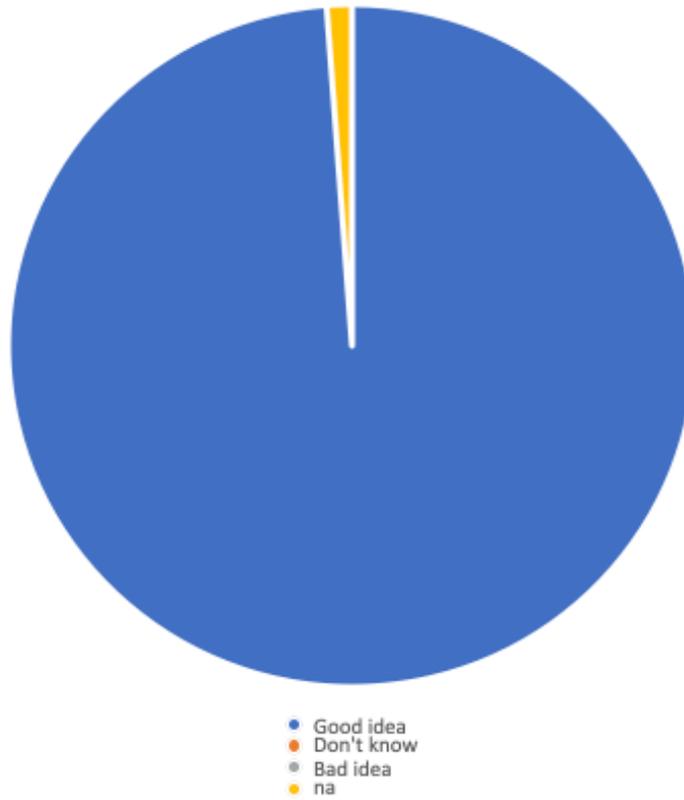
a: Strengthening links with church school	b: Families & Childrens Worker	c: Contemporary Worship	d: Faith develop of children
Yes: 102 89%	Yes: 55 48%	Yes: 69 61%	Yes: 101 89%
No: 0	No: 6 5%	No: 10 9%	No: 1 0.9%
Maybe: 9 8%	Maybe: 49 43%	Maybe: 31 27%	Maybe: 10 9%

## AUDIT OF CHURCH CHILDREN

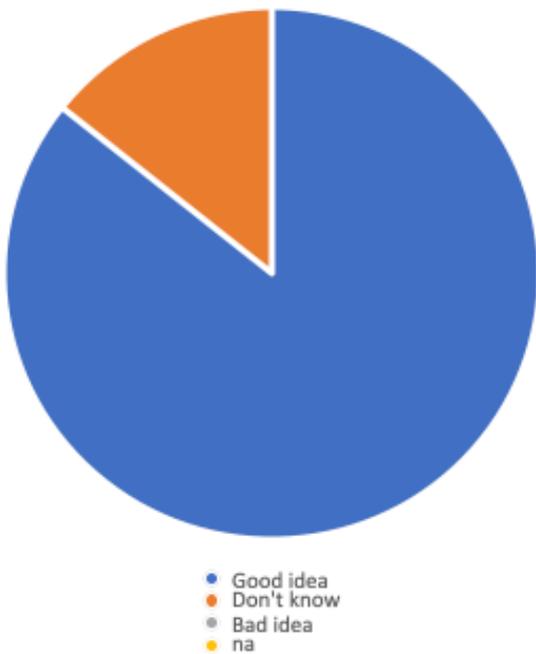
### Question 6:

	Satisfied		Neither S/Diss		Dissatisfied	
a Ability to provide refreshments:	14	12%	37	32%	54	47%
b Provision of toilets:	40	35%	35	31%	33	30%
c Dedicated prayer space:	30	26%	44	39%	31	27%
d Separate space for young children:	9	8%	38	33%	60	53%
e Heating, lighting, appearance:	13	11%	21	18%	72	63%
f The seating:	31	27%	32	28%	42	37%
g Flexibility of the worship space:	19	17%	38	33%	49	43%
h Provision of rooms/spaces for church groups to meet:	12	11%	34	30%	59	52%
i Flooring:	13	11%	39	34%	52	46%
j Disability access:	16	14%	40	35%	49	43%

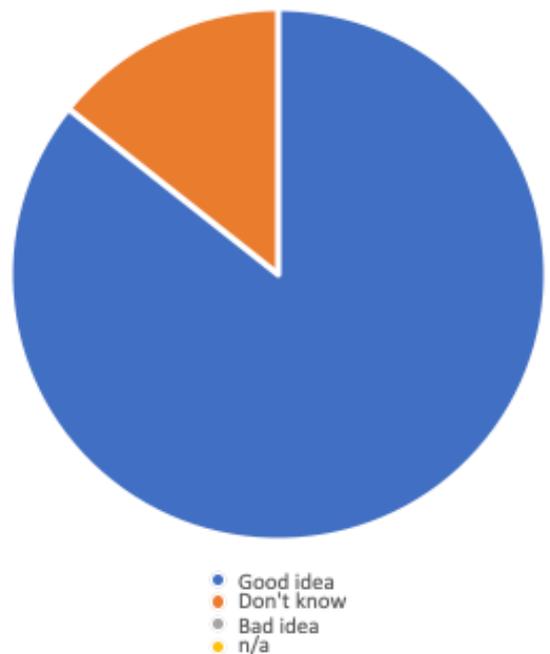
**Q1 Having a room in church especially for children would be brilliant.**



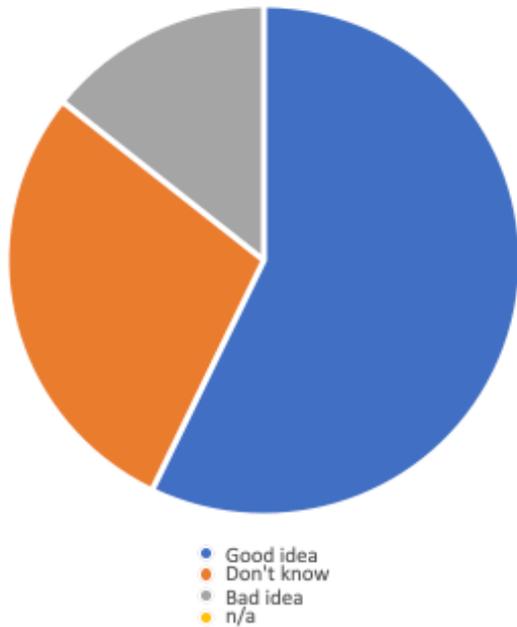
**Q2 Using videos for songs and bible stories would be great**



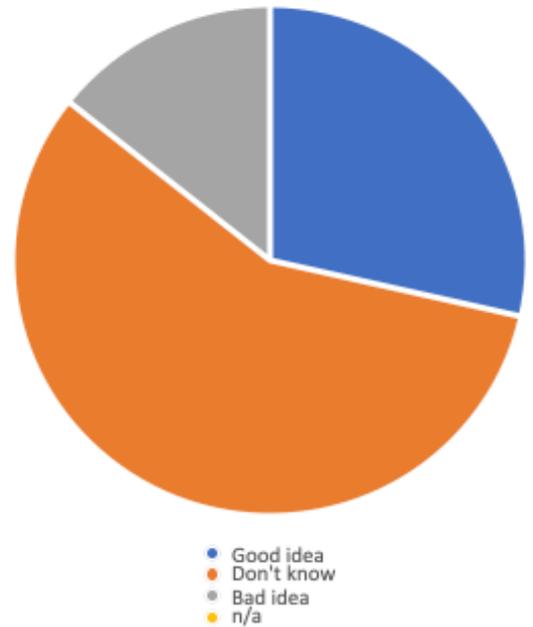
**Q3 Having booklets or notes to help us make sense of faith in school and home would be helpful.**



**Q4 We would love to get involved in worship in church more often.**



**Q5 It would be great NOT to have to leave the church on Sundays but have our own room instead inside church that is warm.**



Thinking of our church building now, what do you think of the inside of St Anne's? Words that were circled are as follows:

Beautiful      cheery      amazing  
 mostly for grown ups  
 holy      welcoming      dirty  
 dull  
 Gloomy      peaceful      boring      quiet  
 sad      weird      colourful  
 unfriendly

**WORDS THAT WAS CIRCLED MOST - MOSTLY FOR GROWN UPS.**

# APPENDIX - AUDIT QUESTION PAPERS

## CONGREGATION AUDIT - 23 FEBRUARY 2020

How much do you agree, or disagree, with the following four statements; please circle the answer that best reflects your opinion:

1. 'The most important mission field that God has given us to work in is our parish.'      strongly disagree      neither agree or disagree      strongly agree
  
2. 'A church building is an important tool for mission. How we use our building - and how we do not - reflects our view of mission to our community.'  
strongly disagree      neither agree or disagree      strongly agree
  
3. 'Allowing the building to be used by children and adults more often than at present is a good idea.'  
strongly disagree      neither agree or disagree      strongly agree
  
4. 'Creating a foyer/meeting rooms with kitchen at the West end of the church (*the glass door end of the building*) would benefit our ministry.'  
strongly disagree      neither agree nor disagree      strongly agree
  
5. According to recent statistics, 95% of British children (under 18 yrs) do not attend church. We wish for St Anne's to invest more in children's ministry to play our part in changing this figure in our parish by:

	YES	NO	MAYBE
a. strengthening links with our church school			
b. investing in a Families & Children's Worker			
c. providing contemporary worship for families			
d. improving and investing in the faith development of children			

other suggestions/comments:

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6. Thinking of the facilities in our church building now, how satisfied are you with the interior of St Anne's church?

	SATISFIED	NEITHER SATISFIED NOR DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED
a. the ability to provide refreshments			
b. the provision of toilets			
c. a dedicated prayer space available during the week			
d. a separate space from the worship area for young children			
e. the heating, lighting and appearance of the interior			
f. the seating			
g. the flexibility of the worship space			
h. the provision of rooms/ spaces for church groups to meet			
i. the flooring: different levels and steps in the building			
j. disability access			

OTHER COMMENTS:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND THOUGHTS TODAY.

PLEASE SPEAK TO ANY MEMBER OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATIONS TEAM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS MATTERS FURTHER.

## CONGREGATION AUDIT (children) - 23 FEBRUARY 2020

What do you think of the following five statements; please circle the answer that best reflects your opinion:

1. 'Having a room in church especially for children would be brilliant!'

bad idea 😞

don't know 😐

good idea 😊

2. 'Using videos for songs and bible stories would be great.'

bad idea 😞

don't know 😐

good idea 😊

3. 'Having booklets or notes to help us make sense of faith in school and home would be helpful'

bad idea 😞

don't know 😐

good idea 😊

4. 'We would love to get involved in worship in church more often'

bad idea 😞

don't know 😐

good idea 😊

5. 'It would be great NOT to have to leave the church on Sundays but have our own room instead inside church that is warm!'

bad idea 😞

don't know 😐

good idea 😊

6. Thinking of our church building now, what do you think of the inside of St Anne's?  
Circle any word you agree with and add some of your own.

beautiful      SAD      quiet      cheery      welcoming      dirty      BORING

amazing      weird      mostly for grown-ups      colourful      dull      gloomy

unfriendly      HOLY      peaceful      ( anything else?.....)

other suggestions/comments:

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