

# John Keble Church

## Parish Survey Results

March 2009

### Summary

Surveys were sent to all 208 people on the electoral roll. This report was delayed to allow those who received their forms late to respond. This report, therefore, includes the views of all those who have responded. There were 65 responses representing 74 people on the electoral roll (35.6%). The P.C.C. would like to express its gratitude to all those who have contributed to this survey. All the comments are shown in the detail sheets but some are grouped into common headings for the purpose of the analysis. The analysis uses as a basis the number of comments and, since a respondent may make many or no comments, does not relate to the number of respondents. The largest of these was regarding personal attributes where there were 181 suggestions.

There was a wish not to change the current style of service although some changes were required to win the support of younger people. In particular, there was a need to involve young people more in the service itself and, in so doing, make the services more attractive to families. There was considerable support for visiting youth domains (schools, BP groups, clubs, etc) and so listening to their views and recognising their interests. Worthy of note were the views that the needs of those between teens and families need to be addressed as the Church can lose many supporters during this period.

The value of visiting came across strongly with regard to older people. In this case, recognising when they are not "there" and checking on their welfare. Various ways were suggested such as setting up "befrienders" or setting up more groups and events (e.g. Study Groups, Coffee Mornings, Weekly Gatherings, Support Groups, etc.) that will encourage them to get together. Although some of these exist such as Women's Fellowship and Mothers' Union, there appears to be a view that new groups could be created, old ones revived and current ones regenerated. With the post-war baby boom now reaching retirement, this age group risks becoming an increasing part of the congregation if we do not balance this with an influx of younger people. There were suggestions to bridge the divide between young and old people such as encouraging friendships or common roles with them. This will need to be tackled to keep the Church attractive to younger people.

Music and the growth and development of the choir were seen as an important part of the life at John Keble Church. Various ideas were put forward, the most overwhelming of which was the need to visit sources of potential choristers. As with youth development, this included schools, BP organisations, youth groups and Sunday school. Other tactics suggested included rewards (e.g. trips out), more concerts, taking part in competitions, involving the congregation and encouraging a sense of enjoyment, although this was not to indicate that currently this was in any way lacking.

The thoughts on personal attributes brought a large number of suggestions many of which have been grouped into common headings. The top two, “Approachable” and “Friendly” represented 37% of all the suggestions and so suggest a high priority. The next 25% of suggestions are summarised as “Charismatic”, “Enthusiastic” and “Considerate”. A further 25% were seen as “Compassionate”, “Team Player”, “Spiritual Growth” and “Leadership”. This would be a rare combination in anybody but it gives the P.C.C. a view of what we should be looking for.

These responses will now be incorporated into a “Statement of Needs” and presented to the Bishop of Edmonton as requirements for John Keble Parish.