

Response to the Bishop's Let us Talk questionnaire. Harnham St George's and All Saints

Background to the answers:

I had not been in post when these questions were asked, as I arrived in January 2013. At Harnham we conducted a survey in a PCC meeting and within the congregations as soon as possible after this. The following answers are a result of the questionnaire and my analysis of it with the mission and vision committee. Revd Becky Roberts

What is the personality of your local church?

Friendly and supportive, sociable, welcoming.

A few responses described the church congregation as older and described the church services in terms of traditional worship.

A few responses described the church as responding to needs in the neighbourhood.

It is notable that some responses named the church as inaccessible, changing and challenging.

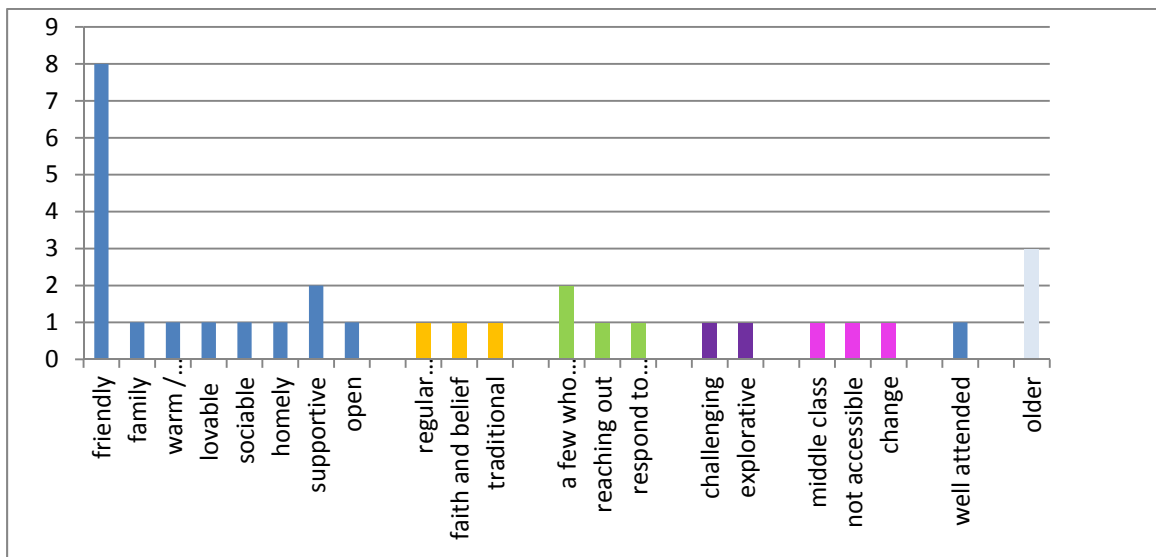
Observations and questions:

Our strength: in fellowship and friendliness within the congregation .

Our weakness: lack of younger members and ability to focus on reaching outwards, as people age.

How is the church congregation friendly/ open beyond the church?

The church must own the need for outreach as this came up the least.



What are the priorities for your local church?

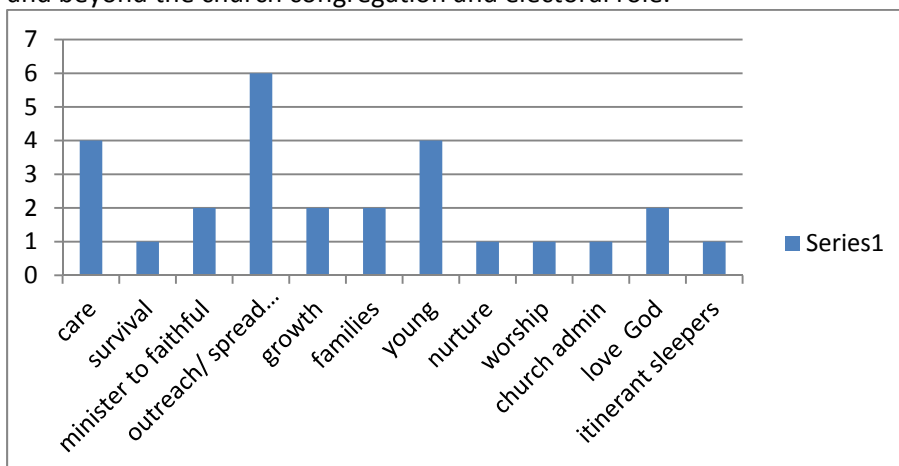
Outreach, care and the young, love God.

Observations and questions:

How are we currently nurturing prayer, faith and love for God?

Care can cover a number of facets of mission- what do we understand as mission and outreach?

No one mentioned church finances or sustaining church buildings as a response. We must encourage stewardship and beyond the church congregation and electoral role.



If the church could take on one thing what would it be?

Increase 'mission' (this would include help, grow church, reach out, contact every home)

Plan for future

Youth (teenagers), elderly

There were as many blanks or 'cannot commits' as there were for ideas for this.

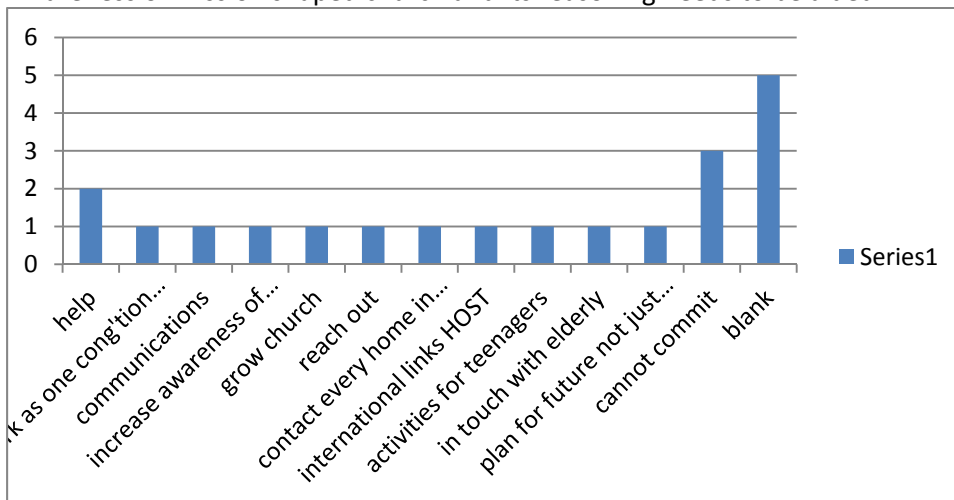
Observations and questions:

How are people overcommitted?

If there a lot of people who feel they have given of their talents already and can no longer give, how can we grow?

How can those who are unable to 'do' feel involved?

Awareness of mission shaped church and its reasoning needs to be aided



In what ways can we work together to achieve more?

Committee structure using skills people already have

Share knowledge

Other main areas are:

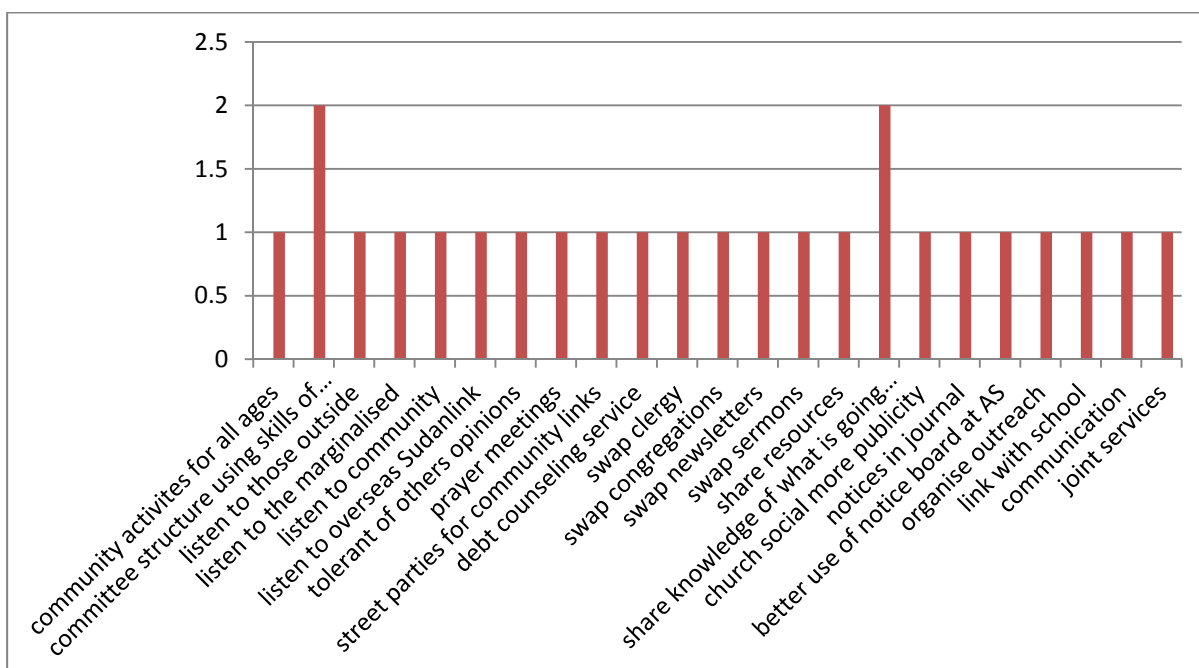
Communication with outside e.g. Listen to each other and the community, notice boards, publicity

Links with other organisations and community and marginalised

Social community activities for all ages

Observations and questions:

This needs more analysis and focus or volunteers to achieve its aim.



How can we best measure the quality and impact of church life?

Quantitative measurements of new members, age of congregations, attendance at church and other events. This appears to link to priorities of church as **younger congregations/ family orientated** congregations.

Observations and questions:

Mission and vision committee:

WHAT IS AVERAGE AGE OF HARNHAM? WHEN WOULD BE THE BEST TIME FOR WORSHIP?

WHAT FORM OF WORSHIP WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SPECIFIC AGE GROUPS? WHERE WOULD THE BEST PLACE?

Quantitative measures: highest no of people saw campaigning and justice as a sign of impact.

Observations and questions:

WHAT CAMPAIGNING IS ALREADY DONE BY CHURCH MEMBERS THAT WE CAN ADVERTISE ? ONLINE? WEBSITE?

MAGAZINE PAGE: MY LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN- communication of what each member does.

Many references to responding to need.

Observations and questions:

WHAT ARE NEEDS OF WIDER COMMUNITY? How can we gain knowledge of this to act upon it?

Communication committee: listening and responding to community needs. How are we reported in media locally?

CAN WE GET A MEDIA LINK? PRESS 'OFFICER' FOR EVENTS?

HOW CAN WE SHARE WHAT WE ALREADY DO SO PEOPLE ARE AWARE?

WHAT LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE? NUMBERS SHOWN FOR DEBT COUNSELLING? ADVICE ETC?

