



Congregational survey

One of the main assets in our churches is our members. When planning for community engagement or social action, it can be helpful to know about the skills, interests and voluntary activities of church members.

A congregational survey is one way of gathering this information. This can be carried out with the church congregation in different ways - some use it as a survey for the whole church to fill in and return, others use it as a tool for one-to-one conversations.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Decide how to undertake the survey – with the whole congregation or in one-to-one conversations. **See the guidance below: Preparing to listen to others.**
- Look through the **example survey questions** and adapt them if necessary.
- Decide how the answers will be collated and how the information will be fed back to the church members and leadership. You may decide to use the **example summary sheet** provided.

PREPARING TO LISTEN TO OTHERS

In preparing to talk to people in your congregation and local community you will need to consider **how you communicate what you are doing** and how you might answer any questions about it that people may have.

You also need to consider **how to deal with any sensitive information** that could come up in conversation. This is particularly important if there is any disclosure about **risk of harm or abuse to a child or vulnerable adult**. If this does happen, the information should be passed on in accordance with your Church's Safeguarding Policy.

In a group consider the following questions and agree some principles together:

1. How will you explain what you are doing and what the information will be used for?
2. Think through what questions your explanation provoke and how you might respond to them.
3. How might you deal with someone telling you something but asking you to keep it confidential?
4. Who is your Church's Safeguarding officer and what is your Church's procedure for a disclosure?



Congregational survey (continued)

Example congregational survey

OUR CONGREGATION: GETTING TO KNOW OURSELVES BETTER!

Please tell us your name: _____

Age group: (please circle one) 20 or under / 21-25 / 36-50 / 51-65 / 66-80 / 81+

Tell us about a time or experience when your involvement and engagement with this church has made a difference to you.

How would you describe your involvement with this church community?

What is special about this church and the people involved?

What do you think needs to be done differently to make this church community even better?

What voluntary activities are you involved in which are not linked to church? e.g. charity shop, local groups, local school etc.

What gifts and skills, interests and passions do you have? Do you feel these could be better used / shared and how?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.



Congregational survey (continued)

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET

Participants

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F

M

Age range

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>20

21-35

26-50

51-65

65-80

81+

Services attended

Insert time

A role in church

e.g. Church warden,
Children's Worker
(numbers)

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Yes

No

Voluntary activity

List possibilities

Number

e.g. Scouts	4

Hours spent

1-5 hours

5-10 hours

10 hours+

Volunteering activity aligned to church (numbers)

Yes

No

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Yes

No

Volunteering activity outside church (numbers)

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