

Parish Questionnaire Review

29 returns

Age Range	Number
Over 65	17
50-65	9
26-49	2
16-25	1

***How can we retain our current worshippers and bring others in?***

1

Mass

Make Interesting	2
Shared Experience	7
Change Time	1
Have an organist	1
Make centre of Parish Life	1
Be able to hear	1
Involve more young people	3
Use CD for hymns	1
Welcome	4
Value Parishioners	1
Develop relationship with priest	3
Build on community spirit	1
Keep doing what is happening	3
Encourage attendance	1

Actions

Talk to people who have stopped attending	4
Personal letter from priest to those who have stopped attending	1
No racism in prayers	1
Pray spontaneously more often	1
Refer to Bishop Barron	1
Share our faith	1
Give Catholic teaching	1
Have strong leadership	1
Be there in time of need	1
Make a feature of Father Byles	1

Social Activities

Increase social events	2
Replace the sign outside	2
Advertise on town noticeboards	1
Update website	1
Write information leaflet about parish	1
Social clubs for children/ mums /etc	1

***Do you have any interests, experience or qualities you wish to offer the Church?***

2	Catechist	1
	Children's Liturgy	1
	Youth Masses	1
	Christingle	1
	Organise Children's visit to care home	1
	Family Fun Day	1
	Pastoral & Administration	3
	DIY	1
	Leaflet Distribution	1
	Gardening	1
	Church Cleaning	1
	Reader	1
	Finance	2
	Social Event Life	2
	Lead Pilgrimage	1
	Not at the moment	8

***Would you like to be more involved in parish life? Yes/ No***

3	Want to be more involved	15
	SVP	1
	Altar Serving	1
	Salt car park when necessary	1
	No	11

***How would you like to become more involved in parish life?***

4	Organise something for elderly	1
	Children's events	1
	Sacristan	1
	SVP	1
	Bazaar	1
	Prepare children for First Communion	1
	Be involved in decision making	1
	Car lifts to ongar from Doddinghurst	1
	Sr Anne Prayer Group	1
	More social events	1

***How can the parish become more focused on Christ and the Scriptures?***

5	Talk about Christ in a way people understand	1
	Try to follow Christ	2
	Teach from the pulpit	3
	Sermons based on readings and today's problems	1

Use saints to inspire	1
Give weekly sheet to adults as reminder of God in daily lives	1
keep ceremonies short	1

Study Forum	2
House Group meetings	1
Prayer group	1
Meditation group	1
Focus on liturgical year	2
Christian culture club	1
Bible study group	1
Programme of evangelisation	1
Bible group meetings	1

Pray more at home	1
Lectio Divina	1
Meditate on readings in advance of Sunday Mass	1
Use <a href="http://teachsundayschool.com">teachsundayschool.com</a>	1

Work for peace and harmony	1
Get cushions for St Helen	1
Signpost for toilet	1
Create atmosphere of holiness	1
Move forward- leave past behind	1
Develop humility	1

***What Prayers and Devotions are you fond of?***

6 Hail Holy Queen	9
Hail Mary	7
Rosary	8
Memorae	2

Our Father	4
Angelus	4

The Mass	5
Latin Mass	2
Benediction	4
Adoration	4
Divine Mercy	4

Stations of the Cross	5
-----------------------	---

Reconciliation Service	1
------------------------	---

Prayer of the Church	2
----------------------	---

Prayer for the young	1
----------------------	---

St Anthony	2
St Ignatius	1
St Patrick's breastplate	1
St Teresa of Avalon	1
St Therese	1
St Michael	1
St Anne	1

New Testament	1
---------------	---

Receiving the Sacraments	1
--------------------------	---

Good Friday Service	1
---------------------	---

Novena	1
--------	---

Carol Service	1
---------------	---

Hymns	1
-------	---

Prayer of healing and peace	1
-----------------------------	---

Morning and evening prayers	1
-----------------------------	---

Seasonal Feasts	1
-----------------	---

Quiet time to reflect	1
-----------------------	---

***Do you feel confident in your grasp of Theology & Doctrine?***

***Yes/ No***

7 Degree in Theology	1
Taught RE	1
Shared scripture in theology	1

Yes	16
-----	----

No	7
----	---

***Would you like more Parish Programmes on this ( eg current Catholicism series)?***

8 Yes	9
No	16

The Mass	2
----------	---

Bible sharing	1
---------------	---

Sacrament of Reconciliation	1
-----------------------------	---

RCIA	1
------	---

Podcasts of key sermons	1
-------------------------	---

***If you have children, which school(s) do they attend?***

9 Brentwood Ursuline	4
St John Payne, Chelmsford	1
St Helen's, Brentwood	1

**What opportunities do you see for our Church to reach others  
outside the Faith?**

10	Link with others already established	5
	Revive churches together, Doddinghurst	2
	Invite others to our church	1
	Priest needs to be more involved in Doddinghurst	1

	Be welcoming	2
	Relate gospel message to everyday life	1
	Be a presence in non-faith schools	1
	Lead by Example	2
	Talk about what faith means in everyday life	4
	Show Catholics care	2
	Capitalise on Fr Byles	2
	Give a talk on history of St Helens	1
	Keep Churches open	1
	Walk of witness	1

	Intergrate life and church	6
	Have a social committee	1
	SVP	1
	Lenten Lunches	1
	Interfaith retreat	1
	Adopt a proper scheme	1
	Elderly people club	1

	Be non-judgemental	1
	Get rid of out-dated rules; focus on love	1
	Column in Ongar News/ Brentwood Gazette	1
	Advertise in other church magazines	1
	Better publicity	1
	Use Radio Essex	1
	Have a poster in High Street	1
	Larger signs to the Church	1
	Use outside Notice Boards	1

**The Diocese asks 'How do you feel about the average weekly  
offering- Does it need to increase to enable your community to  
flourish in 2030?'**

11	People should give what they can afford	5
	Gift Aid	3
	Advertise how much it costs to run the Parish	10
	Give what I can	1

	No	7
	Yes	4

There is competition with other charities	2
All organisations want more money	1
Share ministries with other parishes	1
Review expenses regularly	2
Suggest £5 weekly minimum	1
Generate other income streams eg car park	1

***How can we develop the resources to care for our beautiful Church and its' historic Presbytery for future generations?***

12	Inform parishioners of costs regularly	1
	List areas required for volunteer	1
	Match -funding applications	1
	Invite people to leave a legacy	1
	Launch an appeal	1
	Sell St Margaret and invest the money	1
	Sell presbytery and priest live in a flat	1
	Start a sustainability fund	2
	Hold external events for revenue	1
	Build a parish room in St Helen's garden	1

Fund raising events increased	7
Coffee mornings	3
Monthly raffle	1
Sell books	1
Hold annual pilgrimage and carnival	1
Make Fr Byles a tourist attraction	6
Hold a history talk and charge	1
Put bell at back of church for visitors	1
Write a booklet about the church	1
Hold fun activities	1
Charge for membership	1
Have a donation charge to church	1

Keep the church in good shape	1
Get a new carpet	1
Increase attendance of events	1
Constant and ongoing refurbishment	1

Place spiritual life at centre of parish	2
--	---

***How do you see the link between St Helen's and St Margarets's?***

13	Inexorably & complementary	7
	Offer events in both places	8
	Need a choir at St Helens	1
	There is a "them and us" culture	2
	We need to help each other	2

St Margaret's is the social hub	1
PPC make no effort to bring the two together	1
Move times of Mass	1
Barriers are 'manmade'	1
Both places serve different functions	1
St Helen's not approachable for younger generation	1
The only link is the priest	1
Strong leadership is required	1
It works well and it helps to keep a priest	1
There is a distant relationship	1

***Are there neighbouring Churches with which you would like closer links?***

14	There are ecumenical links in Doddinghurst	10
----	--	----

St Nicholas Kelvedon Hatch	1
Ingatestone RC	2
All Saints	1
Epping RC	1
St Martins C of E	2

We should be more inclusive	1
All churches should be embraced	1

Provide and advertise Deanery events	1
--------------------------------------	---

***What so you think about the possibility that the only way to ensure a flourishing Catholic presence in Essex in the future may be a differently shaped parish?***

15	Shame	2
	Parent need to encourage children to attend	1
	Do not separate St Helen and St Margaret	1
	Transport is an issue	2
	Priest should visit schools	1
	Timings os Mass is crucial	1
	Opposed to spliiting parish	1
	Leadership required	2
	Splitting needs to be sensitively done	2
	St Helen should stay	1
	Church needs to feel like a family	1
	We are the biggest parish in the diocese	1
	We need to be flexible	1
	Keep village churches open	1
	We need to consult and be open	3
	Our parish is fine	1
	St Helen needs to be better signposted	1
	Christ at centre is more important than geography	1
	Keep parish open	1

***How can we nurture the faith of the young, and keep them close to Christ?***

16	Stop referring to young as 'church of future' - they are now	1
	Parents encourage children to attend	6
	Discuss faith	1
	Be aware of spiritual development	1
	Help children to pay attention	1
	Attend catholic school	4
	Have childrens' liturgy	5
	Encourage participation at Mass	1
	Provide Catechesis	2
	Sit at front to keep their interest	1
	Make young feel wanted	1
	Work with youth	1
	Hold reunion Mass for recently baptised, First Communion, RCIA etc	1
	Embrace Youth 2000	1
	Encourage diocesan Youth masses	2
	make young feel needed	1
	Have music to reflect their age	1
	Link with BCYS	1
	Let God work/ keep the faith	1
	Have a rep on the PPc	1
	Have volunteering group	1
	Organise coach trip	1
	Hold weekday meetings	1
	Hold social events/ family events	1
	Be welcoming not patronising	1
	Change old rules	1

***What are your priorities to ensure a viable and flourishing Church in 2030?***

17	Become a major influence in life of community	8
	Help children to understand the Mass	7
	Help children to understand their faith	5
	Children need to be part of the life of the Church	3
	Help parishioners to feel part of an extended family	2
	We need a permanent parish priest	2
	Share faith stories/ visitors	2
	Ensure all can attend Mass and receive the Sacraments	1
	Encourage parents to keep coming	1
	Support each other	1
	Live the Gospel	1
	Make links with Church-home-school	1
	Put Christ in the centre	1



Lively music	1
Pray for Church/ vocations	1
Welcome new people	2
Value other churches	1
Share challenges	1

Publish history of the Church	1
-------------------------------	---

Hold social events	5
Have Harvest Festival	1
Mother & Toddler group	1

Share how much It costs to run the parish	1
Encourage involvement	1
Open agenda of possible changes	1
Be inclusive	1
Equality for men and women	1

Keep meetings to a minimum- publish agendas and outcomes	1
Bring St Helen up to date	1