**Questionnaire on our vision at Christ Church**

**General comments**

The survey was conducted at all services on 7/1/18 and at Thursday communion the following Thursday. 144 people filled in the questionnaire, the vast majority on the day and in the service or before leaving. A small minority sent them to the office after the day or online. It was a difficult decision to use time in the 10.30 worship service to do the questionnaire, but we felt that its importance as a tool to guide our vision for the next few years made this an acceptable addition to the service. Reflecting on what we think of church and what God is doing in our lives was in an unusual way an act of worship.

Thus we obtained a sample of views from the people who happened to be there on a given Sunday. Many of our congregation do not attend every week so we could not obtain a larger sample, although everyone was invited by email and in Christ Church Life to take part if they wished.

As with all questionnaires, there were weaknesses but there is still a lot we can learn from it.

**What was the aim of the questionnaire?**

* The questionnaire had a specific focus: to assess how far individuals in the church understand and embrace the vision that we launched in 2012.
* We based the questionnaire on 5 areas which describe how we want the church to be. Jo wrote a description of the church in 2017, back in 2012, imagining how things could be. The questionnaire sought to assess how much has come true from this imaginative portrayal, which you can read.
* The 5 areas were: 1. Establishing a rhythm of life and personal devotion; 2. Becoming a church where the services equip and release people into serving Christ in the whole of life; 3. Becoming a people who want to make disciples and are equipped to do so; 4. Becoming a church where everyone takes part rather than just the leaders; 5. Becoming a church which is committed to the vision and where everyone is working together with passion and joy.
* The questionnaire answers should reveal which areas we have successfully communicated to people and which have been embraced and embedded into our culture. It should shape priorities for the next few years as we focus on areas where there is lack of clarity or confidence.
* We also conducted interviews of about 20 people between December and March to add anecdotal evidence alongside the statistics, as well as gathering the comments which some people made on their questionnaire forms.

**Other things the questionnaire has helped us to see more clearly:**

* The questionnaire provided useful statistics such as the age profile of the congregations on that day and the number of people in Life Groups.

**How were the results analysed?**

* With the help of the Diocese, results were programmed into a spreadsheet and data analysis performed, to show average scores across the board, as well as average scores for each age band. You can see the spreadsheet (attached: “LTL Downend Questionnaire Results.”)
* The interview replies and questionnaire comments were gathered under different headings so that they can be prayed over and reflected upon by different ministry areas in the months to come.

**Analysis:**

**1. The Age profile of Christ Church Downend adults (16 and over) who attended services on 7/1/18 and Thurs 11/1/18:**

**2. Life groups**

* Total percentage who are part of a Life group 58%
* Breakdown of Life group attendance by age group below:
* NB Age brackets 16- 19, 20-29 and 80 + were particularly small samples.
* Being part of a Life group affected people’s perspective in every area of the Vision. Average scores were higher for all questions. This underlines the vital role that Life groups play.

**Areas of the Vision**

* **Questions about the Vision itself:** 55% responded to the question “I understand clearly the vision of the church “ with a score of 8/9 or 10, and 47 % said they were “excited by where the church is going and what part they can play” to the extent of choosing 8/9 or 10 as their score. The difficulty is in interpreting this: does this represent success or failure at this stage? And what would bring those figures higher?
* Highest average scores overall were 3d “Christ Church sees hospitality as important” 8.2/ 10 (This was on reflection not a good way to ask the question as it was too leading.)

Followed by:

3b “We are all called to make disciples” 8/10

4a “We all encourage and support each other, it’s not just the leaders’ responsibility” 8/10 (to be fair, this was a question which gave a strong hint as to the “right” answer, but does suggest there is a fairly strong sense of shared responsibility as a body.)

* Lowest scores overall was 1b “I can share stories of how God is changing me to be more like Jesus.” 6.2/10

Followed by:

1a “Christ Church has helped me build times of prayer and action, work and rest into my life” 6.5/10 and

3c “Christ Church helps me to make disciples (share my faith with others)” 6.5/10

* Highest scoring section was the area of leadership (Area 4) and how it is understood and how it works.
* In the section about how far people understand the vision and feel comfortable with it, the scores reflect that about ¾ of the congregation on that day are broadly supportive.
* Lowest scoring section was the area of Discipleship (Area 1), particularly the sense of not praying and resting enough, and not being able to point to signs of their own growth as a Christian.

**Age related differences**

* Different age groups scored differently. NB the sample of 20-29 yr olds was tiny (2) so it wouldn’t make sense to judge this as in any way accurate. All it reminds us is of this missing demographic. NB Here is the demographic of the parish according to the National statistics Office.

| **Age Distribution (E 2016)** | |
| --- | --- |
| 0-9 years | 1,512 |
| 10-19 years | 1,358 |
| 20-29 years | 1,096 |
| 30-39 years | 1,470 |
| 40-49 years | 1,887 |
| 50-59 years | 1,726 |
| 60-69 years | 1,466 |
| 70-79 years | 1,174 |
| 80+ years | 955 |

**Notable results in each age group:**

* **16 -19 yr plds** – (5 people filled in) All in Life groups. Confident in sharing their faith 9.6/10, and confident that they are growing as disciples 9/10. Excited by where we are going as a church and how they can play their part. 9/10 Less convinced of how gathered worship helps them with living out faith in daily life, and less sure that they have a good rhythm of prayer and rest alongside work and action.
* **30-39 yr olds –** (14 filled in) Very confident of church’s hospitality 8.7/10 and in leadership’s role in pointing people to God as much as caring for them 8.4/10 Very comfortable with the pace of change. 8.4/10

Very unsure of whether they can share stories of how God is changing them 5.4/10 and whether they have a balance of rest and prayer alongside work. It seems very likely that having young children has affected this area significantly, which is borne out by the interviews. They are not too confident that they are growing as disciples. 6.2/10

* **40-49 yr olds** (19 people) Only 42 % in Life groups. They are well convinced that we are all called to be disciple makers 7.9/10 and that they had a sense of God guiding them daily 7.3/10 They felt that the church values hospitality 7.5/10 They were not at all sure they had a balance of prayer and rest as well as work. 5.5/10 They were not sure of their ability to share their faith. 6.1/10 They did not always find that gathered worship is relevant to daily life 6.4/10
* **50-59 yr olds (19 people)** They are strongly convinced that we are all called to make disciples. 8/10 They understand the role everyone has to support each other not just leaving it to the leaders. 7.6/10 They understand the church’s vision clearly 7.4/10 Their lowest score is for the balance of prayer and rest into life. 5.9/10 They are not so confident that they are equipped to share their faith 6.1/10 and they are not sure that gathered worship is so relevant to their daily life 6.4/10
* **60-69 yr olds (34 people)** 68 % of this, the second largest group, are in Life groups**.** They are confident that we are all called to make disciples 8.3/10 and that the church values hospitality 7.9 /10 Most see that everyone needs to muck in to support each other 7.9/10 They are not sure that they can share stories of how God is changing them 5.7/10 and many feel that they haven’t got a good rhythm of prayer and rest alongside action. “Active retired!” They are not so sure they are excited by the vision of the church and what part they can play, with their scores in Area 5 being the lowest of any age group 7.2, 6.8 and 7.3 although this suggests a level of acquiescence.
* **70-79 yr olds** (38 people) The largest group but with a lower than average Life group attendance of 53%

They recorded generally lower scores in most areas, with the highest being reserved for hospitality 8.5/10 and all supporting each other 8.3/10 They did not feel particularly confident in sharing their faith 5.8/10 or that the church helped them make disciples and share faith 6.2/10 Their perception and support of the vision was a little lower than average but still broadly supportive.

* 80+ yr olds (11 people) Only 45% of this group are in Life groups. They are most convinced that all support each other rather than leaving it to leaders. 8.3/10 They feel encouraged to use their skills at CCD 7.9/10 and felt that broadly speaking they have a good rhythm of life 7.5/10 They did not express great confidence in how to share stories of how God is making them more Christ like. 6.4/10 or how they are growing as disciples 6.6 /10

**What next?**

* We identified 4 goals to target in the coming 18 months which the results and comments highlighted as weaker areas:

**Goal 1: To help people become disciples who can describe how God is working in them and who are equipped to make disciples**

**Goal 2: To raise the percentage of people who are in Life Groups, especially in the 30 – 30 age group where take up is low**

**Goal 3: To improve the impact of gathered worship to make it more explicitly relevant to people’s daily lives**

**Goal 4: To increase the congregations understanding of and buy in of the vision of whole life discipleship.**

* At an Away Day the leadership team prayed and reflected on these goals and came up with priorities implement.
* **You can see these action points in our Ministry Heads Reports.**