



Diocese of Brentwood

Stewards of the Gospel

Parish Questionnaire



Stewards of the Gospel – Parish Questionnaire



This questionnaire provides a framework for each parish community in the Diocese to explore its vitality and future direction. The prayer, consultation and reflection that lead to your responses are of central importance to this whole process; the questionnaire is simply the document for systematically recording the outcomes of your deliberations.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire is presented in 3 parts.

Part A – *A Picture of Our Community* – provides the opportunity to gather, explore and present facts and figures about a wide range of facets of parish life.

Part B – *Reflective Questions* – key questions under 10 main headings for open discussion by your parish community, and the opportunity to highlight existing good practice.

Part C – *Our Community's Initial Thoughts and Ideas about the Future* – where your parish community is asked to provide its first thoughts about how it might move forward.

Ultimately, we would like all parishes to provide their final responses using an on-line questionnaire as this will allow us to collate and analyse responses efficiently – and we will be providing information later in the year about how to do this. However, while drafting and sharing your responses within the parish, you may find that the electronic version of the questionnaire proves to be the best way of recording and storing your responses. The e-version of this document is available to download under “resources” on the diocesan website, www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/evangelisation.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or if you have any comments or suggestions to make.

The DSPG Steering Group: Fr Tom Saunders, Fr Andrew Headon and Ms Adele Angel can be contacted at dspg@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Background Details

Name of parish:

SPRINGFIELD

Details of church(es) in the parish:

Church name	Church address
St Augustine of Canterbury	New Bowers Way, Springfield, Chelmsford
The Church of Our Saviour	Ashton Place, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford
New Hall School	White Hart Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford

Key parish contacts:

Priest(s)	Permanent Deacon(s)	Steward of the Gospel
Fr Nick de Keyser	Kevin Lyons	Steven Webb

Details of main contact for this questionnaire:

Name:	Steven Webb	Address: 6 Springfield Green Chelmsford Essex CM1 7HR
Telephone No:	07474 941180	
Email Address:	Stevenwebb52@gmail.com	

Part A – A Picture of Our Community

Part A of the questionnaire takes respondents through the 10 main headings and requests detailed responses to a number of factual questions under each.

1 The Christian Faithful

- 1.1 Please complete the grids below to indicate how the number of those worshipping in your parish community has changed since 1985.

Mass attendance

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
260	382	278	419	457	448	463	476	445	427	388	369	275	244

Baptisms

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
22	36	25	14	14	21	13	28	14	18	24	11	6	8

Confirmations

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
-	5	-	17	36	3	1	22	4	11	16	-	-	8

Marriages

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
-	2	3	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Receptions

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
-	-	3	5	3	3	1	1	2	1	2	-	-	1

- 1.2 Are you aware of any significant demographic changes (e.g. a large increase / decrease in the overall population, an increase in the number of immigrants etc.) in your local area in the last 10 years that have impacted / will impact on your parish?

☒ Yes ☐ No

- 1.3 If Yes, please give a brief description of the changes and their impact on your parish community.

Brief description of change	Impact or potential impact
New developments affecting Chelmsford North and City Centre (2001-2021)	Chelmsford North
Newland Spring (Copperfield Road)	258 new homes
Hospital Approach, Broomfield	165 new homes 90 bedroom care facility 720 sq mtrs commercial space
Channels (Phased – Phase 1 – 181 homes, Phase 2 – 95 homes – both confirmed)	750 new homes Retail units, restaurants Drinking establishments Nurseries/Places of Worship (shared)
Beaulieu Park	3,600 homes – phased (specific phasing numbers not given) Business park, retail units Hotel, Leisure facilities Open space, education facilities Community facilities New roads – upgrade Boreham Interchange/White Hart Lane

- 1.4 Are you aware of other significant changes in the local area that are impacting / likely to impact upon your parish? (Examples could include: major housing developments, the closure of a large employer, the development of a new industrial estate, an increase in youth unemployment etc.)

☒ Yes ☐ No

- 1.5 If Yes, please provide a brief description of the changes and their impact / potential impact on your parish community as far as you are able.

Brief description of change	Impact or potential impact
2021 – Beaulieu Train Station	
Temple Farm	Huge development for National UK Headquarters of Jehovah's Witness Organisation

- 1.6 Based on the most recent reported average mass attendance for your parish please give an **approximate** age breakdown using the categories below.

Note: We are seeking a 'best guess' here - unless you feel that taking a more systematic / survey approach would be helpful to you.

Age range	Approximate number
0-10	24
11-18	27
19-25	12
26-49	39
50-70	76
Over 70	63
TOTAL	241

2 Leadership

- 2.1 Please provide details about the leadership roles in your parish community (e.g. Permanent Deacons, Lay Leaders, Chair of Parish Pastoral Council, SVP President, Chair of Finance Committee, Head Teacher, Chair of Governors, Music Group Leader etc.) Please provide approximate numbers where possible.

Role	Number
Permanent deacon	1
Chair of PPC	1
SVP President	1
MC	2
Leader of Music Group	1
Liturgical Animator	1
Chair of Finance Committee	1
First Holy Communion Lead Catechist	1
Communications Group Chair	1

Bereavement Group Chair	1
Social Group Chair	1
Youth Representative	1
Bishops' School Head	
Chair of governors at Bishops' Eucharistic Ministers Rota Readers Rota Flowers Organiser Welcome Group	

- 2.2 Please describe the situation in your community regarding a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) or equivalent group.
- ☐ No PPC or equivalent is in place (*Go to Question 2.11*)
 - ☐ A PPC or equivalent is in place but is having little or no impact on the parish community
 - ☒ A PPC or equivalent is in place and is having a significant impact on the parish community

2.3 Where a PPC or equivalent is in place, please indicate the year that it was established.

2015

2.4 Where a PPC or equivalent is in place, does it have a written constitution?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

2.5 Where a PPC or equivalent is in place, how frequently does it meet?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Monthly | Every
2 months | Every
4 months | Every
6 months | Annually | Other |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If other, please specify

2.6 What is the process for setting the agenda for the PPC or equivalent?

- ☐ The agenda is agreed at the beginning of the meeting
- ☐ The agenda is set at the previous meeting
- ☒ The chair seeks items in advance
- ☒ The chair determines the agenda
- ☐ There is a standard agenda for every meeting

2.7 Who chairs the PPC or equivalent?

- ☐ Priest
- ☐ Deacon
- ☒ Lay person
- ☐ Religious

Glory be to the Father –
in whom we live
and move and have our
being.

2.8 How are people in the parish informed about the membership and work of the PPC or equivalent?

Noticeboard details the members. A Facebook page has just been launched. A new Website is just launched. A Parish Magazine ("The Augustinian") carries up-dates and the Parish Newsletter carries periodic news about PPC

2.9 Which parish(es) is / are represented on the PPC or equivalent?

We are one parish with 3 churches/chapels. All are represented by one PPC.

2.10 What is the number and approximate age profile of members?

Age range	Number
Under 40	1
40 -70	6
Over 70	1
TOTAL	8

2.11 Is there a Finance Committee in place in the parish?

☒ Yes ☐ No

2.12 If Yes, how frequently does it meet?

Monthly Every 2 months Every 4 months Every 6 months Annually Other

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

If other, please specify

2.13 What is the process for setting the agenda for the Finance Committee?

- ☐ The agenda is agreed at the beginning of the meeting
- ☐ The agenda is set at the previous meeting
- ☐ The chair seeks items in advance
- ☐ The chair determines the agenda
- ☒ There is a standard agenda for every meeting

2.14 Who chairs the Finance Committee?

Priest Deacon Lay Person Religious

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

2.15 How are people in the parish informed about the membership and work of the Finance Committee?

There is an annual report presented after Mass with a supporting set of Accounts. Further information is provided upon request subject to confidentiality.

2.16 What is the number and approximate age profile of members?

Age range	Number
Under 40	0
40 -70	6
Over 70	1
TOTAL	7

Glory be to the Son -
whose name we bear and
who calls each of us to be
his disciples;

3 Active Involvement of People

3.1 How many people in your parish community are registered for ministries that were subject to DBS (formerly CRB) checks in 2015?

42

3.2 How does this compare with the position in 2010?

Increase

3.3 Are there any paid workers for your parish community?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please provide details below.

Role Title	Number	Total hours contracted per week
Parish Secretary	1	8-10

- 3.4 Please indicate approximately how many lay people in your parish, in the age categories shown, are involved with delivering parish / deanery programmes.

Role	Under 40	40 - 70	Over 70	Total
Baptism preparation				
Holy Communion preparation	2	2		
Confirmation preparation		2		
Marriage preparation				
RCIA programme delivery				
Other (please list these below)				

- 3.5 Please list below other non-liturgical* lay voluntary roles that are present in your parish community along with numbers in the age categories shown. Please think widely here (e.g. PPC members, church cleaners, welcomers, Finance Committee members, musicians, flower arrangers, gardeners etc.)

*Note: Question 4.4 will ask for information about liturgical roles.

Role	Under 40	40 - 70	Over 70	Total
PPC Chair		1		1
PPC Members	1	4		5
Welcomers	3	11		14
Finance		6	1	7
Music	2	10		12
Flower Arrangers		6		6
Beareavement Group		4		4
Social Group		4		4
Communications Group	1	3		4
Joint Management Committee (?) (s)		3		3

- 3.6 Please identify the full range of social activities that take place in the parish community along with their frequency (where relevant).

Social Activity	Frequency
Parish Fun Day	Annual?
Plans for Pantomime	Bi-Annual
Plans for Party	Annual?
Christmas Lunch	Annual
Quiz by Fr Nick	Ad hoc
SVP Quiz	Ad hoc
KSC Quiz	Ad hoc

4 Worship and Spiritual Life

- 4.1 Please indicate the venues and times of masses currently celebrated each weekend.

Venue	Day	Time
St Augustine of Canterbury	Sunday	09.00
The Church of Our Saviour	Saturday	17.00
New Hall	Sunday	10.45

- 4.2 Please provide details of any planned changes to these arrangements.

N/A

- 4.3 Please provide details of other regular services celebrated in the parish community along with an indication of their frequency and venue.

Service	Frequency	Venue
Communion Service	Weekly	St Augustine's

- 4.4 Approximately how many lay people have specific roles in the planning, preparation and celebration of masses and other liturgies?

Contribution	Number
Readers	12
Eucharistic Ministers	37
Funeral Assistants	
Children's Liturgy leaders	10
Altar Servers	16
Musicians / Choir	12
Leaders of Morning / Evening Prayer	
Sacristans	
Homily Preparation	
Other, please specify below	

- 4.5 Please identify the range of other activities that contribute to the spiritual life of your parish community. Please think widely about the full range. (e.g. Prayer groups, Rosary groups, Parish Pilgrimages, Retreat Days, Accompanied Prayer etc.)

Group / Activity	Frequency	Venue
Parish Pilgrimages	Annually	Walsingham/ Lourdes
Teams of Our Lady		
Bereavement		
KSC Retreats	Annually	
HCPT Pilgrimages		
BCYS Youth Masses	Monthly?	
World Youth Day	Every 3 years	

5 Education and Continuing Formation

Adult Formation

- 5.1 Please identify the Adult Formation activities (offered by the parish, deanery or diocese) that people from your parish have participated in over the last 3 years. Where possible, please indicate the approximate number of people who have participated.

5.2

Yes
No

Adult Formation Activity	Yes / No		Approximate Number
Catechist Training Programmes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2
Eucharistic Ministry Training	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3
Reader Training	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	5
CCRS Courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Lenten Study Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other Formation Activities (<i>please list below</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
RCIA			

more about their fa

Young people in schools and their families

Catholic primary school(s) serving your parish

5.3 For each Catholic primary school serving your parish please complete the following information:

School Name: Our Lady Immaculate			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils	218	216	218
% of Catholic Pupils	99.54	99.53	99.54
Total no. of Teachers	11	12	12
% of Catholic Teachers	100	100	83.33

School Name: Bishops' School			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils			470
% of Catholic Pupils			17
Total no. of Teachers			
% of Catholic Teachers			Low

School Name:			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils			
% of Catholic Pupils			
Total no. of Teachers			
% of Catholic Teachers			

School Name:			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils			
% of Catholic Pupils			
Total no. of Teachers			
% of Catholic Teachers			
School Name:			
	2008	2012	2015

Total no. of Pupils			
% of Catholic Pupils			
Total no. of Teachers			
% of Catholic Teachers			

School Name:			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils			
% of Catholic Pupils			
Total no. of Teachers			
% of Catholic Teachers			

- 5.4 Please describe briefly how the primary school(s) and the parish work together to prepare children for the sacraments.

Unfortunately we do not believe that this is an area that is strong for us

- 5.5 How is / are the primary school(s) involved in the adult faith formation of the children's parents?

This is an area where we need to improve. We have a unique challenge in that our parish primary school is established as a joint Anglican and Catholic School. We do not think that we are fully meeting the challenge that this represents and we would welcome an opportunity to try to build better and stronger relationships with the school.

- 5.6 Where a Parish Pastoral Council or equivalent exists is there representation from the Head Teacher(s) or other staff member?

☐ Yes ☒ No

- 5.7 Where a Parish Pastoral Council or equivalent exists does the membership include school governors?

☐ Yes ☒ No

to build his Kingdom
and to go out into the world
and bear its fruit.

- 5.8 Please describe how the primary school promotes links with the parish community and how the parish community promotes links with the school (e.g. Mini Vinnies, Fair Trade, joint social activities etc.)

Link	Brief description
<i>Example: Joint Social Events</i>	<i>Termly joint fund-raising social events held in school hall</i>
See 5.5	

- 5.9 Please give details of any joint parish / school celebrations of the Eucharist. Please include frequency and location.

See 5.5

- 5.10 Please give details of any joint school / parish non-Eucharistic celebrations. Please include frequency and location.

Weekly Service (Clergy led)

- 5.11 Please describe any ways in which the school and parish share their buildings and other resources. (e.g. Hall, meeting rooms, minibuses etc.)

See 5.5

Catholic Secondary (including Middle) school(s) serving your parish

5.12 For each Catholic secondary school serving your parish please provide the following information:

School Name: St John Payne			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils	1057	1138	1173
% of Catholic Pupils	89	87	78
Total no. of Teachers	78	75	73
% of Catholic Teachers	55	49	48

School Name: New Hall			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils			
% of Catholic Pupils			
Total no. of Teachers			
% of Catholic Teachers			

School Name:			
	2008	2012	2015
Total no. of Pupils			
% of Catholic Pupils			
Total no. of Teachers			
% of Catholic Teachers			

5.13 Please describe briefly how the secondary school(s) and the parish work together to prepare young people for the sacraments.

Students are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in RS classes. By chance rather than design the sacristan at OLI/Holy name also works at SJP and works hard to foster good links with parishes but that is not part of her job description. Similarly last year the Deputy Head was involved in Springfield's preparations for Confirmation outside his job description

- 5.14 How is / are the secondary school(s) involved in the adult faith formation of the children's parents? (Include any joint work with the parish).

They are not

- 5.15 Where a Parish Pastoral Council or equivalent exists is there any representation from the secondary school(s)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

- 5.16 Please describe how the secondary school(s) promote links with the parish community and how the parish community promotes links with the school(s) (e.g. Fair Trade, John Paul II Award, joint outreach activities etc.)

Link	Brief description
<i>Example: Lenten Fundraising initiatives</i>	<i>Joint fundraising effort between parish and school with a specific outreach cause identified each year.</i>
SJP Science Week	OLI and Bishops' pupils attend
SJP Sports	OLI and Bishops' pupils attend transition sessions

- 5.17 Please give details of any joint parish / secondary school celebrations of the Eucharist. Please include frequency and location.

None so far as we are aware

- 5.18 Please give details of any joint parish / secondary school non-Eucharistic celebrations. Please include frequency and location.

None so far as we are aware

- 5.19 Please describe any ways in which the school and parish share their buildings and other resources. (e.g. Hall, meeting rooms, minibuses etc.)

New Hall has in the past allowed parish to use the hall for a pantomime.
New Hall has assisted with production of the Augustinian.

6 Outreach

6.1 Does your parish / deanery offer a RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6.2 If Yes, how often does this take place?

Monthly when needed

6.3 Please indicate any outreach activities that your parish is involved with *in the local area* (e.g. Food banks, Homeless projects, Asylum Seekers / Refugees, Prisoners / the families of prisoners, Drop-ins, Chaplaincy, Justice and Peace, Lourdes Youth etc.) Please indicate whether the parish makes a financial commitment.

Outreach activity	Brief description	Financial Commitment (Yes / No)	
<i>Example: Redbridge Sunday Drop-in</i>	<i>5 parishioners are involved on the weekly rota for this ecumenical project across the town. All parishioners are asked to contribute canned goods which are collected each week.</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 6.4 Please describe any active involvement your parish has in the cultural and political life of the local neighbourhood / district (e.g. local governance, social action, ward meetings, community forums etc.)

None?

- 6.5 Please describe any links that the parish community has *with other parts of the world*. (e.g. CAFOD, MISSIO – Red Boxes, our twin Diocese of Dundee, Aid to the Church in Need, parish overseas projects etc.) Please indicate whether the parish makes a financial commitment.

Outreach activity	Brief description	Financial Commitment (Yes / No)	
Example: Kenya Project	A strong link has been in place for 10 years with Community in Kenya resulting in the development of various activities including a village-based water project and a chicken farming project.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dundee South Africa	Diocesan Twinning	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SVP Sudan Project	National SVP Project locally run	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SVP Twinnage with India	National SVP Project locally run	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Missio Cambodia	National KSC project run locally	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 6.6 During the past 12 months in what ways has the priest / deacon / religious engaged with other Christian faith leaders in the locality?

Shared services with Anglican and around shared primary scholl

- 6.7 During the past 12 months in what ways has the parish community engaged with other Christian communities in the locality? (Please include activities / services as part of Churches Together, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Joint acts of witness / shared worship, joint social activities and joint outreach activities.)

Activity	Brief description
<i>Example: Good Friday Walk of Witness</i>	<i>Around 70 people from all Christian denominations in the town walked behind a cross being carried between the churches concluding with prayer in the Town Centre.</i>
Good Friday Walk of Witness	
SVP Quiz	
Big Lunch	V.E Celebrations

- 6.8 Over the past 12 months in what ways has the parish community engaged with Faith communities other than Christians in the locality? Please include visits, talks, joint activities etc.

Activity	Brief description
<i>Example: Talk about the Jewish Passover Festival</i>	<i>Well attended evening talk at St Michael's Church with invitations to all Christian denominations in the area.</i>

- 6.9 In what ways does the parish publicise itself and its activities to the wider community locally? (e.g. local media, posters in public buildings, website, leaflets etc.)

Facebook – Website – Newsletters – Posters The Communications Group has medium term plan to engage with secular media
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7 Finances

7.1 Please complete the details below.

a) Income and Expenditure

£'s	2006	2010	2015
Income:			
Offertory	49,304	64,182	53,962
Gift Aid	12,925	13,950	11,855
Donations	0	0	7,722
Other income	8,132	6,823	9,262
Total Income	70,361	84,955	82,801
Expenditure:			
Property	11,307	9,648	12,026
Personnel	15,205	11,040	22,606
Other costs	29,671	41,453	32,853
Total Expenditure	56,183	62,141	67,485
Surplus / (Deficit)	14,178	22,814	15,316

b) Surplus / deficit ignoring any extraordinary income or expenditure

£'s	2006	2010	2015
Surplus / (Deficit)	14k	22k	15k

NB. This represents income minus expenditure, ignoring any extraordinary income or expenditure, e.g. one-off legacy or significant property repairs, etc.

Please answer the following questions based on the information collected above.

7.2 Does the current annual income for the parish meet its annual expenditure?

☒ Yes ☐ No

7.3 How has the parish income changed since 2006?

The parish took on a very large loan in order to build an extension to the church. Although the parish meets its annual expenditure it is not paying off the capital borrowed. See below.

7.4 What are the major factors that have impacted upon parish income since 2006?

Loan.

To build the extension cost £560,000. £204,000 of parish money was spent leaving £308,000 to be financed by a loan from the Diocese of Brentwood. In the years since 2007/2008 the parish has paid £61,000 in interest and as can be seen below the amount of capital left to repay remains at about £250,000.

7.5 Please provide the following information about parish balances:

£'s	Amount at March 2006	Amount at March 2010	Amount at March 2015
Parish Deposit (or loan)	119,000	311,000	265,000
Parish Current Account	37,000	9,000	6,000

7.6 What is the percentage of people in the parish community who are signed up to Gift Aid?

TBC

7.7 What is the average offertory per head each week?

TBC

7.8 Please describe how parishioners are informed annually of the parish finances.

- ☒ By verbal statement
- ☐ By a displayed written statement
- ☐ By each person receiving a written statement (e.g. in bulletin)
- ☐ Through a general meeting
- ☐ Other – please describe

At the end of Mass once a year our finances are discussed briefly. Some years a statement of account is also provided

7.9 Please describe any significant fundraising activities that are in place within the parish at present.

Purpose of fundraising	Method(s) used
<i>Example: To subsidise costs for young people going to Lourdes</i>	<i>Raffles and sponsored walk</i>
Lourdes	Raffles
World Youth day	Second collection
Fr Charles in Uganda	Second Collection

7.10 Please identify any factors (e.g. population shift, changes in local employment etc.) that will have a significant impact on the *financial position* of the parish over the next 5 years.

Factor	Potential Impact
Large number of new houses	Hopefully more parishioners to contribute.

7.11 Please describe any expenditure (excluding costs) of more than £15K per individual project, anticipated within the next 5 years.



Nature of Expenditure	Anticipated Cost
See Facilities Section below	

8 Facilities

Note: Where there is more than one church within a parish, this section will need to be repeated for each church site. Additional copies of this section and the next (Section 9 – Geographic Distance) are available on the website. Please use as many of these as you require.

- 8.1 Please provide information about the buildings associated with each church site within the parish.

Parish Name	Church Name	Capacity
Springfield	St Augustine of Canterbury	500

In your opinion	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
8.2 What is the overall state of repair of the Church?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.3 What is the overall state of repair of the Presbytery?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.4 What is the overall state of repair of the Church Hall?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			Yes	No
8.5 Is there a car park?			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.6 If Yes, how many parking spaces are there?			65	
8.7 Is there a parish office?			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.8 Are there secure on-site storage facilities for confidential documentation?			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.9 Is there an appointed Health & Safety Officer?			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.10 Are the following regular check-ups up to date:				
• Portable electrical appliances?			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Gas safety			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.11 Are the following facilities available for people with disabilities?				
• Accessible toilets			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Level access			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Ramped access			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Loop system			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.12 If any of the above provision is lacking are there plans in place to improve the facilities?			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.13 If Yes, please elaborate:				

8.14 Does the church have a cemetery?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

8.15 If Yes, who has responsibility for its care?

Joint Management Committee (JMC) looks after an area for internment of ashes

8.16 Please identify any other land / property for which the parish is responsible. (e.g. Residential lettings etc.)

Property / Land	Description

8.17 Please describe the meeting spaces that the church has and how many people they can accommodate.

Meeting Space	No. of people
Large Hall	200
Small Hall	80
Committee Room	10

8.18 Is there a place for smaller weekday Masses?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please provide details

Partitioning allows flexible use

8.19 Does the community have property that is in excess of its requirements?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No

Inspire us all
in the Diocese of
Brentwood
to live the Gospel,

8.20 If Yes, please give details and any suggestions of ways to realise its potential.

Property / Land	Details / Suggestions

8.21 Are your premises used by external groups / organisations?

☒ Yes ☐ No

8.22 If Yes, please provide details of the nature and frequency of the activity and whether the organisation pays a hire charge.

Group	Activity	Frequency	Hire charge (Y / N)	
<i>Example: Scouts</i>	<i>Pack Meeting</i>	<i>Weekly during term time</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beavers	Pack Meeting	Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Karate	Club	Twice weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Slimming world	Club	Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tai Chi	Club	Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maldon Careers	Club	Fortnightly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ad hoc hirings			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8.23 Does the parish collaborate with other denominations locally regarding use of buildings?

☒ Yes ☐ No

8.24 If Yes, please elaborate.

North Springfield Ecumenical Project: Anglican and free Churches and RC

8.25 Do you anticipate any instances of expenditure on property (£5k or more on a single item / project) in the next 5 years?

☒ Yes ☐ No

8.26 If Yes, please provide details.

Expenditure	Anticipated Cost
Partitions	20,000
Boiler	10,000
Windows	15,000
Kitchen	20,000

8.27 Please indicate the distances from the nearest primary and secondary schools to the church.

Name of school	Distance
The Bishops' Primary	20 YARDS
St John Payne Secondary	2.5 miles

8.1 Please provide information about the buildings associated with each church site within the parish.

Parish Name	Church Name	Capacity
Springfield	Church of Our Saviour	150

In your opinion		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
8.2	What is the overall state of repair of the Church?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.3	What is the overall state of repair of the Presbytery?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.4	What is the overall state of repair of the Church Hall?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
				Yes	No
8.5	Is there a car park?				
8.6	If Yes, how many parking spaces are there?				
8.7	Is there a parish office?				
8.8	Are there secure on-site storage facilities for confidential documentation?				
8.9	Is there an appointed Health & Safety Officer?				

8.10	Are the following regular check-ups up to date:		
	• Portable electrical appliances?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	• Gas safety	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.11	Are the following facilities available for people with disabilities?		
	• Accessible toilets	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	• Level access	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	• Ramped access	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	• Loop system	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.12	If any of the above provision is lacking are there plans in place to improve the facilities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
8.13	If Yes, please elaborate:		

8.14 Does the church have a cemetery?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8.15 If Yes, who has responsibility for its care?

--

8.16 Please identify any other land / property for which the parish is responsible. (e.g. Residential lettings etc.)

Property / Land	Description

8.17 Please describe the meeting spaces that the church has and how many people they can accommodate.

Meeting Space	No. of people
Large Hall	150

8.18 Is there a place for smaller weekday Masses?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please provide details

--

8.19 Does the community have property that is in excess of its requirements?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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to live the Gospel,

8.20 If Yes, please give details and any suggestions of ways to realise its potential.

Property / Land	Details / Suggestions

8.21 Are your premises used by external groups / organisations?

☒ Yes ☐ No

8.22 If Yes, please provide details of the nature and frequency of the activity and whether the organisation pays a hire charge.

Group	Activity	Frequency	Hire charge (Y / N)	
<i>Example: Scouts</i>	<i>Pack Meeting</i>	<i>Weekly during term time</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All organised by Anglican Community			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8.23 Does the parish collaborate with other denominations locally regarding use of buildings?

☒ Yes ☐ No

8.24 If Yes, please elaborate.

See above

8.25 Do you anticipate any instances of expenditure on property (£5k or more on a single item / project) in the next 5 years?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8.26 If Yes, please provide details.

Expenditure	Anticipated Cost

8.27 Please indicate the distances from the nearest primary and secondary schools to the church.

Name of school	Distance
Bishops Primary	1.5 miles
St John Payne Secondary	3 miles

9 Geographic Distance

Note: Where there is more than one church within a parish, this section will need to be repeated for each church site. Additional copies of this section and the previous one (Section 8 – Facilities) are available on the website. Please use as many of these as you require.

Parish Name	Church Name
SPRINGFIELD	St Augustine of Canterbury

9.1 How many miles is it by road to the nearest 3 Catholic churches from this church?
(See data pack)

Church Name	Distance
The Church of Our Saviour Chelmer Village	2.4 miles
Our Lady Immaculate Chelmsford	3.5 miles
The Blessed Sacrament Melbourne	3.1 miles

9.2 From which parish church was your parish originally founded?

Our Lady Immaculate Chelmsford

- 9.3 With which local parish / church communities does your parish have the strongest relationship(s)?

There is no church with which we have a particularly stronger relationship but Our Lady Immaculate and Springfield have a common history.

- 9.4 Please describe any significant geographical obstacles between this church and other Catholic church(es) in your locality.

None

- 9.5 Based on the experience of your parishioners, how accessible is this church using public transport?

Easily Moderately With difficulty Not at all

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

Please elaborate.

There is a bus route running right past the church. However bus times and Mass times are not conveniently arranged.

- 9.6 Does the parish provide any regular transport to church services?

☒ Yes ☐ No

- 9.7 If Yes, please explain.

There are some parishioners who regularly get a lift from a fellow parishioner

9 Geographic Distance

Note: Where there is more than one church within a parish, this section will need to be repeated for each church site. Additional copies of this section and the previous one (Section 8 – Facilities) are available on the website. Please use as many of these as you require.

Parish Name	Church Name
SPRINGFIELD	Church of Our Saviour

- 9.1 How many miles is it by road to the nearest 3 Catholic churches from this church?
(See data pack)

Church Name	Distance
St Augustine's Springfield	2.4 miles
Our Lady Immaculate Chelmsford	2.4 miles
The Blessed Sacrament Melbourne	5.2 miles

- 9.2 From which parish church was your parish originally founded?

Our Lady Immaculate Chelmsford

- 9.3 With which local parish / church communities does your parish have the strongest relationship(s)?

There is no church with which we have a particularly stronger relationship but Our Lady Immaculate and Springfield have a common history.

- 9.4 Please describe any significant geographical obstacles between this church and other Catholic church(es) in your locality.

None

- 9.5 Based on the experience of your parishioners, how accessible is this church using public transport?

Easily Moderately With difficulty Not at all

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

Please elaborate.

There is a bus route running close to the church. However bus times and Mass times are not conveniently arranged.

9.6 Does the parish provide any regular transport to church services?

☒ Yes ☐ No

There are some parishioners who regularly get a lift from a fellow parishioner

10 Young People

10.1 Please describe how work with young people is co-ordinated within your parish.

- ☒ No co-ordination in place
- ☐ Co-ordinated by the priest
- ☐ Co-ordinated by a permanent deacon
- ☐ Co-ordinated by a paid youth worker
- ☐ Co-ordinated by a volunteer
- ☐ Co-ordinated by a group of volunteers
- ☐ Co-ordinated by the Parish Pastoral Council
- ☐ Other (please describe)

*to be open to change
and to move
forward together in hope.*

This is something that our PPC has identified as a priority going forward and a young member of the parish community has been appointed to the PPC partly with this in mind

10.2 What activities, opportunities or projects are currently in place specifically for young people in your parish?

Activity	Brief description
See above	

10.3 How are young people involved in the wider planning / decision-making within the parish?

A young person has been appointed to the PPC and we are trying to widen the scope for young people to play a more significant role. So far this has manifested itself in relation to Communications (established a Facebook page and a new Website) and the opportunity to form a new youth group is being considered.

10.4 Please describe the level of involvement that your parish has with opportunities provided by our Diocesan Youth Service (BCYS) and other Diocesan opportunities for young people.

Activity	Not involved	Limited involvement	Quite involved	Very involved
Walsingham House Youth Retreats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Monthly Youth Mass	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
St John Bosco Camp	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flame Events	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
World Youth Day	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School missions programmes (e.g., by the Sion Community)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Youth Sunday	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lourdes Pilgrimage – Youth Section	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others – please specify: Our Parish has contributed many young people to the Walsingham House Team. The last two managers are both parishioners.				

11 Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

11.1 How many ordinations to the priesthood or diaconate have there been from your parish in the last 20 years?

None BUT we did have a Deacon ordained just before this time frame AND a seminarian is in his second year at Oscott.

11.2 How many men or women have entered religious life from your parish in the last 20 years?

None.

11.3 Are there any current seminarians or religious postulants from your parish?

Yes. One Seminarian.

11.4 Are there any initiatives which your parish is taking to promote and encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life?

We pray very often for vocations.

12 Ethnic Chaplaincies and Eastern Catholic Churches

12.1 Are there any ethnic chaplaincies or Eastern Catholic Churches meeting in your parish?

Description	Frequency: Monthly/Weekly	Numbers
Syro Malabar Church	Yearly	100 approx

- 12.2 Are any Catholics who are resident in your parish regularly attending an ethnic chaplaincy outside the parish, either as an alternative to the parish Sunday Mass, or in addition to attending the parish Sunday Mass?

Description	Location	Time	Freq.: Mthly/Wkly	Numbers
Syro Malabar Chruch	Blessed sacrament	16.00	Monthly	50

- 12.3 Are any Catholics receiving pastoral care from an ethnic chaplaincy either within the parish or outside the parish?

Description	Location	Numbers
Retreats	Various	
Home Blessings		

Thank you for completing Part A of the questionnaire.
Part B is very different, encouraging more reflection and discussion.



Part B - Reflective Questions

When Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee and called his first disciples (Mt 4:18), they must not have had a clue what they were getting into. Four fishermen became 'apprentices' to an itinerant leader, teacher and healer, overnight. In Mark's Gospel (Mk 1:21) the first thing they did was to accompany Jesus into the Synagogue in Capernaum, where he proceeded to break the Jewish law by healing a possessed man on the Sabbath.

There is something exciting about being a disciple, an 'apprentice' of Jesus. There is so much to learn and discover. Jesus walked around the countryside with his followers, both women and men; they were a community, a community on the move. The disciples were formed and shaped within this community.

Once Jesus died and rose from the dead, the disciples were terrified. They ran away (to Emmaus) or hid in an upper room or reverted to their previous job – seven of them went back fishing. Time after time Jesus came among them and reassured them. They were totally taken over by the Holy Spirit and began their work as missionaries; they are instructed to go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel.

We live in a very different world today. But as a result of our Baptism, we are called, gifted and sent. We too are sent into the world. We are missionaries within our local population, disciples among all the residents in our neighbourhood.

The local priest looks after the flock. We are immersed in the world; and we engage with each other, with those hurt by the Church, those separated from the Church for whatever reason and those beyond the institution of the Church. Every one of us has a particular pathway of discipleship to follow, and many of us discover it through the communities within which we live.

It is only right that we pray for more men to respond to the call of God to become ordained priests. It is also true that we all need to explore how God is calling us to make a difference in the world we live in. This calling (or vocation) may be to marriage, parenthood, the single life, nursing, policing... . God has an infinite imagination; there is a unique calling for each one of us. We become disciples when we learn to look at our world through the eyes of Jesus.

This questionnaire will help us to look at our community and discover how it can help each and every one of us become an apprentice of Jesus.

We have heard the facts and figures, the prospect of having 50 priests in our Diocese in 2030, the need for a wider variety of leadership in the Church and the very basic need to become more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit who is leading us into the future.

Pope Francis gives us clear guidance when he says in *Evangelii Gaudium* (para 20):



"Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel".

With this call in mind, let us begin to explore the questions before us.

*Note: Please use a maximum of **250** words in response to each of the questions.*

1 The Christian Faithful

The Christian Faithful are the heart of every worshipping community. If it is to flourish, a community needs a core of members who are committed to the Gospel of Christ and are willing to make the community a priority, giving generously of their time, imagination, gifts and other resources. A viable parish needs a healthy number of active members.

- a) How can your community look to sustain and increase the number of people worshipping with you towards 2030?**

2 Leadership

It is certain that in the future even more communities will be sharing a priest with other worshipping communities. Priests and deacons will be working more collaboratively with people. The prospect of having around 50 active priests in our Diocese in 15 years' time (2030) certainly sharpens the mind. While we must continue to pray that men will respond to the call of discipleship as ordained priests and deacons, we also need to look carefully at the development of other forms of leadership in the Church.

a) What lay leadership is currently viable and effective in your community?

Our meetings have led to the conclusion that we have a lot of lay leadership in the three churches of our parish. There is a sense that it sometimes feels like the same people are volunteering for things again and again and that it would be lovely if some more new people came forward.

There has always been an active Parish Council and about a year ago it was refreshed and reinvigorated by a new constitution accompanied by a new Parish Vision.

We are blessed with many talented and generous people and lay leadership manifests itself in many areas of our parish life.

Some have been going on for a long time:

Catechism and liturgy for children and young people

Readers Rotas

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Rotas

SVP

Music

Finance

We also benefit from leadership in the context of our Joint Management Committee for our shared buildings.

Others are new initiatives:

Communications

Welcoming

Social activity

Bereavement support

We also perceive a need to initiate something new in the area of Adult Formation and that is under discussion at PPC level.

We believe that as a community we can do more to support our Priests and Deacons and we are looking forward to accepting that challenge in the future. A new and more collaborative approach is something that we believe is viable in our parish.

b) For what other areas of your community life could trained lay men and women assume responsibility?

3 Active Involvement of People

- We think that Adult formation (Faith Development) is an area to explore. Our meetings have identified a strong desire for more to be done in this area and a willingness to get involved.
- Support for Marriage and Care for those in marriage.
- The meetings identified a need to “Market” our church in the local community. This would involve the considerable new housing developments identified above.
- The idea of Lay Pastoral Assistants has been raised. We wonder if it would be possible to train lay people to become Pastoral Assistants but not necessarily at the same level as the people who are currently called Lay Pastoral Assistants. Perhaps we need to identify a more simple programme that would enable lay people to use their talents for the benefit of the church without needing to undertake a long training programme and then commit to too much work. Busy family lives may be need a new approach to be considered.

In parishes where the same small, ageing group of parishioners has served the community extremely well over very many years, there may be some real anxiety about the future. As that small group retires and withdraws from active involvement, the community is at risk of floundering if younger parishioners are unable or unwilling to take their place.

a) How diverse and active are parishioners within the community?

Apart from the daily work people do in and around the parish we do not think that members of our parish community are noticeably active in the local community .

b) How can the parish community invite and prepare more people to support it?

See comments about Housing developments and Communications group.

Pope Francis encourages us to be a church that is attractive and that attracts people to want to join it.

Our PPC is looking at all aspects of our parish life with a view to making ourselves more attractive to new people.

4 Worship and Spiritual Life

A flourishing community has worship at the centre of its life. The ultimate goal is to make Jesus Christ known and loved. This is why Jesus Christ is at the heart of every worshipping community. The Eucharist is the principal means in which we celebrate this. The Holy Spirit may well be leading us to discover a variety of forms of worship and devotion in the future. For this very reason a living community makes every effort to encourage parishioners of all ages and backgrounds to participate fully in prayer, devotion, worship and study.

God loves us individually. We respond to God's love in our own ways. When we come together for worship we all need to have a sense that our relationship with God is strengthened and affirmed.

a) Are there aspects of your community's regular worship together at Mass that are working particularly well and deepen the spiritual life of those present?

At New Hall and St Augustine's we are blessed with a strong contingent of Altar Servers who are well trained by our Deacon and over the years have provided a great model of service to the church and they have always enhanced our liturgy.

Across our three churches we are also blessed with many very good readers, a committed group of excellent Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,

We have a good music group at St Augustine's.

The experience of regular worship differs across the 3 churches. We recognise a tension between maintaining three worshipping communities in different venues and very different contexts (mass in a private school chapel, an evening vigil mass in the smaller of our communities with no music and a Sunday Mass at St Augustine's with music) combined with the fact that some people prefer to be at one venue or another; and the expressed view that bigger would be better.

b) Is there anything your community can do to encourage a deeper prayer life and engagement with Scripture?

Yes.

As stated above we consider adult formation to be an important opportunity for us to look at.

Discussion groups and Bible Study groups are another possibility.

Our meetings like the idea of promoting retreats, lent lectures and Quarantore devotions.

5 Education and Continuing Formation

A flourishing community will be able to show that the Catholic faith is handed on to children, young people and adults by means of regular programmes of religious education and Christian Formation.

- a) What good experiences has your community had in the past and what opportunities would you like to see for 'continuing formation' in the faith for members of your community?**

Limited. See above.

- b) How can closer relationships be developed between the worshipping community, the school(s) the young people attend, and the families that belong to both?**

6 Outreach

A flourishing community extends a spirit of hospitality and invites people to become members. It also looks way beyond itself to discover how the spirit of Jesus can be brought to bear on everything that concerns us in the world: our relationship with other Christian Churches, women and men of other faiths and all men and women of good will in our world.

Under this heading we include: hospitality; Ecumenism; Interfaith relationships; involvement in local social and political issues and much more. It explores the practical ways we have of becoming 'missionary disciples'.

a) What good experiences has your community had regarding our call to be involved with other Christians, other faiths, all men and women of good will?

Very Limited.

Some parishioners join in the Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

We have stopped having joint services with our Anglican neighbours.

b) How can your worshipping community become more immersed in the local community?

Our Communications group has a medium term aim of promoting what goes on in our parish to the wider local community.

7 Finances

A sustainable community must have an annual income that is sufficient to cover its expenses. There needs to be a reliable level of stewardship among the faithful who willingly give of their time, gifts and energy to sustain the work of the community.

- a) How do you feel about the average weekly offertory donation in your community? Does this need to increase to enable your community to flourish in 2030?**

When we discussed our finances there was a general feeling that we “are doing alright”. We are meeting our outgoings and levels of giving have been maintained well despite a significant drop in attendance. However during the meetings it has become apparent that we are likely to face increased costs in the future. Our building at St Augustine is going to need maintenance work that would mean our surpluses in recent years would be more than wiped out.

This would be a problem at two levels.

Firstly because we would not be able to pay to keep the building in the condition it needs to be in in order to facilitate good regular worship.

Secondly because we need the surpluses to repay the loan of nearly £250,000 to the Diocese.

As a parish we recognise the responsibility to repay this loan. It was taken out in order to fund the expansion of St Augustine’s Church in order to accommodate the many new parishioners expected from the new housing developments. This has not yet come to pass.

- b) If you are a finance-rich community, how do you feel about sharing some of your resources with very poor parts of the Diocese?**

We would love to be a finance rich Community but until the loan is repaid we are in significant debt.

8 Facilities

A flourishing community needs good facilities which need to be well maintained. It cannot undertake any building projects, renovations or improvements unless it has the resources to pay for them. It may be that in some places, there is a need for a plan for the community and a plan for the buildings, and they may be separate plans. It is also true to say that our buildings can be a witness to the presence of the Church in our world, or a drain on resources and energy.

a) What sort of use can your community foresee for any unused or underused parish facilities in the future?

We think that we have a decent balance between the use of our church at St Augustine for worship and the Hall parts of the building for other purposes.

b) How can the community develop the capacity to look after its facilities in the future?

We have no available assets at the moment and so the only avenue open to us is to increase the number of parishioners who contribute to the costs of our church and for those who already contribute to consider contributing more.

It is partly for this reason that we consider a Marketing initiative may be appropriate to encourage people to come to our church from the new housing developments.

9 Geographic Distance

A flourishing community may be influenced by its location. The proximity of neighbouring parishes can have a real impact on the vibrancy of a community. If several communities are in close proximity with large, ageing buildings that are only half-full, this will need to be taken into account when considering the future.

Our basic question is about how we can enable communities to flourish in order for us to deepen our sense of discipleship and service. Our parish churches are not private chapels maintained simply because the community has enough money to cover the expense.

- a) How does your community feel about the possibility that the only way to ensure flourishing in the future is to become part of a new parish community?**

- b) Are there ways in which your community can serve and support neighbouring communities?**

- c) If applicable, what is the relationship between different churches or Mass centres within the parish or between linked parishes?

- d) Is/are there neighbouring parishes which would lend themselves to being linked to your parish or to becoming part of a partnership or “cluster”?

10 Young People

Young people are not just the 'future' of the Church; they are very much part of the present. We all need to look at how actively young people are encouraged and affirmed in their contribution to the community throughout the year. The enthusiasm and energy of young people can sometimes be daunting to those who are older, but they are also signs of the Holy Spirit within us and among us.

a) What good experiences regarding Church life do the young people have in your community?

Serving: Has always been a strong tradition of Servers in the Guild of St Stephen

Reading: More young people are taking up the offer to be readers and we are doing more to encourage that.

First Holy Communion groups

Confirmation Groups.

Being a part of the welcome experience at our church.

We are starting to encourage more young people to be active in the Music for our worship. This has always happened to some extent but it can be wider.

b) How can the presence and witness of young people be more encouraged and supported in the community?

We think that we can build on what we already have (and we think that a lot are already involved in something) by:

- working more closely with our primary school
- Develop relationships with St John Payne and New Hall if possible
- focusing more on the young people who leave and go to University and then come back
- having some sort of “commissioning” of young people who have been confirmed. The idea would be to make their confirmation the start of their personal ministry and perhaps asking them to commit to a theme for a year after their confirmation. This might be to work with SVP or some other catholic charity, to serve on the PPC or to contribute in some particular way to the life of their church.
- Encouraging young people and old people and middle aged people to mix more. We all have different gifts and they change during our lives. We need to explore ways of making our church community a community for people of all ages all the time. We discussed using the SVP as a vehicle for this but it is something to explore more widely.
- Rather radically we also discussed the idea that we should ask young people what they want!
- We should find ways to give them the opportunities to witness to their faith in a “No Pressure” sort of way.
- A regular Youth Mass where the young people could do all the organising and all the reading and chose all the music..
- Invite young people personally and individually to offer their gifts.
- Promote Youth Mass at Cathedral and make it possible for our young people to get there.

11 What Else?

- a) Given all the findings you have explored in Part A of this questionnaire, what would you see as the priorities to ensure a viable and flourishing community in 2030?

- b) Do you have any other observations - particularly about anything we may have missed?

12 Good Practice

There is no doubt that there are some really innovative things going on within our worshipping communities from Parish Fun Days which bring together the whole community to imaginative liturgies during Holy Week; from exciting Confirmation programmes to pilgrimages and vigils.

- a) Is there something your community is involved in which will be of interest to others in the Diocese? Please use as much space as you need.**

Thank you for completing Section B.
The final section is brief but does need serious thought.

Part C *Not to be completed until November 2016*

Our Parish Community's Initial Thoughts and Ideas about the Future

Based upon the wide consultation and reflection that has taken place in completing parts A and B of this questionnaire, please use this section to provide an indication of your parish community's initial thoughts about its future. You are also asked to provide information about the consultation process that has taken place to inform these views.

a) Our initial thoughts and ideas

Based on everything you have prayerfully and carefully considered so far please set out below the initial thoughts and ideas from your community about the way forward for your parish. You may also wish to provide a view about anything that is emerging regarding the ability of your parish to flourish into the future – either on its own or in conjunction with another community.

Please feel free to use as much space as you need.

Our initial thoughts and ideas (continued)

b) The Consultation Process

Please describe the process used within your parish to consult widely with the community on your responses to this question. Please include the dates of meetings and other activities you have held, their purpose and the numbers attending. Thank you.

Date of meeting or other activity	Nature of activity (e.g. open parish meeting)	Purpose of meeting / activity	Numbers attending / participating

We expect to receive completed questionnaires by 31 December 2016. We will then begin to analyse all of the findings and be back in touch with every parish once this task has been completed.

Thank you so much for all your work and observations.

We hope this whole exercise has been fruitful and enlightening.

Please continue to pray for all those involved in the next stage of Stewards of the Gospel.



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