

Bracknell Team Ministry 2017 Congregational Survey Report



Published April 2018

Introduction

During October 2017, the PCC asked members of BTM to take part in a congregational survey. The survey came in two forms: (1) electronic through Survey Monkey (preferable) or (2) paper. Encouragement to complete the survey was communicated via email, website, newsletters and announcements in church. Although our electoral roll is nearly 400, the median total Sunday Service attendance for Holy Trinity is 136 people (i.e. the median total number of people who attend one of three services Sunday morning at Holy Trinity). 109 BTM members completed the survey by the cutoff date of October 31, 2017. While BTM members outside of Holy Trinity Sunday Services participated in the survey, the majority of participants stated they most often attended one of the three Sunday services at Holy Trinity (see Question 1 Results). This gives us some confidence that the results are a fair reflection of the views of those who attend Holy Trinity regularly and will therefore be most helpful in thinking through the identity and offer of Holy Trinity within BTM and the Deanery.

This report gives the detailed findings of the survey and draws out some of the implications. Please note that the questions are reported in a slightly different order to how they were presented in the survey, in order to aid interpretation.

We'd like to record our thanks to all who participated in the survey and to David Chislett for his help with Survey Monkey

Jim Barlow and Richelle Dietz

Summary of Emergent Priorities

- **Growth in numbers** (could be accomplished through the other three bullets)
- **Community Engagement**
 - Working with schools and colleges
 - Recognizing and linking lay members involvement in civil society
 - Maintaining continued support for social action projects and communicate this support effectively
 - Organize social and community events that non-church goers may want to attend
- **Enhancing Worship**
 - Church attendance increasingly is episodic. How do we make allowance for this in our communication, planning, and pastoral care?
 - Holy Trinity is very much a ‘Sunday gathering’ church. Additional provisions - in terms of social, fellowship, and learning - need to adjust to changes in the patterns of life. High quality monthly or one-off annual activities will more likely attract people and perhaps build a foundation for more regular patterns.
 - Holy Trinity is a ‘central’ Anglican tradition church. Holy Trinity leans towards a more liberal and less literal interpretation of scripture; however, the church needs to accommodate a range of viewpoints.
 - There needs to be clarity about the ‘style’ of the 9.15 service (which is the largest congregation). Maintaining the family friendly welcome and getting the music and preaching right are fundamental building blocks for a positive experience of Sunday mornings. Attention must be given to ensure these aspirations are met. In addition, we suggest the survey indicates that the 9.15 best fits the worship model of ‘liturgical renewal’; that is a service that (a) has frequent communion, (b) is child-friendly, (c) has a more flexible format, (d) follows the liturgical year, (e) provides a mixture of modern and traditional music, (f) and encourages congregational singing.
- **Developing children and youth ministry.**
 - There is an effective ministry for the primary school age group but our provision for secondary school ages needs to be evaluated.

Attendance and Communication

Q1. At present, which services are you attending in BTM ?

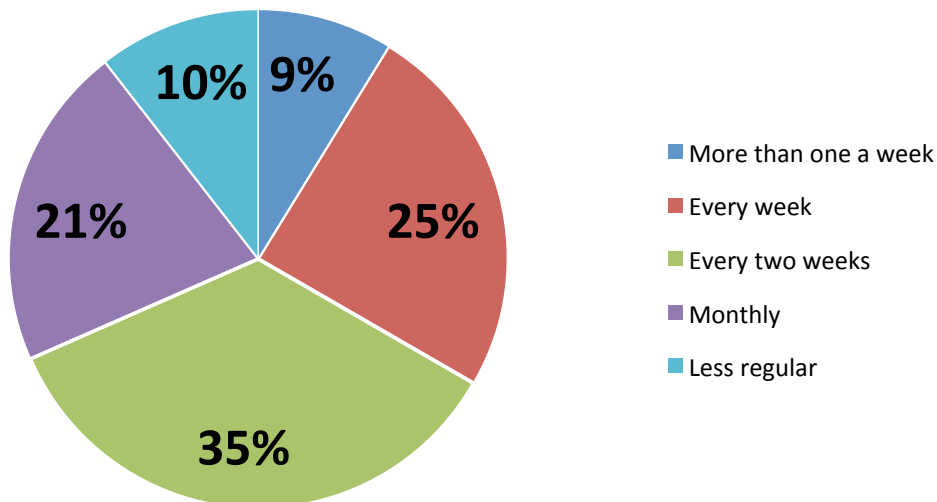
8am Sunday at Holy Trinity	11	10.58%	87.5%
9:15am Sunday at Holy Trinity	56	53.85%	
11:00am Sunday at Holy Trinity	24	23.08%	
10:30am Sunday at Mosaic	3	2.88%	
10:00am Wednesday at St Pauls in Harman's Water	4	3.85%	
10am Thursday at Holy Trinity	4	3.85%	
Other (please specify)	2	1.92%	
Total	104		

Of the 104 people who responded to Question 2, the majority attend a BTM service at least once every two weeks, or twice a month.

Q2. At present, how often are you attending a service in BTM ?

More than one a week	6	5.77%	78.85%
Every week	45	43.27%	
Every two weeks	31	29.81%	
Monthly	13	12.50%	50.96%
Less regular	9	8.65%	
Total	104		

Figure 1 pattern of attendance at 9.15



While any regular attendance is encouraging, over half of the survey participants (50.96%) do not attend church weekly. If we zero in on the 9.15, **34% attend weekly or more often**; 35% attend fortnightly and 21% monthly (and 9% less than monthly). This bears out the impression of episodic attendance reported by clergy, welcomers, etc.

Implications – episodic attendance makes it difficult to execute serial programs, whether sermons or stewardship campaigns as well as publicizing events and activities. It also makes it difficult to keep in contact with people in terms of pastoral and fellowship needs, something that is reinforced by small numbers staying after for coffee, etc.

Conversations with people suggest that this reflects the pattern of modern life; especially for families who have other needs and activities competing for the Sunday morning slot (e.g. sports activities for youngsters, visiting dispersed family or friends, grandparent duties, etc.). Where people have a church specific task, on a rota, they may well only attend when they ‘have something to do’.

Episodic attendance is one factor contributing to the sense that Holy Trinity is a ‘Sunday only’ church (i.e. you attend for worship on Sunday then get on with the rest of your life).

- This finding needs to be borne in mind when planning sermon series or stewardship campaigns.
- The wider question is how do we maximize the opportunity for fellowship and enrichment for those who attend episodically.
- Might there be a way to implement serial programs using technology like email since most participants in the survey (74.29%) use email as a form of communication?
- Likewise how do we make sure we know if a person is absent from church for health or other pastoral reasons?

Q3. Which of the following forms of communication do you use to find out what is going on about BTM? Please select all that apply.

Word of Mouth	37	35.24%
Notices in Service	51	48.57%
Screen in Service	16	15.24%
Magazine	45	42.86%
Pew Sheet	34	32.38%
E-Mail	78	74.29%
Web Site	18	17.14%
Facebook	22	20.95%

Total 105

It is significant to note that the weekly e-mail has the highest circulation whereas the web-site has a very low impact for members. This raises the question as to who the web site is aimed at and whether it is fit for purpose.

Even for the 9.15 congregation the web site is only used by 19% and the faceBook page by 24%, compared to 83% using e-mail. Do we need a social media presence and, if so, how could it be done more effectively? Or should we save ourselves the effort?

Children and Families

Q4. Do you have children up to 18 years old?

Yes	41	39.05%
No	64	60.95%

Total 105

Survey Participant with ___ child/children under 18 years old	
1 Child	10
2 Children	26
3 Children	4

Total 40*¹

Q5. How many children do you have in the following age ranges?

Q6. Do they regularly attend a Bracknell Team Ministry (BTM) service (this includes Holy Trinity Children's Church and Youth Breakfast)?

Children aged 0-2 years old	3
Children aged 3-5 years old	8
Children aged 6-10 years old	33
Children aged 11-15 years old	21
Children aged 16-18 years old	9

Total 74

	2		1
	6		2
Yes	18	No	7
	7		9
	1		7

Total 34 Total 26

More than half of the survey participants did not have children under 18 years old. Of the 41 survey participants who reported they do have a child(ren) under 18 years old, 33 yes responders also said they most often attend the 9:15 Sunday Service at Holy Trinity. Thus the majority of survey participants who have children under 18 years old most often attend the 9:15 Sunday Service at Holy Trinity.²

Implication: It is clear that it is mainly younger children (ages 3-10) who attend service. Less than half of the 11-15 age group attends service and virtually none of the 16-18 age group.

We know that we have an effective ministry to the primary school age group through children's church. However our provision for secondary school ages needs to be evaluated.

¹ *Note, one survey participant reported s/h does have a child(ren) under 18 years old, but did not specify her/his/their age(s).

² Note, for the whole parish the data are skewed because the 10:30am Sunday at Mosaic is specifically geared for families, yet only 3 of the 104 survey participants stated that they most attend this service. Additionally, all three Mosaic responders stated that they do not have children under 18 years old. Another possible way the data are skewed is that children, or lack of children, could be double counted. The question is determined by adult survey participant, and not household. For example, two children from one household may be counted twice if both parents/guardians completed a survey.

Theology

Q7. In terms of the bible and its application to daily life would you describe yourself as more?

Liberal	48	46.60%
Conservative	30	29.13%
Not sure	25	24.27%

If Question 7 is broken down by service, the results are as following: Total 103

		Liberal	Conservative	Not sure
8am Sunday at Holy Trinity	11	2 (18.18%)	4 (36.36%)	5 (45.45%)
9:15am Sunday at Holy Trinity	57	31 (54.39%)	11 (19.30%)	15 (26.32%)
11:00am Sunday at Holy Trinity	23	10 (43.48%)	10 (43.48%)	3 (13.04%)
10:30am Sunday at Mosaic	3	2 (66.67%)	1 (33.33%)	
10:00am Wednesday at St Pauls in Harman's Water	4	2 (50.00%)	1 (25.00%)	1 (25.00%)
10am Thursday at Holy Trinity	4	1 (25.00%)	3 (75.00%)	

Total 102

Q8. Do you think the Church of England should permit gay marriages in church?

Yes	35	33.33%
No	23	21.90%
Not sure	17	16.19%
A blessing maybe but not marriage as such	30	28.57%

If Question 8 is broken down by service, the results are as following:

Total 105

		Yes	No	Not sure	A blessing maybe ...
8am Sunday at Holy Trinity	11	2 (18.18%)	3 (27.27%)	3 (27.27%)	3 (27.27%)
9:15am Sunday at Holy Trinity	58	26 (44.83%)	12 (20.69%)	6 (10.34%)	14 (24.14%)
11:00am Sunday at Holy Trinity	24	5 (20.83%)	7 (29.27%)	4 (16.67%)	8 (33.33%)
10:30am Sunday at Mosaic	3	1 (33.33%)		2 (66.67%)	

10:00am Wednesday at St Pauls in Harman's Water	4	1 (25.00%)		2 (50.00%)	1 (25.00%)
10am Thursday at Holy Trinity	4		1 (25.00%)		3 (75.00%)

Total 104

Of those who consciously identify as either liberal or conservative, the weight is clearly towards the former (47% overall, rising to 54% for 9:15 congregation). Nevertheless, a third of respondents identify as theologically conservative. It is also interesting that a significant number are unsure and it may be that the terms themselves are not fully understood. The question about gay marriage takes a specific contemporary issue of controversy in the Church of England. As would be expected, there is a significant correlation with those who self-identify with liberal or conservative approaches. Nevertheless, there is no overwhelming majority for any of the three options. Opinion remains quite divided. However, 60% of respondents favour some form of acknowledgement in church of gay relationships.

Implications: these two questions reinforce the impression of a 'central' Anglican tradition church, which has to accommodate a range of viewpoints but with a lean towards a more liberal and less literal interpretation of scripture. In terms of future clerical appointments, it would be wise to look for clergy who would fit this profile. Moreover, BTM needs to be mindful that ultra-conservative or ultra-liberal theological might alienate significant sections of the congregation. Given that the 9:15 congregation has the youngest age profile in terms of demographics it should also be noted that the more liberal social and theological outlook is likely to grow over time, reflecting current trends in society.

Sunday Services etc.

Q9. In terms of style of worship, do you prefer

Formal structured worship with traditional hymns	30	28.57%
Informal worship with modern praise songs	12	11.43%
A mix of both	63	60.00%

Total 105

If Question 9 is broken down by service, the results are as following:

		Formal structured worship with traditional hymns	Informal worship with modern praise songs	A mix of both
8am Sunday at Holy Trinity	11	7 (63.63%)		4 (36.36%)
9:15am Sunday at Holy Trinity	58	5 (8.62%)	9 (15.52%)	44 (75.86%)
11:00am Sunday at Holy Trinity	24	14 (58.33%)		10 (41.67%)

10:30am Sunday at Mosaic	3		3 (100.00%)	
10:00am Wednesday at St Pauls in Harman's Water	4		3 (75.00%)	1 (25.00%)
10am Thursday at Holy Trinity	4	3 (75.00%)		1 (25.00%)
Total	104			

Implications: Overall survey participants attend the service that best reflects their preference for style of worship. Although there is a strong showing for formal worship with traditional hymns, nearly two thirds of worshippers like a mixture of both traditional and modern music. However, with reference to Holy Trinity alone, those who would opt for informal praise songs alone are in a clear minority. Musicians and clergy alike need to hear the message that imposing one form or another does not reflect what the congregations want.

Q13. How important is observing the seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost) to you?

Not important	1	1.00%	
Quite unimportant	4	4.00%	
Neither import nor unimportant	7	7.00%	
Quite important	31	31.00%	88.00%
Very important	57	57.00%	
Total	100 ³		

Implications: It is very clear from Question 13 that survey participants find observing the church calendar important. Therefore, the pattern of seasonal observances should be retained and the opportunities the church calendar presents be maximised. This still leaves plenty of time during the seasons of ordinary time to explore other themes and topics.

Q14. If you were to invite a friend to the service you attend, what do you think would appeal to them most? Provide up to three suggestions.

The one aspect that almost all survey participants mention that would appeal to a visiting friend is that BTM services are friendly and welcoming (68/88, 75.00%). It is commendable that the survey participants find BTM services friendly and welcoming, but we also need to ask what sets these services apart as distinct from any other social gathering?

Interestingly, there is only one mention of the word God, no mention of Jesus, four mentions of the word Bible, three mentions of the words Teaching/Learning, six mentions of the words Communion/Eucharist, eight mentions of the word Worship, nine mentions of the words Child/Family, 22 mentions of the word Sermon (and 31 that relate to preaching and teaching in general), and 28 mentions of the words Choir/Music/Hymn. Comparing responses from 9.15 worshippers and 11am worshippers, we see that

³ Eight participants did not answer this question. While it is impossible to know the reason why, one possibility may be they did not understand the question (i.e. the purpose/role of the church calendar).

music is specifically mentioned by 32% of former but by 76% of latter, which shows that the organ and choir are highly valued by those who attend that service. Overall these responses indicate that the sermon or talk and good music (however that is defined) are greatly valued. Looking at the individual comments it is also clear that people prefer sermons that are short, engaging and thought provoking.

Implications: these findings suggest that maintain the family friendly welcome and getting the music and preaching right are fundamental building blocks for a positive experience of Sunday mornings and attention must be given to ensuring these aspirations are met.

Fellowship and communion	Developing our faith	Worship
Short	Learning - quick spiritual fix	Coffee and cake after
warm and friendly welcome	interesting sermon	sit around for tea, coffee, and biscuits after the service
Welcome	Friendliness	
Friendly welcome and atmosphere	Informal service format	All are made welcome
Good tea, coffee and food	Child friendly environment	Welcoming people
an opportunity to have a better understanding of the Bible	A sense of belonging	friendship
Fellowship	Good Sermon	Music
most of my friends don't go to church though they live very christian lives	fellowship	
A traditional service	The music - organ, choir, hymns	Friendly atmosphere
A warm welcoming friendly atmosphere.	Interesting meaningful sermon.	
Choral music	A brief but uplifting sermon	The welcoming atmosphere and traditional surroundings
Church of England prayer book service	Choir and organ playing	Well known hymns
Clear message from sermon	Good choir & organist	Welcomed
Current priest		
Friendliness	Style of service	Meaningful and concise sermon
Friendliness of congregation	Jim conducting the service	
friendly atmosphere	beautiful music	serene place for thought
friendly welcome	whole atmosphere - music, sermon	
Music	Message	Faith
organ music and choir	communion every week	
Quality of music	Eucharistic	
Quitiness and Meditation	Meet (new) friends	Have a good sing
structured traditional worship	content of the sermon	hymn singing and organ music
The "dignity" of a liturgical service		
the music	the sermon if it was an interesting one and not too complicated	The peacefulness of being in church

BTM Survey Results

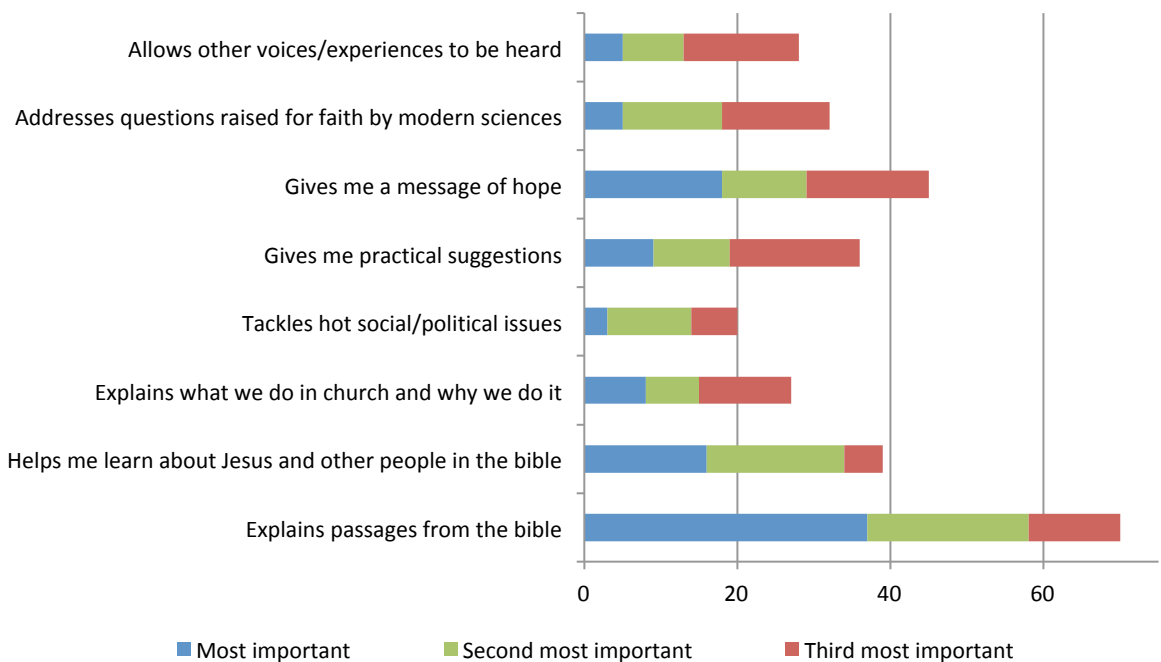
WARM WELCOME	COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE	CHURCH MUSIC
Welcome	"Traditional" style of worship	Good music
welcome	good music	inspirational sermon
Welcoming people	Social/Coffee	Music
A traditional anglican communion service	Connection in spirit with my family living and dead	Following the example of my parents.
Feeling close to god	Hearing parts of the bible and how it is relevant to is today	
Food	Social	
Friendliness of congregation		
Friendly congregation	Well-established routine	
friendly welcoming atmosphere	the music	
Structure	Appropriate sermon/ message	Friendly atmosphere
Time of the service	Friendly inclusive atmosphere	
Traditional	Good Sermon	Peacefulness
A welcome as they enter the Church	Time of Worship and Praise	Fellowship over coffee after service
Child friendly services	welcoming congregation	opportunity for fellowship during coffee
Childrens church	Welcoming feel within the church	Traditional hymns
Fellowship	Support	Message of salvation
Friendliness	The form of service(s)	Music
Friendliness	The form of service(s)	Music
Friendliness	Not too strict	Interesting sermons
Friendliness and acceptance and hope in the service	A message from the Bible and readings	The tea afterwards to talk and make friends
Friendliness and welcoming attitude	Range and variety of services	
Friendliness, feeling welcome	Not being embarrassed because they don't know what to do	
Friendly	Informal	Nonjudgmental
Friendly		
Friendly and warm welcome	Cheerful singing	Short and to the point sermon
Friendly and welcoming	Open and accessible worship to allages	Mix of tradition and modern
Friendly and welcoming	Children's church	
friendly atmosphere	interpretation of the bible	
Friendly atmosphere	Caring congregation	
friendly atmosphere in church	approachable clergy	
Friendly people	Nice atmosphere	Good choir

BTM Survey Results

friendly welcome	children's involvement	music/singing
Friendly Welcome	Choice of traditional and modern services	Good music
Friendly welcome	Involvement	Teaching and discussion
Friendly welcome	Enjoyable / thought provoking sermon	Musical accompaniment to hymns
Friendly welcome	Easy to follow service	Teaching, / not long as people loose interest
Guitar music	Social activities outside of services	More men present
nonconformist preach / demonstration - it unsettles a bit	singing	
Praise and worship	Uplifting message m	
Relaxed atmosphere with personal preference of engagement	Warm welcome	Informal group singing
Sense of community and inclusion	History of the building	Uplifting service
Sermon		
Sermon/talk can involve younger members of the congregation	People are in attendance	Friendly atmosphere
Sharing beliefs	Friendliness	The pleasure of worshipping
Singing	Involvement of all ages	Socializing with the congregation and cake after
Singing hymns	Sermon talk	Traditional beautiful church
Something involving the whole family	A friendly welcoming team (which we have now!)	Easy to follow service
The Community	Coffee after Service	The rhythm of how the Service performs
The friendliness of the congregation.	The sermons are very interesting and are delivered in an open and affable manner.	The children's activities.
The informal feel at church	The good selection of hymns	Every one is friendly
the interaction with congregation	meeting new people	time of the service
The sermon.	Order of service	Hymns
The sermons - good understanding of the word	Social aspect - we are friendly and welcoming.	Not sure
the traditional building	the friendliness of the majority of people	
The warm welcome	Family oriented	A sense of belonging
they feel welcomed	thought provoking talk	worshipful music and singing
Welcoming	Acceptance	Understanding
Welcoming Congregation	Family oriented atmosphere	Timing of service
Welcoming relaxed atmosphere	Lively songs	Interesting engaging talk
A congregation that sings and hymns that are a mix of old and new	A sermon that is fairly short but is engaging, relevant and meaningful	A mixture of ages.
Enjoy the service	A well come to the church and meet new people	The after tea we had at hall after service

Q12. What are the three things that are most important to you in a sermon or talk?

	Most important		Second most important		Third most important		Total	
Explains passages from the bible	37	36.63%	21	21.21%	12	12.37%	70	69.31%
Helps me learn about Jesus and other people in the bible	16	15.84%	18	18.18%	5	5.15%	39	38.61%
Explains what we do in church and why we do it	8	7.92%	7	7.07%	12	12.37%	27	26.73%
Tackles hot social/political issues	3	2.97%	11	11.11%	6	6.19%	20	19.80%
Gives me practical suggestions	9	8.91%	10	10.10%	17	17.53%	36	35.64%
Gives me a message of hope	18	17.82%	11	11.11%	16	16.49%	45	44.55%
Addresses questions raised for faith by modern sciences	5	4.95%	13	13.13%	14	14.43%	32	31.68%
Allows other voices/experiences to be heard	5	4.95%	8	8.08%	15	15.46%	28	27.72%
Total	101		99		97			



Overwhelmingly, the survey participants highly value explanations of passages from the Bible in sermons or talks; 70 participants (or 69.31%) choose this as one of the three most important things. Then the next

three most important options are clustered together; (1) Gives me a message of hope (45, 44.55%), (2) Helps me learn about Jesus and other people in the bible (39, 38.61%), and (3) Gives me practical suggestions (36, 35.64%).

Q10. How often do you prefer to receive communion?

Q11. What is the reason that you do not receive communion?

Every week	46	43.81%
Twice a month	17	16.19%
Once a month	31	29.52%
Only on holidays like Easter and Christmas	4	3.81%
I do not receive communion	7	6.67%

Total 105

Not baptized	1
Not confirmed	3
A member of another church	0
Other (please specify) ⁴	3

Total 7

If Question 10 is broken down by service, the results are as following:

		Every week	Twice a month	Once a month	Only on holidays like Easter and Christmas	I do not receive communion
8am Sunday at Holy Trinity	11	6 (54.54%)	2 (18.18%)	1 (9.09%)		2 (18.18%)
9:15am Sunday at Holy Trinity	58	19 (32.76%)	11 (18.97%)	21 (36.21%)	4 (6.90%)	3 (5.17%)
11:00am Sunday at Holy Trinity	24	14 (58.33%)	3 (12.50%)	5 (20.83%)		2 (8.33%)
10:30am Sunday at Mosaic	3			3 (100.00%)		
10:00am Wednesday at St Pauls in Harman's Water	4	3 (75.00%)		1 (25.00%)		
10am Thursday at Holy Trinity	4	3 (75.00%)	1 (25.00%)			

Total 104

⁴ (1) "I come to receive a blessing", (2) "not sure why but I am very happy to just receive a blessing", (3) "Fail the requirements of communion".

Below are the results of the comparison between how often survey participants attend service vs. how often survey participants prefer to receive communion

		Every week	Twice a month	Once a month	Only on holidays like Easter and Christmas	I do not receive communion
More than one a week	6	5 (83.33%)	1 (16.67%)			
Every week	45	31 (68.89%)	2 (4.44%)	10 (22.22%)		2 (4.44%)
Every two weeks	31	8 (25.81%)	10 (32.26%)	8 (25.81%)	1 (12.90%)	4 (3.23%)
Monthly	13		3 (23.08%)	8 (61.54%)	1 (7.69%)	1 (7.69%)
Less regular	9	1 (11.11%)	1 (11.11%)	5 (55.56%)	2 (22.22%)	

Total 104

Analysis - Question 10 was poorly worded. It looks like participants answered the question “how often do you receive communion” and not “how often do you *prefer* to receive communion”. Thus, in relation to the 9:15 service, on the face of it, it appears that 32.76% prefer communion weekly; 18.97% prefer twice a month, 36.21% prefer once a month. However, many of those who attend monthly or fortnightly put down monthly or fortnightly preference for communion, so in fact receive communion whenever they attend. This is shown in the last table above where we see that over 60% of those attending are receiving communion, or would like to receive, whenever they attend. Put another way, 71 out of the 104 participants want to receive communion as often or more often than their actual attendance.

This is also borne out by the experience of the 9:15 service which originally was established as only offering communion once a month but very quickly moved, in response to demand, to twice a month. When festivals fall on a Sunday in the month, the frequency can increase to three or four times monthly.

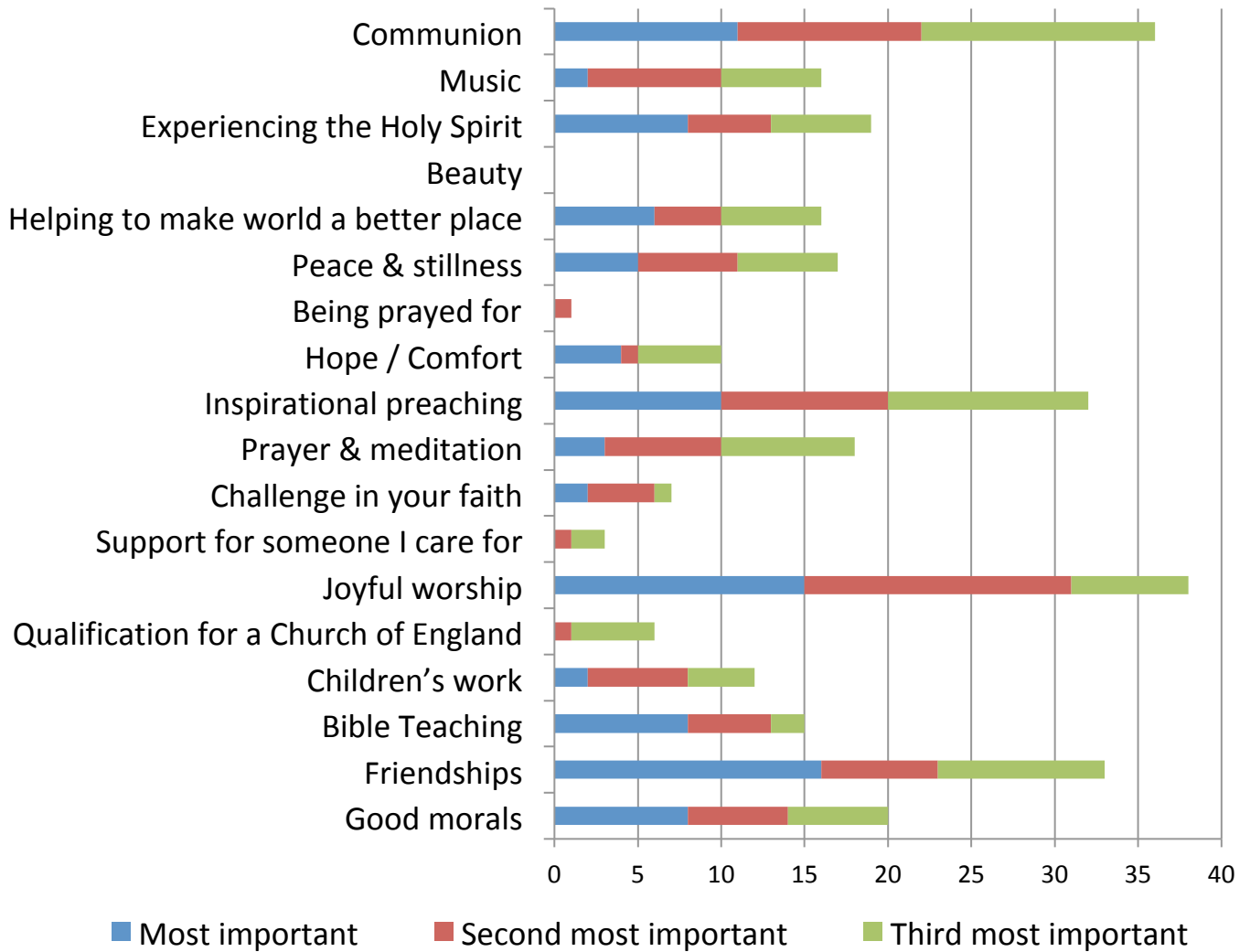
Implications: these findings suggest that the primary expression of worship at Holy Trinity is Eucharistic. However, this also means that on some Sundays we are offering three Eucharistic services in a row, with the only significant difference being the style of music and whether any children’s ministry is offered. Although the 9:15 continues to meet its *raison d’etre* of being family friendly, the experiment of having a primarily non-Eucharistic service has clearly not worked. This probably reflects a different strand of church tradition to that inhabited by people worshipping at Holy Trinity.

Q15. What are the three things that you value most from church, generally speaking?

	Most important		Second most important		Third most important		Total	
Good morals	8	8.00%	6	6.06%	6	6.00%	20	20.00%
Friendships	16	16.00%	7	7.07%	10	10.00%	33	33.00%
Bible Teaching	8	8.00%	5	5.05%	2	2.00%	15	15.00%
Children’s work	2	2.00%	6	6.06%	4	4.00%	12	12.00%
Qualification for a Church of England school	0	0.00%	1	1.01%	5	5.00%	6	6.00%
Joyful worship	15	15.00%	16	16.16%	7	7.00%	38	38.00%
Support for someone I care for	0	0.00%	1	1.01%	2	2.00%	3	3.00%
Challenge in your faith	2	2.00%	4	4.04%	1	1.00%	7	7.00%
Prayer & meditation	3	3.00%	7	7.07%	8	8.00%	18	18.00%
Inspirational preaching	10	10.00%	10	10.10%	12	12.00%	32	32.00%
Hope / Comfort	4	4.00%	1	1.01%	5	5.00%	10	10.00%
Being prayed for	0	0.00%	1	1.01%	0	0.00%	1	1.00%
Peace & stillness	5	5.00%	6	6.06%	6	6.00%	17	17.00%
Helping to make world a better place	6	6.00%	4	4.04%	6	6.00%	16	16.00%
Beauty	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Experiencing the Holy Spirit	8	8.00%	5	5.05%	6	6.00%	19	19.00%
Music	2	2.00%	8	8.08%	6	6.00%	16	16.00%
Communion	11	11.00%	11	11.11%	14	14.00%	36	36.00%
Total	100		99		100			

This question helps triangulate with the answers from Questions 9 through 14. In general, participants indicated that they value four things from their experience of church. These are: (1) Joyful worship (38/100, 38.00%), (2) Communion (36/100, 36.00%), (3) Friendships (33/100, 33.00%), and (4) Inspirational Preaching (32/100, 32.00%).

It is also worth noting that joyful worship and friendships have the highest number of first choices. Together with communion and inspirational preaching, these again suggest the necessary foundation for sustaining a worship environment that will attract people and make them want to return.



These results should also be compared with the following question:

Q16. How well does Bracknell Team Ministry (BTM) provide any of the following?

	Not at all		Hardly ever		Sometimes		Nearly always		Always		Total
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
Good morals	0	0.00%	1	1.09%	13	14.13%	35	38.04%	43	46.74%	92
Friendships	0	0.00%	3	3.19%	19	20.21%	33	35.11%	39	41.49%	94
Bible Teaching	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	8	8.70%	43	46.74%	41	44.57%	92
Children's work	1	1.27%	1	1.27%	7	8.86%	22	27.85%	48	60.76%	79
Qualification for a Church of England school	2	3.45%	0	0.00%	17	29.31%	12	20.69%	27	46.55%	58
Joyful worship	0	0.00%	1	1.09%	28	30.43%	36	39.13%	27	29.35%	92
Support for someone I care for	10	13.33%	2	2.67%	25	33.33%	19	25.33%	19	25.33%	75
Challenge in your faith	2	2.27%	8	9.09%	36	40.91%	27	30.68%	15	17.05%	88

Prayer & meditation	0	0.00%	1	1.08%	21	22.58%	28	30.11%	43	46.24%	93
Inspirational preaching	0	0.00%	6	6.52%	35	38.04%	37	40.22%	14	15.22%	92
Hope / Comfort	1	1.12%	0	0.00%	33	37.08%	33	37.08%	22	24.72%	89
Being prayed for	2	2.44%	6	7.32%	23	28.05%	18	21.95%	33	40.24%	82
Peace & stillness	0	0.00%	6	6.52%	33	35.87%	31	33.70%	22	23.91%	92
Helping to make world a better place	0	0.00%	2	2.35%	32	37.65%	26	30.59%	25	29.41%	85
Beauty	3	3.90%	7	9.09%	33	42.86%	23	29.87%	11	14.29%	77
Experiencing the Holy Spirit	1	1.16%	6	6.98%	35	40.70%	20	23.26%	24	27.91%	86
Music	2	2.22%	1	1.11%	18	20.00%	29	32.22%	40	44.44%	90
Communion	1	1.05%	0	0.00%	14	14.74%	32	33.68%	48	50.53%	95

Implications: comparing these results with the top four items from Question 15, participants stated that BTM always or nearly always provides for: (1) Joyful worship (63/92, **68.48%**), (2) Communion (80/95, **84.21%**), (3) Friendships (72/94, **76.60%**), and (4) Inspirational Preaching (51/92, **55.43%**). There is clearly scope for improvement in terms of ‘joyful worship’ but even more so as regards the quality of preaching.

At the same time, this question also reveals other things BTM does well always or nearly always. The three highest are: (a) Bible Teaching (84/92, 91.30%), (b) Children’s work (70/79, 88.61%), and (c) Good Morals (78/92, 84.78%).

Implications for Sunday worship pattern at Holy Trinity

Frank Senn, a Lutheran pastor in the USA, suggests all Christian worship falls into one of six broad types.⁵ These are

- 1) Oriental / Orthodox
- 2) Traditional Catholic
- 3) Liturgical Renewal
- 4) Protestant Aesthetic
- 5) Seeker Service
- 6) Pentecostal / Charismatic

Although there can be some overlap between these categories, Senn argues that it is not easy to mix the different style because they embody different values, not just around matters of theology but also concerning the nature and level of congregational participation expected. Within BTM, the 11am service is clearly ‘Protestant Aesthetic’. Mosaic, on the other hand, is very clearly a “Seeker Service”, but what about the 9:15 at Holy Trinity? Whatever the original intention behind it (Seeker Service?), the 9:15 Sunday Service currently sits somewhere more akin to a ‘Liturgical Renewal’ model (i.e. emphasis on communion, following the liturgical year, mixture of modern and traditional music, flexibility in worship texts used, and valuing congregational participation in worship). The survey results for 9:15 suggest that this is indeed the most apt model for that congregation, so the clergy and PCC might want to consider what is needed in order to develop and enhance that model, rather than trying to pursue other models.

⁵ Frank C.Senn, ‘Embodied Liturgy’ Fortress Press 2016

Social, fellowship and learning on Sundays and other days

BTM survey participants are very likely or quite likely to socialize informally with friends (61/99, 61.62%) and have coffee before/after service (56/99, 56.57%). Inversely, survey participants are highly unlikely or unlikely to attend non-service related coffee mornings (59/97, 60.82%) or attend children activities other than on Sundays (54/94, 57.45%).

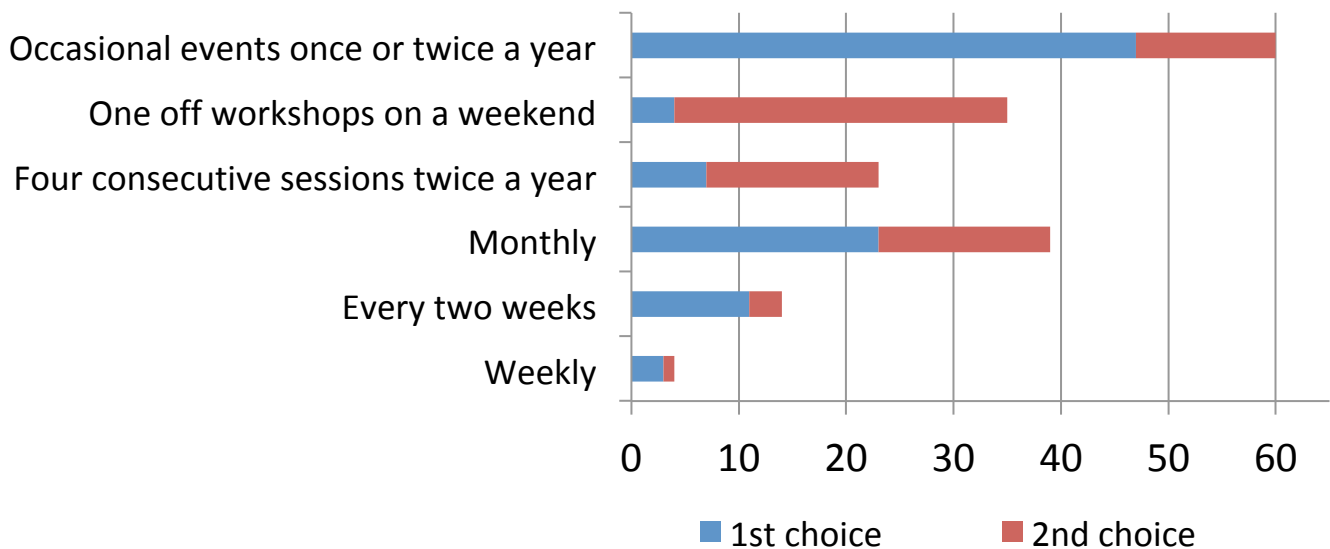
Q17. How likely are you to take part in the following?

	Highly unlikely		Unlikely		Neither likely nor unlikely		Quite likely		Very likely		Total
Have coffee before/after service	12	12.12%	14	14.14%	17	17.17%	23	23.23%	33	33.33%	99
Attend non-service related coffee mornings	25	25.25%	34	34.34%	18	18.18%	11	11.11%	9	9.09%	97
Attend a church quiz night, barbeque, or similar social event	4	4.04%	17	17.17%	28	28.28%	32	32.32%	15	15.15%	96
Go out for a meal with church friends as organised by a BTM group	6	6.06%	21	21.21%	22	22.22%	34	34.34%	14	14.14%	97
Socialise informally with church friends	3	3.03%	12	12.12%	23	23.23%	48	48.48%	13	13.13%	99
Go on a BTM organised trip	13	13.13%	24	24.24%	32	32.32%	24	24.24%	4	4.04%	97
Join a practical work group (e.g. maintenance team)	11	11.11%	22	22.22%	38	38.38%	18	18.18%	9	9.09%	98
Attend children activities other than on Sundays	32	32.32%	22	22.22%	14	14.14%	18	18.18%	8	8.08%	94

Survey participants will most likely attend extra BTM activities outside of worship services once or twice a year (60/95, 63.16%).

Q19. What frequency would work for you best if you were to attend one extra activity outside of worship services for social, learning or other spiritual development?

	1st choice		2nd choice		Total	
Weekly	3	3.16%	1	1.25%	4	4.21%
Every two weeks	11	11.58%	3	3.75%	14	14.74%
Monthly	23	24.21%	16	20.00%	39	41.05%
Four consecutive sessions twice a year	7	7.37%	16	20.00%	23	24.21%
One off workshops on a weekend	4	4.21%	31	38.75%	35	36.84%
Occasional events once or twice a year	47	49.47%	13	16.25%	60	63.16%
Total	95		80			



Implications of Questions 17 and 19

The responses to Question 17 reinforce the impression of Holy Trinity as a ‘Sunday gathering’ and that organizing events and activities on other days of the week can be challenging. It looks like there is some mileage in developing BBQs, etc. and going out for meals together. It could be argued that awareness needs to be raised about the practical and spiritual importance of maintenance days. These three areas could all do with a creative rethink in order to attract more people to take part.

The survey also confirms the impression that weekly or even fortnightly groups and study programmes are difficult for people to accommodate in their diaries. It could be argued that this shows a lack of understanding about the importance of spiritual formation and small groups but we equally are aware that as a society we have become time poor across all sections of the population, whether through working hours; other leisure pursuits; family activities; or child-care demands on both parents and other carers.

It may be best to work from what people can manage and ensure that it is of sufficiently high quality experience. This could encourage people to participate in a more frequent activity. Certainly monthly or one-off provision, on these results, seems the most likely to succeed in getting people to sign up.

Social and Community Engagement

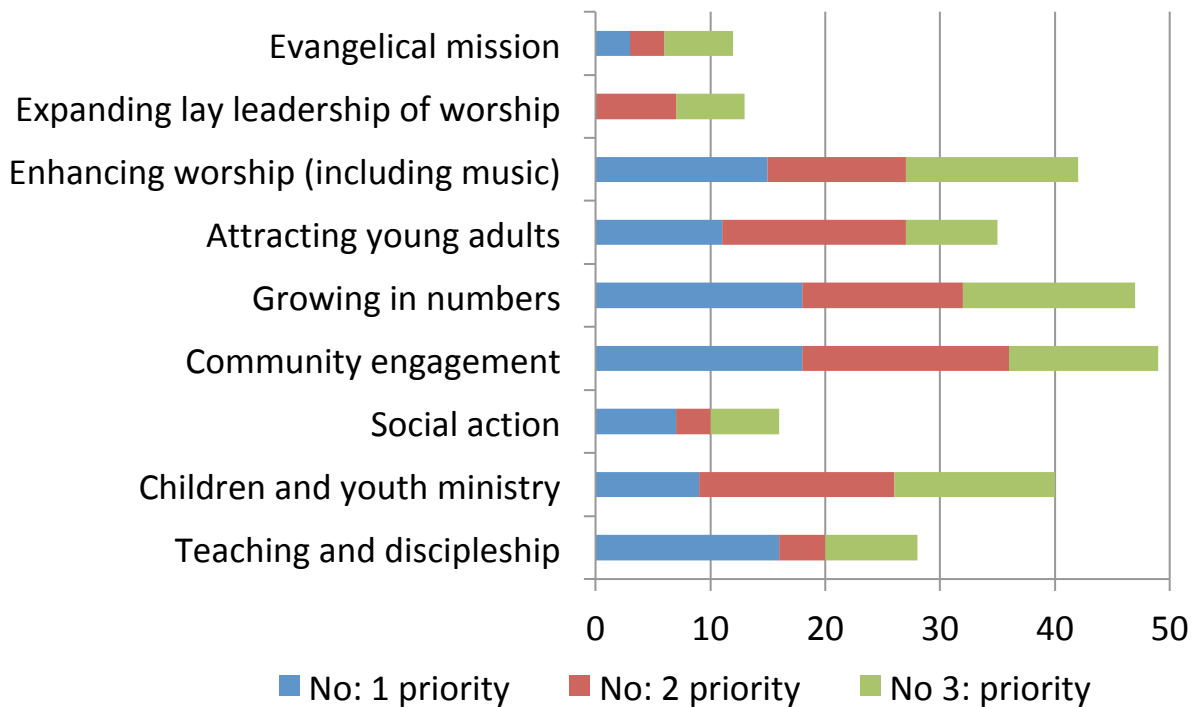
While a majority of survey participants believe that all the statements in Question 18 are very important or important, overwhelming participants believe it is very important or important that BTM has an active role in schools & colleges in the parish (88/95, 92.63%). Inversely, a small but not insignificant minority of survey participants state that it is very unimportant or unimportant that BTM lobbies those in power about social justice and environmental issues (13/93, 13.98%).

Q18. How important is it to you that Bracknell Team Ministry (BTM) does the following?

	Very unimportant		Unimportant		Neither important nor unimportant		Important		Very important		Total
Organises social events among its members	0	0.00%	5	5.21%	24	25.00%	52	54.17%	15	15.63%	96
Actively delivers social action projects	1	1.03%	3	3.09%	25	25.77%	51	52.58%	17	17.53%	97
Supports social action projects run by others	0	0.00%	2	2.06%	20	20.62%	56	57.73%	19	19.59%	97
Raises awareness about social justice in services	0	0.00%	4	4.26%	26	27.66%	50	53.19%	14	14.89%	94
Lobbies those in power about social justice and environmental issues	0	0.00%	13	13.98%	29	31.18%	36	38.71%	15	16.13%	93
Organise social / community events which non-church members might want to attend	1	1.04%	3	3.13%	21	21.88%	49	51.04%	22	22.92%	96
Has an active role in schools & colleges in the parish	0	0.00%	2	2.11%	5	5.26%	50	52.63%	38	40.00%	95
Is active in other community and civic organizations	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	21	22.11%	52	54.74%	22	23.16%	95

Q20. What would be your priorities for BTM in the next five years?

	No: 1 priority		No: 2 priority		No 3: priority		Total	
Teaching and discipleship	16	16.49%	4	4.26%	8	8.79%	28	28.87%
Children and youth ministry	9	9.28%	17	18.09%	14	15.38%	40	41.24%
Social action	7	7.22%	3	3.19%	6	6.59%	16	16.49%
Community engagement	18	18.56%	18	19.15%	13	14.29%	49	50.52%
Growing in numbers	18	18.56%	14	14.89%	15	16.48%	47	48.45%
Attracting young adults	11	11.34%	16	17.02%	8	8.79%	35	36.08%
Enhancing worship (including music)	15	15.46%	12	12.77%	15	16.48%	42	43.30%
Expanding lay leadership of worship	0	0.00%	7	7.45%	6	6.59%	13	13.40%
Evangelical mission	3	3.09%	3	3.19%	6	6.59%	12	12.37%
Other (please specify)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	97		94		91			



49 out of 97 survey participants (50.52%) chose community engagement as a top priority for BTM in the next five years. Similarly, participants also listed (a) Growing in numbers (47/97, 48.45%), (b) Enhancing worship (42/97, 43.30%), and (c) Children and youth ministry (40/97, 41.24%).

Implications of Questions 18 and 20

It is interesting that participants place such a marked value on work in schools and colleges because BTM is actually quite weak in that area. Therefore, it would make sense to have a plan for how to develop this kind of work and how we might stimulate lay involvement in this ministry (e.g. Open the Book or similar).

Given the demands on clergy time, it would seem wise to look at ways of recognizing and linking up with lay members involvement in civil society, whether local authorities, school governance or voluntary bodies. This would have the dual benefit of supporting the vocation of lay members and keeping the church more informed of local initiatives.

As well as maintaining continued support for social action projects (e.g. Food Bank, Clothes Bank, etc.) we probably also need to communicate more clearly to the congregation(s) which projects we support and how to get involved in that support.

Organizing social and community events non-church goers might want to attend also gets a high score. The bike show is the only current contender and it would be worth considering what other event or activity could be run, with the explicit intention of attracting people from the wider community.

The four areas mentioned above feed into the overall priority of community engagement. Some of the other overall priorities dovetail with what has been observed about Sundays at Holy Trinity (i.e. enhancing worship and developing children and youth ministry). In terms of a strategy for growth, (a) community engagement, (b) enhancing our worship, and (c) supporting and developing children and youth ministry give a clear direction of travel.

This page intentionally blank