

NEWTON ST LOE QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

A brief summary of the replies received (27 from village residents – 27 from non-residents) is given below. A copy of the full analysis is available from the Parish Office (872275).

These results have been discussed at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council and will continue to be 'built into' planning for the future – both in terms of forms of worship and changes in the church building. Although a few replies reflected very different opinions, there was general agreement on most aspects of the future of Holy Trinity Church.

Services: There is a clear wish for our worship to look more effectively at the needs of younger generations. Ways of planning more involvement in the main services, as well as placing a stronger emphasis on the potential importance of the Sunday School, are already being considered.

Perhaps not surprisingly, it was the 'special' services (Remembrance Day, Christmas and Easter) which received most support. Our policy of maintaining a regular monthly pattern of services continues to give opportunities for a range of hymns, using the *Ancient and Modern book* as well as others chosen from *Mission Praise* and *Hymns for Today* to suit the service – Common Worship for the first Sunday in the month, second Sunday Family Service, third Sunday the traditional 1662 service and Holy Communion with a choir on the fourth Sunday.

Church fabric: Many of the views expressed reflect an appreciation of the "wonderful church", while suggesting ways in which the building could become more "integrated with the village". It is encouraging to realise that some of the fabric changes proposed in the plans we have submitted for consideration, to the Diocesan Office, should offer major opportunities in the future.

As well as a renovation of the heating system, the plans include provision of a toilet and kitchen in the church.

In order to offer more flexible use of the church building, both by congregations and community groups, a plan is also under consideration to replace the fixed pews in the north aisle with chairs.

The most urgent need, however, is to deal with the vestry's subsidence. A new lightweight structure is planned to house the organ blower and the vestry will be moved to the ground floor of the bell tower, with a new floor built above for the ringers.

All this means that, to ensure that our church continues to be available and well equipped to meet future needs – both for regular worship and such special occasions as christenings, weddings and funerals – a major fund-raising project will be necessary. However, the largely positive nature of the responses to the questionnaire shows how much the church is valued and needed. Our goodwill now needs to be transformed into action!

Gerry Hones

NEWTON ST LOE QUESTIONNAIRE OF 2009

- 54 replies received, 27 from non-residents (out of 30 sent) and 27 from Newton residents (from 67 homes).
- **Residents' Results:**
 - 12 were over 60
 - 11 were between 40 - 60
 - 4 were between 18 - 40
- They first attended between 1yr and 53yrs ago.
- The services attended were, in order:
 - Specials
(Remembrance, Christmas, Easter) - 19
 - Family Service - 8
 - Family Communion - 5
 - 8.00am - 4
 - MP (CW) - 3
 - MP (BCP) - 3
- The services found most helpful were:
 - Specials - 17
 - Family Service - 8
 - Family Communion - 7
 - 8.00am, MP (CW), MP (BCP) - each marked 3
 - Evensong and 5th - each marked 1
- 13 would invite someone to a Special; 9 to a Family Service; 5 to Family Communion; 3 to MP (CW) and MP (BCP); 2 to Evensong and 1 to 5th.
3 would invite someone to any service.
- Transport was not a problem.
- Changes to the building:
13 would make none/didn't know. But the following were mentioned:
 - heating (6)
 - toilet (4)
 - kitchen (2)
 - safe children's area
 - different place for coffee
 - softer seating
- Changes to services:
 - 10.00am not 11.15am
 - More prayer book
 - More Holy Communion
 - More modern hymns
 - More traditional hymns
 - More dramas
 - Less ritual
 - More involvement of younger children

- What is best about the church?
 - Just being there
 - Peace and tranquillity (4)
 - Age of building (2)
 - Welcome (8)
 - The choir
 - Different forms of service
 - Involvement of many people
 - Follow-up care
 - Stood the test of time
 - Bell-ringing
 - The people (7)

- What needs updating?
 - Nothing
 - Toilet facilities
 - Access to mains water
 - Age of congregation
 - Sometimes sermons too long
 - More welcoming
 - Heating
 - Facilities for children and encourage more young people and their families

- Some Stats:
 - Of the 27 replies:
 - 4 had lived here over 30 years
 - 15 had lived here 5 – 30 years
 - 8 had lived here less than 5

 - 22 claimed to have a religious faith
 - 4 were not sure
 - 1 said no

 - Of those who attended:
 - 23 said it was here
 - 5 said it was elsewhere

- Other comments:
 - Wonderful church, must be preserved
 - Integrate more with village
 - Raise profile of church
 - Encourage congregation to feel appreciated
 - More younger people
 - Retain the young (?Sunday youth Club)
 - More interesting services
 - Very ritualistic and old-fashioned
 - Don't enjoy traditional Church of England services
 - Purchase Christian toys and books for Sunday School
 - Hold Sunday School more frequently

- **Non-Residents Results**

- 18 were over 60
- 4 were between 40 – 60
- 5 were 18 – 40

- They first attended between 3 and 70+ years ago.

- The services attended were, in order:

- All	-	3
- Specials (Remembrance, Christmas, Easter)	-	21
- MP (BCP)	-	14
- Family Service	-	13
- MP (CW)	-	12
- Evensong	-	3
- 5 th Sunday	-	3
- 8.00am	-	2

- The services found most helpful were:

- Specials	-	21
- Family Service	-	15
- Family Communion	-	14
- MP (BCP)	-	13
- MP (CW)	-	13
- Evensong	-	7
- 8.00am	-	6
- 5 th Sunday	-	5

- 7 would invite someone to all services; 10 to a Special, 8 to Family Communion; 7 to Family Service; 3 to MP (BCP); 2 to Evensong and 1 to 8.00am and 5th Sunday.

- 1 person found lack of transport could be a problem.

- Changes to the building:

8 would make none/didn't know. But the following were mentioned:

- heating (5)
- toilet (17)
- kitchen (9)
- area for meeting (3)
- space to serve coffee
- more comfortable seating (2)
- lighting
- baby changing facilities
- side chapel
- path can be slippery
- mains water

- Changes to services:
 - 10.00am
 - Hold services in other places (2)
 - More Evensong
 - Encourage more lay participation
 - Services old-fashioned
 - Increase social events
 - Update hymns
 - More involvement of younger children

- What is best about the church?
 - Peace and tranquillity (4)
 - Building (9)
 - Welcome (8)
 - The people (14)
 - Variety of services (3)
 - Traditional services
 - The organ
 - The setting (3)

- What needs improving?
 - Vestry
 - Toilet
 - Heating (3)
 - Move font to create space
 - More village to attend (2)
 - More young people to attend
 - Attractions for the younger people
 - Numbers attending
 - Less reliance on the elderly
 - Time for clergy to be able to stay and talk
 - Involving the young while maintaining traditions

- Other comments:
 - Mission to children and young families
 - Do the villagers really want a church?
 - Use church for other purposes
 - Bring back Carol concert
 - Regular congregation getting older
 - Encourage 30-40's
 - Plan for very young and teens
 - Hold an event which would involve the whole village - ? Carol singing ending at village hall
 - More activities for everyone
 - Sunday School more regular and publicised
 - 11.15am difficult if eg. family coming to lunch
 - More community events, e.g. Harvest Suppers
 - Have a Bible in the pew
 - More feedback re MP (CW)
 - An evening of gospel choir singing
 - Music concerts with the Uni
 - Glaze off north aisle