



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 Andrew Headon and Ms Adele Angel can be contacted at dspg@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Background Details

Name of parish:

St Anne Line

Details of church(es) in the parish:

Church name	Church address
St Anne Line	7 Grove Crescent, South Woodford, London, E18 2JR

Key parish contacts:

Priest(s)	Permanent Deacon(s)	Steward of the Gospel
Fr Francis Coveney		Chris and Mary Busk

Details of main contact for this questionnaire:

Name:	Chris and Mary Busk	Address: 7 Grove Crescent, South Woodford, London, E18 2JR
Telephone No:	07949799165	
Email Address:	Marybusk@outlook.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
440	508	497	514	445	472	432	432	395	395	373	392	393	368

Baptisms

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
13	22	27	22	23	29	20	20	16	23	26	26	19	15

Confirmations

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
				23	26	19	15	31	19	15	0	24	18

Marriages

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
5	3	7	5	7	5	3	3	6	2	3	6	5	9

Receptions

1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	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
South Woodford has seen the development of significant numbers of new homes (flats) in the past 10 years and this will continue.	This increases potentially the number of new parishioners who are already practicing, who may be lapsed Catholics or who can be reached through evangelisation.
London is a very multi cultural city with a fast growing populations of whom 25% are children and young people.	Many children and young people to reach.

- 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

- 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	50
11-18	50
19-25	16
26-49	91
50-70	91
Over 70	70
TOTAL	368

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
Chief Catechist (Confirmation)	1
Chief Catechist (First Holy Communion)	1
Chief Catechist (Reconciliation)	1
Readers Coordinator	1
Youth Group Leader	1
Chair of Parish Council	1
SVP President	1
Chair of Finance Committee	1
Chair of Governors OLOL Wanstead	1
Music Group Leader	1

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.

Before
2000

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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

If other, please specify

It has been irregular now increasingly every 4 months

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?

This is not routinely being done. When it does happen it would be through the newsletter and notice boards.

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

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

Age range	Number
Under 40	4
40 -70	8
Over 70	1
TOTAL	13

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?

This does not routinely happen at present. If it did it would be through the Parish newsletter.

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

Age range	Number
Under 40	
40 -70	5
Over 70	
TOTAL	5

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?

Unknown

3.2 How does this compare with the position in 2010?

Unknown

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 Priest	1	7 x 24 hours
Housekeeper	1	13/13.5 hours
Parish Secretary	1	10 hours
Cleaner	1	2 hours

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	-	-	-	0
Holy Communion preparation	1	6	-	7
Confirmation preparation	1	2	-	3
Marriage preparation	-	-	-	0
RCIA programme delivery	-	-	-	-
Other <i>(please list these below)</i>				

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.*

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

4 Worship and Spiritual Life

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

[illegible]

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

None

- 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
Morning Prayers	Weekdays	Parish Church
Weekday Mass	Weekdays	Parish Church
Rosary	Weekdays	Parish Church
Confession		Parish Church

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

Contribution	Number
Readers	18
Eucharistic Ministers	15
Funeral Assistants	0
Children's Liturgy leaders	8
Altar Servers	8
Musicians / Choir	6
Leaders of Morning / Evening Prayer	-
Sacristans	1
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
Rosary Group	Weekdays	St Anne Line
Parish Pilgrimage	1-2 a year	Walsingham/Brentwood Cathedral/Overseas 2017 to Fatima
Eucumenical Lent Group	Weekly during Lent	Peoples houses

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
- | Adult Formation Activity | Yes / No | | Approximate Number |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Catechist Training Programmes | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Eucharistic Ministry Training | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 8 |
| Reader Training | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 6 |
| CCRS Courses | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 1 |
| Lenten Study Groups | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 6 |
| Other Formation Activities (<i>please list below</i>) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| Why Course | | | 6 |
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- Young people in schools and their families

There are no Catholic Schools within the boundaries of the Parish. About half of the children of Primary school age go to State Primary Schools in the Parish and we have a Cathethical programme for them. The other half of Primary school age children go to one of the following Catholic Primary Schools: (i) Our Lady of Lourdes Wanstead; (ii) St Anthony's Woodford Green; (iii) St Josephs Convent Wanstead; (iv) Loyola Preparatory School Buckhurst Hill. Most Secondary School children attend Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green. A very small number of children attend other Catholic Secondary Schools. Some secondary school children attend non Catholic schools, both private and state.

Catholic primary school(s) serving your parish

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

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			
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.

The Primary Schools in the Parish are not Catholic.

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

- 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
to 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>
None	

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

None

- 5.10 Please give details of any joint school / parish non-Eucharistic celebrations. Please include frequency and location. None

- 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.)

None

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:			
	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			

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

The preparation is separate.

- 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).

No

- 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>
None	

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

None

- 5.18 Please give details of any joint parish / secondary school non-Eucharistic celebrations. Please include frequency and location. None

- 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.)

None

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?

Annually with weekly meetings

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.

[illegible]

- 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"/>
Cafod	Current project in El Salvador weekly retiring collection	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mission Red Box	There are Mission Promoters and annual Mission collection	<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"/>

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

Parish Priest attends monthly meetings with the local fraternity (Anglicans, Methodists)

- 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	Approx 50 people from all denominations walk in procession with a cross and hold a short outdoor service in the green outside the shops. Also outdoor Stations of the Cross.
Lenten Ecumenical Service	Catholic, Anglican and Methodist churches each host an ecumenical service during Lent
Annual Ecumenical service in November	The Catholic Priest, Anglican and Methodist Vicars participate in this ecumenical service for the deceased and bereaved

- 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>
Three Faiths Forum of East London	Parish Priest on the Executive Committee. Monthly meetings held in Christian, Jewish and Muslim Venues

- 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.)

Social Committee has a Facebook Page. Door to door leaflet distribution for Annual Parish Fete.

7 Finances

7.1 Please complete the details below.

a) Income and Expenditure

£'s	2006	2010	2015
Income:			
Offertory		48493	47678
Gift Aid		9910	10426
Donations		13199	13384
Other income		30517	51001
Total Income		102119	122489
Expenditure:			
Property		(23936)	(28726)
Personnel		(15880)	(33802)
Other costs		(75203)	(27408)
Total Expenditure		(115019)	(89936)
Surplus / (Deficit)		(12900)	32553

b) Surplus / deficit ignoring any extraordinary income or expenditure

£'s	2006	2010	2015
Surplus / (Deficit)		31359	30618

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?

Since 2009 when the Parish Hall opened we have received approximately £60k in hall rental income (up to March 2015). Since 2010 the income from rental of the house was £67k (up to March 2015)

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

Overdraft facility provided by Diocese for building Parish Hall, rebuilding car park, repairs for Church and modifications for 7&8 Grove Crescent

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)			
Parish Current Account		(227,719) O/D	(95,768) O/D

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

30%

7.7 What is the average offertory per head each week?

£2.50

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

This has not been systematically happening.

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>
Annual Summer Fete	Raffle, Stalls, BBQ
Hall Fund	Standing Orders
Macmillan Cancer	Coffee morning
SVP	Coffee morning
Cafod	Weekly collection when no mandatory retiring collections

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
Completion of Cross Rail – increased cost of housing making it very difficult for first time buyers and families to move into the area	Decrease in number of young families
Increase in multiple occupancy rental properties	A more transient community . More ethnic diversity.

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

Nature of Expenditure	Anticipated Cost
None	

Glory be to
the Holy Spirit –
pouring out grace and guidance,
forming us and
renewing us.

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	
South Woodford		St Anne Line		250	

In your opinion		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
8.2	What is the overall state of repair of the Church?	●	○	○	○
8.3	What is the overall state of repair of the Presbytery?	●	○	○	○
8.4	What is the overall state of repair of the Church Hall?	○	●	○	○
				Yes	No
8.5	Is there a car park?	● ○			
8.6	If Yes, how many parking spaces are there?	28			
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?	● ○			
	• Gas safety	● ○			
8.11	Are the following facilities available for people with disabilities?				
	• Accessible toilets	● ○			
	• Level access	● ○			
	• Ramped access	● ○			
	• Loop system	● ○			
8.12	If any of the above provision is lacking are there plans in place to improve the facilities?	○ ○			
8.13	If Yes, please elaborate: N/A				

8.14 Does the church have a cemetery?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8.15 If Yes, who has responsibility for its care?

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

Property / Land	Description
8 Grove Crescent	Self contained 3 double bedroom house (front room used as Parish Office) rented out
Car Park	Rented to local office (Monday to Friday only)

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

Meeting Space	No. of people
Parish Hall – sound proof partition to enable Hall to be used for 2 meetings simultaneously	60 Main Hall 20 meeting room

8.18 Is there a place for smaller weekday Masses?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please provide details

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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"/>
Confirmation and FHC	Programmes	Fortnightly over 6 months	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's Liturgy		Weekly		<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Children's Catechetics		Monthly		<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Parish Socials		3 per year		<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Senior Citizens		Fortnightly		<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Pilates	Class	Twice Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Yoga	Class	weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kids Kung Fu	Class	weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Karate	Class	Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zumba	Class	Twice weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jingle Bop	Class	Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vestry Dance	Class	Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swing Train	Class	Weekly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Bambino Ballet	Class	Weekly	<input checked="" 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.

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
Parish Hall Roof	£14k
Car Park resurfacing	£14k

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

Name of school	Distance
Churchfields Primary (Non Catholic)	0.4 miles
Oakdale Primary (Non Catholic)	0.7 miles
Snaresbrook Primary (Non Catholic)	0.8 miles
Trinity Catholic High School (Catholic Secondary)	1.5 (lower site) 1.8 (upper site)
St Anthony's Woodford (Catholic Primary)	1.8 miles
Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary Wanstead	2 miles
Woodbridge (Non Catholic Secondary)	2 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
South Woodford	St Anne Line

9.1 How many miles is it by road to the nearest 3 Catholic churches from this church?

Church Name	Distance
St Thomas of Canterbury, Woodford Green	1.7 miles

9.7 If Yes, please explain.

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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 new work following the consultation on this Parish Questionnaire. It was seen as an area of importance to Parishioners

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

Activity	Brief description
Youth Club (new)	Once a month
Youth Choir	Once a month
Holiday activities	Party at Christmas for younger children

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

They are not involved and we do not have involvement of the BCYS or other opportunities for young people except through the Confirmation programme. We have monthly Youth Masses.

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monthly Youth Mass	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others – please specify:				

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?

Fr Martin Newall lived for a time in this Parish

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

2 males and 1 female

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

Yes 1 female religious postulant.

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

Yes.

12 Ethnic Chaplaincies and Eastern Catholic Churches

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

[illegible]

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

Description	Location	Numbers

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?

Reflecting experiences from Parishioners from other countries, it was felt that we needed to have a Parish Pastoral Plan to develop our Parish. This should cover a 10-15 year period. It was also felt strongly that this Plan needed to centre on the youth and link more to local schools (Catholic and non Catholic). We needed to hear their voices more. A youth choir was suggested and ways needed to be found to keep the young people engaged and coming to Mass especially in the teenage years.

A “Life Faith Programme” for children and young people was also needed to build a stronger faith community from a young age (e.g. training teenagers to be catechists and to support families to pass on the faith). It was recognised that we faced some challenges in achieving this namely: (i) the lack of Catholic schools in the Parish; (ii) the need for children and young people to motivated to get involved themselves; and (iii) the lack of control over how Catholic education is taught in our schools. One way through this would be to make more of the Confirmation programme and to link those young people into other events and activities in the Parish.

It was felt that we needed to have many more social events and activities to get and to keep people engaged in Parish life and to build commitment to the Parish. We needed to use our own Parish Hall for parish events and to boost Parish life.

We needed to be more personally welcoming to parishioners, old and new, to ensure that we held onto Parishioners and stopped them drifting away. We also should know more about why people who live in the Parish chose to attend other Churches or none at all. We need to find ways to get Parishioners to commit to the Parish – more social events for different ages was one way to do this.

We also needed to communicate more and better as a Parish through social media, a website, leaflets and so on. We needed to be making contact for example through the 4 Local Areas in the Parish as other Parishes have done. This also included a need to be more visible in our local community, with the youth, at Easter and Christmas for example. We could plan and organise special events for Christmas and Easter.

It was felt that we had the potential with the growing local population to grow our Parish over this period providing we put in place the right solutions.

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?

The First Communion and Confirmation Programmes were recognised as were the Readers, counters, flower arrangers, Youth Liturgy, Eucharistic Ministers, SVP and cleaners. The Parish Council and Finance Committees were not well known or visible and nothing was routinely communicated from or about them. It was felt that a Music Ministry and Youth Ministry were missing and much needed.

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

It was felt that lack of training and knowledge could deter some people from volunteering for roles within the Parish. Time constraints with many families having both parents working was another constraint. It was recognised that lay men and women could be trained to deliver support and training about the Catechism to children and their parents. They would also be trained to deliver on this programme of change within the Parish and to lead evangelisation for the Parish within the local area. The role of Deacons within the Diocese was unclear. The role of Pastoral Lay Assistants, which exist in some other Parishes, was also unclear. It it were the case that key roles within the Parish could not be filled with volunteers – such as a Catechist, Youth Worker – then it was recognised that these could become paid roles as they are in some other Parishes. It was also recognised that job descriptions were needed and time commitments to help people see and understand what was involved.

3 Active Involvement of People

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?

There are quite a lot of people involved in various Ministries within the Parish. The age profile is also quite good with the exception of young peoples' involvement. There is also some visibility of disabled people. There is some diversity from involvement of members of different ethnic groups. Many people are also involved in other activities within the local area although this is not always well known or celebrated, for example (i) working with the homeless in Ilford; (ii) McMillan coffee mornings. Sometimes there can be a feeling that some activity is linked to attendance at local Catholic schools and this disappears when the forms for schools have been signed.

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

The feedback was that the Parish felt "dead" and it needed to be enlivened more. We needed to win over heads and hearts. There was a need to be creative to get people back into the Parish and to increase attendance at Mass and other social activities (for example Young People working with other Young People, being much more friendly and welcoming, knowing and speaking to other people in the Parish, holding coffee mornings and other social events). Area socials and area masses were suggested, visiting people in their homes, trained greeters, using the volunteer information more effectively.

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?

Coming to Mass itself was recognised as deepening the spiritual life of those present. It was felt that more explanation of the different parts of the Mass and reasons for the actions of the Priest could help further understand the meaning of the Mass. The Childrens homilies and Childrens liturgy were also recognised as very positive. Having the Rosary after Mass on weekdays was welcomed. New Sunday Missals have just been purchased and are proving very popular to deepen prayer before and during Mass.

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

It was felt that teaching of the Catechism was missing and important for all. This could also be linked to understanding more about the lives of the Saints and "How to Pray". Sessions could be offered depending on the level of need and depth of faith (from those who are starting out to those with a deeper faith). Singing was seen as very important and the need to develop a choir or get other choirs to attend Masses. A Parish Mission was planned and this could help for those who attended. It was also requested that the Church might be opened more often and more work done at Christmas to welcome and spread the faith both to those who attend the Masses and those in our wider Community through evangelisation.

There was a feeling that more needed to be done to advertise the Parish, its Masses through a website, Facebook, written media (like Cards as other Faiths use in the area). Weekday masses could for example attract more people working from home if they knew about them. We could learn from the activities of other Parishes (e.g. Basildon) to spread the word of God and the Good News and the Parish.

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?**

We have strong First Communion and Confirmation programmes and a Childrens liturgy. We have also have RCIA whenever candidates are present. Some from the Parish are involved in the work of the Three Faiths Forum in Redbridge. There is also a Catechism programme for children attending non Catholic schools every month. There have been some other events such as talks on subjects such as Catholicism. We have also had retreats, some Pilgrimages (to Rome in the past and Fatima in 2017), joining Diocesan Pilgrimages, day Pilgrimages, Holy Door Year of Mercy, Cafod links.

- 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?**

There is a need to keep Catechism going for young people between First Communion and Confirmation. This could be linked to an altar serving programme, reading and choir. We could work with other schools to get help with the choir development. Communications could be sent more frequently to these schools from the Parish about events, Masses and so on. We should also develop links with non Catholic schools in the Parish (there are 4 schools) as they might be able to support the Parish too and vice versa. We need to maintain and build on Children's Liturgy and Children's masses – although these do not target teenagers. Better links with schools could also be used to support lapsed Catholics come back to the Church and also to encourage others to explore the faith. We need to do all of this to increase Mass attendance which is falling.

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?

Members of the Parish are or have been involved with:
Three Faiths Forum
Soup Mornings at St Marys South Woodford in Lent (now stopped)
Ecumenical Discussion Groups (now stopped)
Social and political issues affecting for example disabled people
Catholic Fellowship
SVP
YMCA (three parishioners are on the Board for the Area)
Salvation Army
Shelter
Walk of Witness (Good Friday)

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

We feel that our Parish could offer more practical help and support through social events, being more welcoming and helping signpost people to help if they need it, promoting the SVP more widely, possibly inviting local Councillors and MPs to use the Parish Hall to hold surgeries, and promoting the parish and its work to all we meet through evangelisation and spreading the Good News.

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?**

Currently the weekly income is £50k per year. The additional income of £50k from renting the hall, car park and No 8 Grove Crescent is needed to maintain the Church and pay off the debt from building the Parish Hall. It was felt this needed to increase so as to pay for resources to support the Church to evangelise and plan for the future.

- 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?**

It was not clear what “finance – rich” meant and what very poor parts of the Diocese meant. This form was designed by and for another Diocese and it was not clear that this was relevant to this Diocese. It was felt that so much needed to be done in this parish to increase Mass attendance and to evangelise and engage more with the young people that we were not “finance rich” and would not have resources to share.

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 want to use the facilities more for the benefit of the people of the Parish and the young people. We need to hold more social events for people of all ages. A social committee could be formed for this purpose to drive this work forward.

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

At present, this work is done by one Parishioner and the Parish Priest. Health and Safety checks are done by the firm chosen by the Diocese but paid by the parish. Our facilities are in good order in the parish although there is some work to be done in the next few years. We need to budget for mission (evangelising and social events) as well as maintenance.

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?

In discussion it was not clear what becoming “part” of a new Parish community meant exactly and practically. Did it mean sharing Priests or services, working together more closely? It was made clear that there would be real anger were the resources of the parish that the parish had bought and paid for were removed from the Parish. It was felt too that local Parishes of St Thomas and Our Lady of Lourdes were very big and could not accommodate many more Parishioners. Traffic is also poor and public transport not very reliable. This would have a big impact on the elderly in particular. They also have clear identities and St Anne Line does not overlap much with them at all although that is where the closest Catholic Primary and Secondary schools are. There is also a lot of scope for building St Anne Line as a Parish and increasing its Mass Attendance as the local population is growing. We also have a tube station and many local shops and businesses and a very clear and distinct community identity that the Church needs to become more clearly and visibly part of as other non Catholic Churches in the area are doing. There was also however a sense of inevitability about sharing of Priests if and when the numbers were going to fall to the numbers predicted by 2030 by the Diocese. People did not want to see a crisis in the Parish and could see the benefit of planning for sharing of Priests if we are not able to increase vocations to replace priests dying or retiring.

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

We felt that we could serve neighbouring Parishes through prayer, through working closer with schools, and through evangelisation. We recognised that we needed to renew our own Parish and build links to our own community as a priority.

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

This is not applicable.

- 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”?**

There were differing opinions about this and the possibilities for partnership or cluster. There was a recognised concern about the declining numbers of Priests which seemed to make this inevitable at some point in the future. There were concerns about the impact of any changes on the catchment areas for the local Catholic Primary and Secondary schools. Reassurances were requested from the Diocese about this. One possible option was to look at sharing functions with other Parishes (e.g. administration). There were disadvantages and advantages to differing options and traffic congestion and poor public transport an issue as well.

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?

We identified Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Children's Liturgy, Children's Mass, Altar Servers as offering good experiences.

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

It was felt that there needed to be more Youth Masses, Youth Activities (for all ages), Youth Choir, link the Confirmation programme to volunteering opportunities in the local area, pre school spiritual activities for mothers and toddlers, more social outreach (for example Young Cafod Young SVP) There is also a need to build closer links with schools in the Parish and in neighbouring Parishes where the young people go to school.

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?

The priorities were seen as:

Increasing Mass Attendance – including through being more welcoming, reaching out through Local Areas, creating intentional disciples, having more quiet spaces and times and music

Getting Young People involved to live the Gospel – including through a Choir, altar serving, social activities, linking better to schools

Creating a committed and active and trained volunteer group – a bedrock on which to build a renewed Parish to spread the Gospel (and not ruling out paying for key roles if that was needed to make this work especially with the Youth)

Share the good things we do better – for example positive news and better information for new and existing Parishioners

Prayer – for vocations, for the success of this programme

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

The Church can offer a safe place for our children to have fun and play and meet their friends. It needs to be more open to that.

It is also a place to pass on the Faith and this needs to be revitalised.

We need to rebuild a community spirit.

We can also share positive experiences that Parishioners have for example about temperance (Pioneer Total Abstinence Association membership) with the Young people and link that to Confirmation.

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.

The Children's Liturgy was formed a long time ago in this Parish and it is something we are very proud of. We also have a very vibrant Summer Fete and many Parishioners do a lot of very good work through volunteering – i.e. living the Gospel - that we could and should celebrate more.

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.

St Anne Line Parish was opened in 1966 and this process has been a welcome and timely way to take stock of where we are and how we are doing. As a Parish there was agreement that we need to become more friendly and kind to each other, to become more welcoming and to be more visibly living the message of Jesus in our Parish and wider community. We need to better meet the spiritual and human needs of those to come to Mass and to reach to those who are lapsed and in our wider community so as to grow our Parish. There are many hundreds of people in our community who we can reach out to and share the message of Jesus and the Gospel with. One Parishioner summarised the way forward for the Parish as “Mobilise to Catechise”

We have a relatively strong financial position from which to build this vision. The debt from the Parish Hall should be cleared in 3 years time. We have income from the Parish Hall, letting most of 8 Grove Crescent and letting the Car Park to support the Parish. We need to do more however to increase Mass Attendance and our income, especially if we need in the future to create paid roles to work for example with the Youth. We also have well maintained buildings from which to build this vision for the Parish. These buildings are important assets to the Parish as sources of income to support its ongoing viability and also to use for the benefit of the Parish.

To achieve this, while recognising and valuing the many volunteers in key roles at present, we need to establish a team of new volunteers to:

- Develop social events for all
- Improve the welcome at Mass, and experience of those who attend Mass
- Develop evangelisation, including those who are lapsed (and perhaps start with those)
- Work with the Youth, including with a choir

So as to support this work, it was felt that a Plan was needed with priorities, role descriptions and time lines. It was recognised that this would take time to build. At the same time, it needed to begin as talking was not going to achieve the changes we all want and need to see in our Parish. Some people have already come forward as part of the consultation process to volunteer to lead on social events. A small group of people with the Parish Priest needs to be established to take this work forward and ensure it all happens in a coordinated way.

We talked about how we might approach people who are lapsed. Ideas were considered about going door to door, but it was felt these might not be effective. Leaflets was another idea suggested as was building up communities through the 4 areas within the Parish. An area led focus could support the development of a community feel and people getting to know each other better at Mass. This approach is used in other Parishes. We could also use anniversaries and so on to make contact with Parishioners as other Parishes do.

Our initial thoughts and ideas (continued)

It was also suggested that we needed to understand the information we already have about Parishioners and seek to find out why people have drifted away. Having the information in electronic form would help this process (it was not clear how the information was held). Holding a census was also suggested as other Parishes have also done in recent years.

We also discussed looking at creative ways to help get more people to come back to the Parish, such as building links with choirs in local schools and so on and inviting them to the Parish Masses.

It was felt that we needed to decide what specific pastoral, spiritual, educational or liturgical areas need development before deciding on what training would be needed.

We recognised a need to keep the whole Parish informed as this work develops so that people can get involved, feel part of it and feed in ideas as this work moves forward. We could also ensure that we were getting the best of the talents of all in the Parish to help the Parish to grow. We need to develop social media and also urgently to create a strong website.

We also discussed the “ask” in this process of thinking towards 2030 and what “working together with other Parishes” might mean for St Anne Line. All agreed that our first priority is to renew our Parish. We could also seek to learn best practice from other Parishes. No one had strong views about who we might work with more closely in terms of neighbouring Parishes.

We also need to do more to acknowledge and share the good works that the Parish and Parishioners do. We need to prioritise Prayer more at all ages and build it into Parish programmes.

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

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. h

Date of meeting or other activity	Nature of activity (e.g. open parish meeting)	Purpose of meeting / activity	Numbers attending / participating
June 2016	Presented at all Parish Masses	Inform Parish and seek ideas	300 +
6.9.16	Open Parish Meetings (Part B 1-4) morning and evening	Discuss questionnaire	20
8.9.16	Parish Council	Update and discuss questionnaire	10
27.9.16	Open Parish Meetings (Part B 5-8) morning and evening	Discuss questionnaire	23
18.10.16	Open Parish Meetings (Part B 9-12)	Discuss questionnaire	17
8.11.16	Open Parish Meetings (Part C)	Discuss questionnaire	24
26/27 Nov 16	Present feedback from Parts B and C at all Masses and at Tea/coffee events afterwards with 2 page summary given to all Parishioners	Inform Parish and seek ideas	300 +
March 2017	Copy of the draft questionnaire (Parts A, B and C) made available for comment	By Email and copy available at back of Church with note in newsletter inviting comment	300 +

We expect to receive completed questionnaires by 14 April 2017. 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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