

# St Catherine's

## Are we satisfied with how we are as a Church community?

1. **Group 1:** No, because .... Too fragmented: 3 desperate areas; lack of a neutral areas for benefice events; something wrong if we answer yes to this question (socially and theologically)
2. Ensure we communicate e.g. by email, to everyone who is on the electoral roll
3. The few are doing too much - need a greater sense of ownership and sharing the load borne by others in the community
4. Sometimes we are lost in the service and having someone explain where we are e.g. what page, would be helpful. We don't always need a full formal Eucharistic service.
5. Need much more of an 'umbrella support' from the Church in Wales so as to reduce some of the workload and burdens e.g. on drawing up policies and compliance with regulations
6. **Group 2:** No, we are insular from wider community and we don't show enough to others what it is we do
7. Need to offer alternative forms of worship and need to do more for teenagers in our community
8. Need more outreach to schools and marginalised e.g. homeless
9. **Group 3:** No .... To say yes means we think we have no need to improve or change as we'd be perfect

## What do we do well?

10. We do worship well and we use our buildings and resources well
11. Fellowship in St Catherine's is strong, especially after the main service
12. We respect the different needs within our communities and how people worship and celebrate in different ways from us
13. We do some events very well e.g. funerals and the All Souls' Day memorial service in St Luke's
14. We do some outreach, such as paradise run, the gardening club and helping Ty Bronna, but room for growth in this area. Links with schools are ok but could grow this more
15. Large numbers of young families cross our threshold
16. Gardeners and other groups are catered for. Our buildings and grounds and Social activities are good.
17. We have a small group of dedicated people who care for and about St Catherine's

## What we do well could be better if ...

18. Encourage more to join in and benefit from worship and fellowship that happens here on Sundays
19. Consistency with priests - what priest and when?
20. We are here to be a living witness of our faith to others yet ... still not quite sure how we might improve
21. More spiritual - i.e. we can respond to God and encounter God in our mission work and how we worship
22. Create more links across the generations e.g. Unify the creative and the traditional more e.g. in worship
23. Open the Church on big events e.g. fairs and festivals

24. Used the Church more as a multi purpose space not just for Eucharists and Choir practice
25. Be more welcoming to groups who aren't our natural allies e.g. discussion and debate groups such as agnostics anonymous - engagement with modern world
26. Explore inter-faith dialogue and common action to improve our local community e.g. visiting local mosques, Chinese church etc.
27. We could improve links with teenagers more plus links with local community
28. We could greatly improve our buildings
29. We could encourage more people to come and celebrate with us in worship and socially
30. We could improve communication within the congregation

### **What should we do/prioritise as we move forward?**

31. A brilliant new hall to drive growth or sustain our future
32. Decent toilet facilities in the Church to meet needs of elderly and young parents and other Church usage
33. Whatever we do, make sure there is continuity with our traditions
34. Collaborate more - with other churches in the benefice as well as ecumenically with other Christian churches in Canton e.g. on youth provision.
35. Review and explore future use and sustainability of the hall
36. Seriously engage with evangelism more and want to grow the Church
37. Think first: why do you come here. Can you share this? To be open to talking about God and our worship; Build up God's people via social events and music
38. Look for more opportunities to bring people to our church. Focus on how welcoming we can be whilst remaining respectful and not becoming threatening

**In addition to the above, I'd like to add ....**

# St John's

## Are we satisfied with how we are?

1. Group B: No ... Churches vs Benefice; Benefice Sunday; too many buildings; review our style of worship in St John's; reexamine how we need to engage with our local community
2. Group C: No ... because even as a communion of 3 churches and various congregations we don't appear to work that well together
3. Some people don't see our lives and work as a Christian community and don't attend services
4. There isn't enough of us and the same people are doing everything

## What do we do well?

5. Group A: Outreach; Community focus ; Progression; We are diverse, inclusive and welcoming - perhaps we could join inclusive church network; We are experimenting and open to trying new ideas and initiatives.
6. Group B: Links with the local community, schools, paradise run, uniformed groups, Ty Bronna, use of St John's; Daily services in the benefice and the occasional services;
7. A wide variety of worship styles and formats across the benefice - good choice
8. Buildings are well used and our social events are welcoming and inclusive
9. Catering well for children and young families to access church e.g. Messy C., Sun Schools/Clubs
10. Living Faith is good as a way to deepen faith and understanding of faith
11. Group C: Use of buildings; open to the community and supportive of different community initiatives; Sunday schools is good
12. Group D: we are welcoming to those who come; Messy C., Explore, Brownies; St John's is open to various organisations in the community e.g. Recovery Cymru;
13. Good variety of events and hospitality shown e.g. harvest supper, sales, cakes, concerts etc; open to trying new things; evensong serve a great purpose for a small part of our congregation; we are inclusive of people of all backgrounds and we give to charity

## What could we do better?

14. Group A: Does church have to just be on a Sunday? More teen outreach e.g. a youth worker? More pastoral support of those who are sick, isolated, in need of care;
15. Revision of the service format and more worship styles introduced;
16. A monthly family service or all age would be welcome;
17. More choristers or servers to help with worship and liturgy would be welcome too
18. Group B: We could do more work in our local schools; we should promote lay ministries more; we need to work more and better with other Christian communities; a renewed stewardship campaign; there is a need for more people to be involved in our life as a church
19. Group C: Engaging more with local community and especially the groups who currently use our buildings
20. Do we scare some people away from church or involvement in our activities/mission
21. Group D: need to go beyond the welcome and work on minding/caring for each other more; get to know each other in our congregations; notice when someone is missing;
22. more contact with other denominations; strengthen the links within the benefice; invite other churches to join with us (and be open to joining in with other churches);

23. We are stronger together - create one community; strengthening a sense of belonging; improve communication and raise our profile as a church

## **What should we do/prioritise as we move forward?**

24. Group A: Exploring new liturgical settings e.g. in music, structures etc

25. Introduce a monthly family service to encourage all age participation so as to prepare and form the church of tomorrow - Build on messy church e.g. Instruments for all age worship

26. Set up a pastoral visitors team - training, calling and resourcing individuals with this calling

27. Employ a youth worker and Acknowledge more our diversity and inclusivity

28. Take church outside e.g. other places such as chapter, shopping areas. Outdoor fellowship.

29. Investigate viability of cell or home groups (monthly)

30. Look again at an open door policy for all of our churches

31. Group B: put more resources into messy church because of its track record; develop a coherent youth ministry and provision in the benefice; introduce greater variety of worship e.g. non-eucharistic; set realistic targets on improving stewardship; engage more with people; greater communication with local community e.g. leaflets, banners, christmas card etc.

32. Train lay people to serve as eucharistic ministers, lay readers, etc

33. Make our prayer life a priority as a community and for individuals

34. Group D: Continue Messy Church; Recognising and supporting needs of current core members of our congregations; offer greater provision for teenagers; open St John's for passers by to pray in.

**In addition to the above, I'd like to add ....**

# St Luke's

## Are we satisfied with how we are?

Group C - No, because ... not much community involvement is apparent; perception of a lack of social events and fairs; we sometimes feel isolated within the benefice; don't like the modern Lord's prayer

Group D - No, because ...

Decline in numbers and in our church life. Sunday is no longer what it was, not a holy day anymore.

## What do we do well?

Group A - Paschali (enhances our worship); Eucharistic prayer - enables reverence in our worship; We are welcoming and friendly; Sunday school and children's corner is appreciated and used well

Group B - Fellowship, warmth and friendship; Worship with like minded people who share our faith

Liturgy and music: congregation participates, variety of hymns, relevant to readings and season

Mid-week services: quieter, more spiritual; Church schools support our mission and worship

Group C - Worship: High liturgy that engages all the senses; the communion circle; central altar and vestments

Group D - Worship

Spiritual atmosphere in church with a warm welcome and greeting at the door

Sacramental life is good and a transcendent spirit is sometimes in our church

Benefice life has changed the nature of church life; we show pastoral care of those in need

## What we do well could be better if ...

Group A - Invite Sunday school to share their activities with congregation

Improve links within our community and with the other churches

Improve the facilities in the church e.g. tea, coffee, serving area, sinks etc)

Recruit more people onto the serving team with activities for 11-18 year olds

More people to be involved in the life of the church and taking ownership for what goes on

Ensure new people have a sense of value and belonging (but not overwhelmed with tasks)

Outreach - send out cards to new houses in the community also at Christmas and Easter with our service times as well as information about existing outreach e.g. paradise run, Christian Aid etc

More links with St Catherine's and St John's e.g. on social events

Group B - Resist formation of closed groups which exclude others and are set in the old ways

Help new and current congregation to understand the format and order of service

Put on things for our current congregation as well as trying to attract the new

Ask older children and teenagers what it is they want and new music for young people

Encourage lay people to become more involved in the whole life and mission of our church

Listen to the community about what is already happening and communicate our vision more

Rethink the reasons for mission and try to use the skills of the congregation more

Find the balance between Benefice and individual churches not one or the other

A benefice music group (or other groups) might help create a sense of unity and common purpose

Group D -

Consistent attendance - give people reasons to attend more frequently

Giving and stewardship can improve greatly as could sharing and generosity of time

Silence in church and listening to God more individually and during worship; resist 'busyness'

Expecting God to work without cooperating with his mission which means change and renewal

Recognise the gifts of others more and communicate better

## **What should we do/prioritise as we move forward?**

Group B - Build on Messy Church and encourage more links with schools

Open up the church buildings more for community use (sometimes for free)

Group C - Focus on mission and outreach;

Open our doors more often

Encourage more silence as a valued part of our worship while praying more for healing, reaching to God, for support in our work and for growth in our church

Evangelising more and how we live out our lives as Christian disciples

Group D: Proclaim the word of God more and reflect the joy of our faith for others

Build even more on our pastoral care: love one another - showing care and knowing each others needs

More prayer or quiet days which might help us be open to God's spirit/ let God do the work

Communication in our church and across the benefice could improve.

**In addition to the above, I'd like to add ....**