



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

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 Tom Saunders, Fr Andrew Headon and Ms Adele Angel can be contacted at dspg@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Background Details

Name of parish:

St James the Less and St Helen

Details of church(es) in the parish:

| Church name | Church address |
|--------------------------------|---|
| St James the Less and St Helen | Priory Street Colchester CO1 2 QB |
| St. Joseph | Mill Road, Mile End Colchester CO4 5AL |
| St Theodore of Canterbury | Prince Philip Road, Monkwick Colchester CO2 8NX |
| St Cedd and St Gregory | Barfield Road West Mersea CO5 8QT |
| | |
| | |

Key parish contacts:

| Priest(s) | Permanent Deacon(s) | Steward of the Gospel |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Canon Anthony McKentey | | Bernadette Morrison Ebling |
| Fr Alex Poblador | | Andrew Johnson |
| Fr Philip Willenbrock | | Jane Hargreaves |
| | | |

Details of main contact for this questionnaire:

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Name: | | Address: |
| Telephone No: | | |
| Email Address: | | |

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

A Priory Street C Mersea island

B Mile End D Monkwick

T total

| | 1985 | | 1995 | 2000 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| A | | | | | 704 | 735 | 728 | 678 | 745 | 735 | 854 | 755 | 635 | 815 |
| B | | | | | 81 | 72 | 74 | 77 | 83 | 76 | 70 | 70 | 52 | 75 |
| C | | | | | 67 | 69 | 78 | 66 | 64 | 61 | 65 | 55 | 52 | 51 |
| D | | | | | 41 | 44 | 48 | 50 | 41 | 37 | 40 | 32 | 36 | 40 |
| T | 1223 | | 1050 | 766 | 893 | 920 | 928 | 871 | 933 | 909 | 1029 | 912 | 775 | 1016 |

Baptisms

| 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 49 | 62 | 59 | 45 | 58 | 59 | 73 | 61 | 45 | 69 | 74 | 66 | 70 | 74 |

Confirmations

| 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 12 | 26 | 19 | 5 | 24 | 6 | 1 | 37 | 7 | 29 | 20 | 2 | 18 | 31 |

Marriages

| 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 23 | 34 | 26 | 14 | 7 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 9 |

Receptions

| 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|
| 10 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 ₍₊₃₎ | 4 | 2 |

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 |
|---|---|
| 10% increase in population This is above the national average | This has been reflected in the number of baptisms but Parish Mass attendance data is not so clear No change in the percentage of people living in Colchester but born overseas |
| Population increase has not been matched by increase in primary school places | St Thomas More School cannot offer places to all the children associated with the Parish and it is supposed to take children from Greenstead and Wivenhoe in addition. There are no plans for more places at present. |
| Population increase has outpaced the Catholic Secondary College | St Benedicts cannot accommodate all the Catholic children in Colchester. |
| | |
| | |

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 |
|--|---|
| A further increase in population of 10% is planned in the next 10 years with several large housing developments planned. | More people to join the parish |
| A change in demography from a relatively young to an older population | There may be an impact on schools but the increase in population will probably keep numbers level. Currently there are some primary school children in the Parish unable to attend a Catholic School. There will be an increase in the number of older people with increase in house bound parishioners. |

| | |
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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 | 15% |
| 11-18 | 10% |
| 19-25 | 8% |
| 26-49 | 17% |
| 50-70 | 25% |
| Over 70 | 25% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| Mersea 0-10 | 5% | Monkwick 0-10 | 13% |
| 11-18 | 3% | 11-18 | 6% |
| 19-25 | 0% | 19-25 | 0% |
| 26-49 | 10% | 26-49 | 9% |
| 50-70 | 40% | 50-70 | 40% |
| ➤ 70 | 42% | >70 | 32% |

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 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Permanent Deacon | 0 |
| Communion Catechist | 2 |
| Confirmation Catechist | 1 |
| Chairman of PPC | 1 |
| Chair of Finance Committee | 1 |
| Master of Ceremonies | 1 |
| Readers list | 1 in each centre |
| Extraordinary Eucharist minister | 1 in each centre |
| President of Catenians | 1 |
| Union of Catholic Mothers | 1 |
| Music Group Leader | 1 and helpers |
| Safe guarding lead | 1 (temp) |
| | |
| | |

- 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.

2005

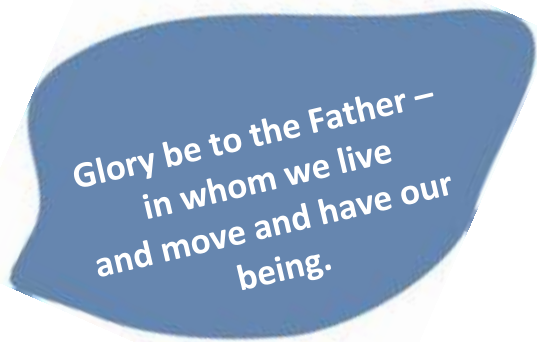
2.4 Where a PPC or equivalent is in place, does it have a written constitution?

-

If other, please specify

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

2.8 How are people in the parish informed about the membership and work of the PPC or equivalent?

A brief report is put in the weekly news-letter and a similar precis posted on Facebook
Also a report in "Mersea Matters"

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

All Mass Centre are invited to send representatives or stand for the PPC. Usually somebody attends.

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

| Age range | Number |
|--------------|-----------|
| Under 40 | 0 |
| 40 -70 | 8 |
| Over 70 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 11 |

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?

Annual report

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

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

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?

3.2 How does this compare with the position in 2010?

Difficult to say as the register is currently being reviewed.

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 Secretary; resigned March 2017 | 1 | 24-36 |
| Cleaner at West Mersea | 1 | ? |
| Cleaner at Priory Street | 1 | 4 |
| Assistant administrator | 1 | 6 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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 | | | | |
| Holy Communion preparation | | 2 | | |
| Confirmation preparation | | 1 | | |
| Marriage preparation | Priest and | Marriage | Care | |
| RCIA programme delivery | | 1 | | 1 |
| Other (please list these below) | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

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.

| Role | Under 40 | 40 - 70 | Over 70 | Total |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| Welcomers at Mass | 0 | 14 | 4 | 18 |
| Church Cleaners | | x | 2 | |
| Musicians/choir | 2 | 12 | 0 | 14 |
| Flower team | | | | |
| Theatre Group | 7 | 7 | | 14 |
| PPC | | | | 14 |
| Mersea PPC | | | | 2 |
| Mersea flower team | | | | 4 |
| Mersea cleaners | | | 2 | 2 |
| Mersea gardeners | | | | 2 |
| Monkwick PPC | | | | 1 |
| Monkwick cleaners | | | | 5 |
| Monkwick gardeners | | | | 1 |
| Welcomers at Mass Mersea & Monkwick | | | | 4 |

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

| Social Activity | Frequency |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Priory Street Theatre group | 2-3 shows/yr |
| Barbeque | Annual |
| Mersea Coffee Group | Monthly |
| Monkwick Coffeee Group | Monthly |
| Christmas Fair | Annual |
| Concerts | 1-3 a year |
| Football | Seasonal |
| Thursday Morning Group | Weekly |
| After Mass Coffee at Priory Street | Weekly |
| Filipino Group after Mass | monthly |
| Polish Group after Mass | Intermittent |
| Nigerian National Day Celebration | Annual |
| | |

4 Worship and Spiritual Life

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

| Venue | Day | Time |
|---------------|----------|---------|
| Priory Street | Saturday | 6.15pm |
| Priory Street | Sunday | 8am |
| Priory Street | Sunday | 10.30am |
| Priory Street | Sunday | 6.30pm |
| West Mersea | Sunday | 8.30am |
| Mile End | Sunday | 9.15am |
| Monkwick | Sunday | 10.15am |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

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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 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Polish Mass | Most Sundays | Priory Street |
| Filipino Mass | First Sunday of the month | Priory Street |
| Daily Mass; usually 9.15am | Monday to Saturday | Priory Street |
| Hospital Mass | Monthly | Colchester Hospital |
| Morning and evening prayer group | daily | Priory Street |
| Nigerian Mass | One Sunday a month | Priory Street |
| Signed Mass | Second Sunday | Priory Street |
| Liturgy of the Word and Communion | Weekly | Mersea |
| Holy Hour | Monthly | Priory Street |
| Exposition and Benediction | Weekly | Priory Street |

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

| Contribution | Number |
|--|--------------------|
| Readers Priory Street, Mersea and Monkwick and Mile End | 31+14+6+?5 |
| Eucharistic Ministers; Priory St, Mersea and Monkwick and Mile End | 29+5+6+?4 |
| Funeral Assistants | |
| Children's Liturgy leaders Priory street and Mersea | 4+3 |
| Altar Servers Priory St, Mersea and Monkwick | X+2+3 |
| Musicians / Choir Priory St, Mersea and Monkwick | 20+5+1 |
| Leaders of Morning / Evening Prayer | 4 |
| Sacristans; Mersea and Monkwick and Mile End | 1, temp; 2; 2-2 |
| Homily Preparation | 0 |
| Liturgy of the Word Mersea & Communion | 4 |
| | |
| | |

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 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Divine Mercy/Prayer group | Daily | Priory Street |
| Rosary group | Daily | Priory Street |
| Prayer group | Monday evening | Crypt in Priory Street |
| Meditation Group | Tuesday evening | Crypt in Priory Street |
| Film group | Weekly in term time | Priory Street |
| Annual pilgrimage to Ayelsford | Once a year | |
| Quiet days | About once a quarter | 74 Howe Road Colchester |
| Bible Study | Weekly in term time | Crypt in Priory Street |
| Lourdes Pilgrimage | annual | |
| Reconciliation service | Twice a year | Priory Street |

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.

| Adult Formation Activity | Yes / No | | Approximate Number |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Catechist Training Programmes | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| Eucharistic Ministry Training | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 2 evenings |
| Reader Training | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| CCRS Courses | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| Lenten Study Groups | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Variable; 5-15 |
| Other Formation Activities (<i>please list below</i>) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Some people attend the RCIA |
| Monkwick Lenten Talks with local churches | | | variable |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

5.2 Does your parish offer a Journey in Faith programme to support Catholics who wish to learn more about their faith?

- Yes No

Young people in schools and their families

Catholic primary school(s) serving your parish

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

| School Name: St Thomas Moore | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2012 | 2015 |
| Total no. of Pupils | 211 | 204 | 210 |
| % of Catholic Pupils | 94% | 98% | 96% |
| Total no. of Teachers | 7 | 13 | 14 |
| % of Catholic Teachers | 71% | 46% | 64% |

| 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 | | | |
| School Name: | | | |
| | 2008 | 2012 | 2015 |
| Total no. of Teachers | | | |
| % of Catholic Teachers | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| School Name: | | | |
| | 2008 | 2012 | 2015 |
| Total no. of Pupils | | | |
| % of Catholic Pupils | | | |
| School Name: | | | |
| | 2008 | 2012 | 2015 |
| 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 children in St Thomas More school study the sacraments as part of their Religious Education curriculum. The school celebrates when they make their first confession and receive Holy Communion for the first time.
The year 6 syllabus discusses the sacrament of Confirmation

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

The school encourages the parents to come to the year masses held each term. The parents are also invited to the Leaver's Mass and services at the beginning of the academic year and to celebrate the feast of St Thomas More.
Each week the children take home a leaflet encouraging the whole family to look at and reflect on the readings for the coming Sunday.

- 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
and 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> |
| The Parish is invited, via the Parish Newsletter to events of importance at the School | This includes the first Mass of the Academic year and services in Lent |
| The Parish Christmas Bazaar and summer picnics are advertised in the school | Previously the children ran a sweet stall at the Bazaar but this has not happened for a couple of years |
| | |
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| | |

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

Most of the Masses for the School eg the termly year group masses are held in the Parish Church and are open to all the Parish.
There are special celebrations in the Spring term; one at the beginning of Lent and one on the last Tuesday of term before Easter.

5.10 Please give details of any joint school / parish non-Eucharistic celebrations. Please include frequency and location.

Nothing else on a regular basis

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.)

Occasionally the Parish uses facilities at the school. In recent years this has included the dining room when the Bishop came too visit and several rooms for a retreat held by Fr Sabu.

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: St Benedict | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2012 | 2015 |
| Total no. of Pupils | 835 | 824 | 823 |
| % of Catholic Pupils | 92% | 87% | 74% |
| Total no. of Teachers | 56 | 66 | 59 |
| % of Catholic Teachers | 11% | 27% | 46% |

| 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.

St Benedicts has no direct link with St James Parish over preparation for sacraments. The Deacon, Ricard Curzon will support those who are attending the confirmation classes in the various parishes. He is invited to attend the Confirmation Ceremony at St Theresa Church

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).

There is no joint work with St James Parish
The School holds termly Family Year Masses to which parents are invited. There is an opportunity for talking and exploring issues after this service. The Deacon would like to extend this service in future.

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> |
| Cafod | Cafod is St Benedicts main third world link The Parish is looking to increase its involvement with CAFOD so there is potential here for joint working |
| Missio | The parish also supports this |
| Colchester Food Bank | Again both are involved but don't really work directly together |
| Catenian Society | The Society has sponsored essay and public speaking competitions |
| | |
| | |

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

Father Philip from the Parish celebrates Mass once a week at the School in term time
 St Theresa Parish has an annual Open Air Mass in the school grounds
 There is a monthly Polish Mass for children of Polish origin

5.18 Please give details of any joint parish / secondary school non-Eucharistic celebrations. Please include frequency and location.

The primary school mainly identified with St James the Less Parish attends the Christmas Party at St Benedicts once a year.

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?

Once a year

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.

| Outreach activity | Brief description | Financial Commitment (Yes / No) | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>Example: Redbridge Sunday Drop-in</i> | <i>5 parishioners are involved on the weekly rota for this ecumenical project across the town. All parishioners are asked to contribute canned goods which are collected each week.</i> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Supporting Food Bank | Weekly collections of food | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Soup Run | Sandwiches provided for the homeless on a regular rota by the Catenians and other members of the congregation | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Churches Together | Joint procession on Good Friday, Alternating churches for Stations of the Cross in Lent | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Historical Churches Weekend | All interested Churches are open over 1 weekend with volunteers available to talk about the building | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Remembrance Sunday | Annual invitation to Parish Priest to participate in the town ceremony | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Lunchtime Sandwiches for homeless | Mondays, Wednesday and Friday. Wednesday is hosted by Knights of Malta | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Colchester Catholic Heritage Group | Currently working with other groups on Bishop Bechet's Scroll | <input type="radio"/> | <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"/> |

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.)

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"/> |
| Red Boxes for APF | There is an active group of people using the boxes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Church in Need | 2-3 events a year with a collection | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cafod | Regular collections and a plan to increase the parish participation in this area | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Friends of Peru | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Twin Diocese of Dundee | | <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?

The Parish has supported the Churches Together Group mainly through one individual who is due to leave soon to go to Rome

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 and meeting in the Theatre after | |
| Alternating venues for Stations of the Cross in Lent | Sharing with the nearby St James Church on East Hill |
| Monkwick Lenten talks | Sharing venues with other churches in the locality. |
| Women's World day of Prayer | Individual Mersea parishioners attend although St Cedd's does not host this event. |
| | |

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> |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

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.)

| |
|---|
| Facebook and to a lesser extent the Website |
| Activities in Mersea are posted on church & town notice boards. |

7 Finances

7.1 Please complete the details below.

a) Income and Expenditure

| £'s | 2006 | 2010 | 2015 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Income: | | | |
| Offertory | 111781 | 105343 | 104201 |
| Gift Aid | 17985 | 17652 | 15809 |
| Donations | 4742 | | 4370 |
| Other income | 39756 | 21853 | 47832 |
| Total Income | 174264 | 144848 | 172212 |
| Expenditure: | | | |
| Property | 41212 | 23577 | 39134 |
| Personnel | 36165 | 35598 | 33884 |
| Other costs | 100218 | 72942 | 71313 |
| Total Expenditure | 177595 | 132117 | 144331 |
| | | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) | 3331 | 12731 | xxxxxx |

b) Surplus / deficit ignoring any extraordinary income or expenditure

| £'s | 2006 | 2010 | 2015 |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) | 954 | 12731 | 16965 |

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?

A reduction in offertory collection and an increase in other fund raising including regular "Parish Development Fund" collection to help financial running costs.

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

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 | 77790 | 4816 | 63693 |

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

27.4%

7.7 What is the average offertory per head each week?

£2.61

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

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> |
| "Parish development fund" collection to reinstate parish funds following year of short fall | Special collections in 2006 and again in 2017 |
| 200 club | Monthly draw; annual subscription |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

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 |
|--------|------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

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 |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |



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 | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Priory Street | | St James the Less | | 380 | | |
| In your opinion | | | Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor |
| 8.2 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church? | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.3 | What is the overall state of repair of the Presbytery? | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.4 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church Hall? | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | | | | Yes | No |
| 8.5 | Is there a car park? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.6 | If Yes, how many parking spaces are there? | | | | 8 | |
| 8.7 | Is there a parish office? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.8 | Are there secure on-site storage facilities for confidential documentation? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.9 | Is there an appointed Health & Safety Officer? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.10 | Are the following regular check-ups up to date: | | | | | |
| | • Portable electrical appliances? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Gas safety | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.11 | Are the following facilities available for people with disabilities? | | | | | |
| | • Accessible toilets | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Level access | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| | • Ramped access | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Loop system | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.12 | If any of the above provision is lacking are there plans in place to improve the facilities? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.13 | If Yes, please elaborate: The access to the toilets, including the disabled cubicle from the Church is unsatisfactory. There are plans to build separate facilities with dedicated access from the Church | | | | | |

8.14 Does the church have a cemetery?

- Yes No

8.15 If Yes, who has responsibility for its care?

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

| Property / Land | Description |
|---|-------------|
| Each Mass centre has an adjacent field, sometimes used for parking. | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

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

| Meeting Space | No. of people |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Crypt | 50 |
| Cardinal Bourne Hall | 200 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

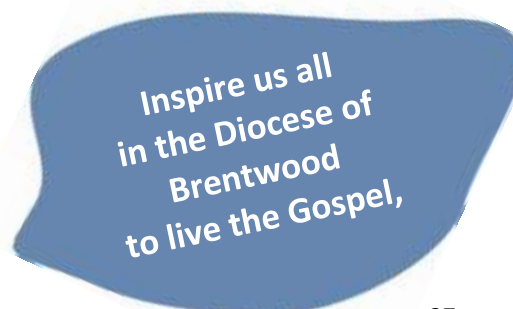
8.18 Is there a place for smaller weekday Masses?

- Yes No

If Yes, please provide details

8.19 Does the community have property that is in excess of its requirements?

- Yes No



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"/> |
| Knights of Malta and others | Sandwich lunch | 3 times a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Meetings | Twice a week | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Dancing group | Dance instruction and recreation | Three times a week | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tutoring group | Tutoring | Once a week | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Colne Harmony | Singing | Once a week | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Theatre group | rehearsal | Three weeks out of four | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Natural history group | meeting | One evening a month | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Martial Arts | practice | Once a week | <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 |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| New toilet facilities | ? |
| Renewal of carpeting | ? |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

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

| Name of school | Distance |
|-----------------|----------|
| St Thomas Moore | 100yards |
| St Benedicts | 2.9m |
| | |
| | |

8.1 Please provide information about the buildings associated with each church site within the parish.

| Parish Name | Church Name | Capacity |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| St James the Less and St Helen | St Joseph, Mile End | 100 |

| Parish Name | Church Name | Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8.2 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church? | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| 8.3 | What is the overall state of repair of the Presbytery? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| 8.4 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church Hall? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| | | | | Yes | No | |
| 8.5 | Is there a car park? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.6 | If Yes, how many parking spaces are there? | | | | | |
| 8.7 | Is there a parish office? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.8 | Are there secure on-site storage facilities for confidential documentation? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.9 | Is there an appointed Health & Safety Officer? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.10 | Are the following regular check-ups up to date: | | | | | |
| | • Portable electrical appliances? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Gas safety | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.11 | Are the following facilities available for people with disabilities? | | | | | |
| | • Accessible toilets | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| | • Level access | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| | • Ramped access | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Loop system | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.12 | If any of the above provision is lacking are there plans in place to improve the facilities? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.13 | If Yes, please elaborate: | | | | | |

8.1 Please provide information about the buildings associated with each church site within the parish.

| Parish Name | Church Name | Capacity |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| St James the Less and St Helen | St Theodore of Canterbury | 170 |

| Parish Name | Church Name | Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8.2 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| 8.3 | What is the overall state of repair of the Presbytery? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| 8.4 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church Hall? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| | | | | Yes | No | |
| 8.5 | Is there a car park? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.6 | If Yes, how many parking spaces are there? | | | | 50 approx | |
| 8.7 | Is there a parish office? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.8 | Are there secure on-site storage facilities for confidential documentation? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.9 | Is there an appointed Health & Safety Officer? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.10 | Are the following regular check-ups up to date: | | | | | |
| | • Portable electrical appliances? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Gas safety | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.11 | Are the following facilities available for people with disabilities? | | | | | |
| | • Accessible toilets | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Level access | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Ramped access | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Loop system | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.12 | If any of the above provision is lacking are there plans in place to improve the facilities? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.13 | If Yes, please elaborate: | | | | | |

8.1 Please provide information about the buildings associated with each church site within the parish.

| Parish Name | Church Name | Capacity |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| St James the Less and St Helen | St Cedd and St Gregory the Great | 150 |

| Parish Name | Church Name | Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8.2 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church? | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| 8.3 | What is the overall state of repair of the Presbytery? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| 8.4 | What is the overall state of repair of the Church Hall? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | |
| | | | | Yes | No | |
| 8.5 | Is there a car park? | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.6 | If Yes, how many parking spaces are there? | | | | 50 approx | |
| 8.7 | Is there a parish office? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.8 | Are there secure on-site storage facilities for confidential documentation? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.9 | Is there an appointed Health & Safety Officer? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.10 | Are the following regular check-ups up to date: | | | | | |
| | • Portable electrical appliances? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| | • Gas safety | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.11 | Are the following facilities available for people with disabilities? | | | | | |
| | • Accessible toilets | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| | • Level access | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| | • Ramped access | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | • Loop system | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8.12 | If any of the above provision is lacking are there plans in place to improve the facilities? | | | | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 8.13 | If Yes, please elaborate: | | | | | |

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 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| St James the Less and St Helen | |

- 9.1 How many miles is it by road to the nearest 3 Catholic churches from this church?
(See data pack)

| Church Name | Distance |
|--|----------|
| Greenstead | 2.7m |
| St Theresa, Clairmont Road | 4.5m |
| Wivenhoe (Mass centre related to Brightlingsea) | 4.6m |

- 9.2 From which parish church was your parish originally founded?

| |
|----------------------|
| Priory Street Church |
|----------------------|

- 9.3 With which local parish / church communities does your parish have the strongest relationship(s)?

| |
|----------------------------|
| Probably St Theresa Lexden |
|----------------------------|

- 9.4 Please describe any significant geographical obstacles between this church and other Catholic church(es) in your locality.

| St James the Less has 3 Mass Centres. The distances from Priory St to these centres and from these centres to the aforementioned 3 nearest other Churches is tabulated below. | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Mass Centre | Priory Street | Greenstead | St Theresa | Wivenhoe |
| Mersea | 9m | 10.3m | 10m | 12.2m |
| Mill Road | 3m | 3.1m | 7.3m | 6m |
| Monkwick | 2.5m | 3.8m | 4.6m | 5.6m |
| Using Priory Street as the base there are reasonable road links to all areas as it is in the town centre. Mersea is cut off by the tide on a regular basis. Travelling from one side of the town to another is difficult as the traffic is heavy in the week and for much of the weekend. Getting north/south eg St Theresa to Wivenhoe means crossing the river and 2 rail lines. | | | | |

- 9.5 Based on the experience of your parishioners, how accessible is this church using public transport?

Easily Moderately With difficulty Not at all

Please elaborate.

Although the Priory Street Church is at the edge of the Town Centre the bus services relate to a hub some distance away including a hill.

9.6 Does the parish provide any regular transport to church services?

Yes No

9.7 If Yes, please explain.

[Empty text box for explanation]

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.*

One couple oversee the activities

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

| Activity | Brief description |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| First Communion group | Preparation for sacrament |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

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

We actively encouraged young people to fill in the 1 minute questionnaire when it was distributed and got some replies.

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 type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Monthly Youth Mass | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| St John Bosco Camp | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Flame Events | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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 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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Others – please specify: The parish hosts one leg of the walk to Walsingham when young people carry a cross through East Anglia. | | | | |

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?

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

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

Yes; one

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

The prayer group regularly include this topic.

12 Ethnic Chaplaincies and Eastern Catholic Churches

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

| Description | Frequency: Monthly/Weekly | Numbers |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Polish Chaplaincy | Weekly | |
| Nigerian Chaplaincy | Once a month | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

12.2 Are any Catholics who are resident in your parish regularly attending an ethnic chaplaincy outside the parish, either as an alternative to the parish Sunday Mass, or in addition to attending the parish Sunday Mass?

| Description | Location | Time | Freq.: Mthly/Wkly | Numbers |
|-------------|----------|------|-------------------|---------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

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.



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?

One repeated concern was that many young people do not continue attending services once they get to adolescence. Sadly few people in the 17-25 age group completed questionnaires or attended meetings. Parishioners have suggested more social and spiritual events aimed specifically at children and young people including a Youth Choir, groups like the Scouts and more liturgy aimed at young people in the Mass Centres. Other parishes report that involvement in social issues such as refugees and homelessness has encouraged young people to become involved.

There was also a concern that with an aging population more people would need support in their own homes again socially and spiritually. There seems to be an agreed need for support to be better organised.

The questionnaires showed a need for prayer groups and other adult spiritual development but the services already existing are not very well attended. Better advertisement and exploration of different times and delivery will need to be explored.

Colchester is continuing to increase in size so the parish needs to make people aware of the Churches and services and welcome new comers.

All these activities will need more volunteers and nurturing a vibrant, generous community is important. The parish needs to make clear what help is needed and what help is available among its many members.

Summary; Be visible, be inclusive, work as a family playing to the strengths of individuals.

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 finance committee, the Catechesis groups for young people and new entrants to the Church are active and effective. There are groups for prayer, bible study and reflections on scripture in Advent and Lent. The Guild of St Stephen is active and provides servers at some Masses. Other groups involved in services, welcomers, readers and extra-ordinary ministers of the Eucharist are holding their own. The Catenians and the Knights of St Columba are active and supportive.

The PPC is active; it has had difficulty filling all its places. The committee has been supportive of the Stewards of the Gospel but is rarely pro-active in parish matters.

Two issues worry the leaders consulted.

The first is the low number of volunteers considering the size of the parish

The second concerns the difficulties around integrating a large parish with four Mass Centres and a diverse population with distinct groups eg Polish Group, Filipino Group etc.

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

1. Trained parishioners could hold more prayer services and week day Communion services perhaps especially at the outlying Mass centres to supply the expressed need for this.
2. Administration could be shared more so that the web site for instance becomes a useful way of sharing information.
3. Preparation for marriage could involve trained men and women more. Advice about funerals and baptisms could be supplied by the laity.
4. Requests for help especially if this is for social and material help could be the responsibility of trained volunteers.
5. Representing the Church in the town could also be shared with trained men and women though the clergy would still be an important part of this public face.

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 many people doing a variety of tasks. However it can be difficult to contact some people and to know what they are doing. The parish has groups supporting those in Peru, the local homeless population, cleaning the Churches and acting as scrutineers for DBS forms. The majority of volunteers are over 50 but this is often a group that has time available.

Some groups like the Thursday morning group in the Cardinal Bourne Hall was started by the Filipino community but is open to all.

There may be groups that the Stewards have failed to identify.

However there is a problem with recruitment and many people work in several groups.

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

Firstly the parish needs to demonstrate what it is doing which may in itself produce recruits.

The questionnaire suggested that people like to be approached individually. This is difficult if individual's skills are not generally known. Others felt that the parish priest should be more involved in recruitment and that may be applicable to some ministries such as the extra-ordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

A skills register and availability to help even for a short time should be established.

Asking people for a limited commitment at first is felt advisable as it is less threatening.

Support for training where there is expense should be explored. In other cases though shadowing rather than formal training is more appropriate and some people said less scary.

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?

The parish offers 7 Masses in English on Sundays (including Saturday evening vigil) and 1-3 other Masses like Polish or signed Masses. There is a daily Mass the rest of the week. So there is plenty of choice. The Sunday Masses tend each to have their own character; quieter at 8am and full of children at 10.30am. This allows people to attend a Mass that compliments their current needs. There are mixed reactions to music and singing but on balance it is felt that music, if conducted wholeheartedly, helps reflection and prayer. The Children's liturgy is well received. The three Mass Centres value their individual feelings of community and would be sad to lose this.

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

The three Mass Centres would like to look at extending their services. Two would like to consider a children's liturgy at least once a month. One centre already has a Communion Service with lay ministers once a week and there is some interest in extending this to other centres. There are groups offering prayers, bible study, study of appropriate films and reflections on the readings and Lent. However timing is much discussed. In the day time older parishioners find it easier to attend but working people can't come. In the evening the opposite applies. Running two sessions can be difficult for volunteers. More volunteers might help or use of technology may be applicable

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?

People remember the Lenten Lectures shared with other Churches with enthusiasm. Monkwick Mass centre has continued this tradition.
Day trips and pilgrimages were also remembered. The Polish community recalled youth groups that took them camping and on visits as opportunities for continuing formation.
All of these could be re-started if parishioners would come together. The Lenten Lectures had outside speakers but if this proved too expensive, there are other resources available on line or via the BBC Lenten Lectures.

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?

St Thomas More Primary School invites parents to the Masses for the School each term. The Deacon at the secondary school, St Benedict, is doing the same.
The parents interviewed felt that there is good support among the parents. The Union of Catholic Mothers is also active in supporting these families. They are looking at family prayer groups.
Other parishes send out cards to mark baptisms, First Holy Communion and Confirmation and their anniversaries and this might be an avenue to explore.

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?

There has been a tradition of sharing Stations of the Cross with a neighbouring Church of England Parish. On Good Friday the parish joins others in a "Walk with the Cross" in the town. There was a Churches Together group in central Colchester but this is now inactive. The parish is involved with other groups providing food, meals and facilities for the homeless. The Colchester Catholic Heritage Group co-operates with other groups in the town.

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

There is the opportunity to re-invigorate the Churches Together group

There is a town refugee group which some parishioners may be active in. The Parish could look at more formally supporting this group

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?**

Usually the income covers expenditure, just. There has been a projected problem this year but an additional appeal looks as if it corrected the problem. In an ideal world there would be a bit more income to build up a contingency fund for unexpected repairs. There is also the question of improving the toilet facilities at Priory Street.

- 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?**

At present this does not seem to be an option

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?

Priory Street with its meeting place in the Crypt and the adjacent Cardinal Bourne Hall are well used. Indeed there are some tensions between letting the Hall to church groups that have traditionally supported it and commercial lettings.

The peripheral Mass centres are less used. Monkwick is used by the Polish and Keralan communities for services and some social events.

All three centres have land next to them; at Monkwick and Mersea this is used for parking though the ground is not hardened. At Mile end the land is not accessible from the road.

It may be that these peripheral buildings could be more used by Church groups in the week and in the evenings.

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

At present the peripheral facilities are looked after by a mixture of paid cleaners and gardeners and some volunteers. It may be possible to recruit volunteers for all the day to day maintenances.

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?

There are 2 aspects to this. One is merging the whole parish with another neighbouring one. The one most frequently mentioned in this context is St Teresa of Lisieux at Lexden. This would produce a large parish and one that would include two large planned housing developments; one in the existing St James' Parish and one in the Lexden parish.

The second aspect would be a review of all the Parishes in the area; St James, St Teresa, St John Payne and Wivenhoe/Brightlingsea parish. A case could be made for moving the Mile End Centre to a Parish including St John Payne and Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea. This would leave the other two Parishes to the South to work together. The northern group would be large in terms of area and would include the University Chaplaincy. The southern group would be larger in terms of population.

Neither suggestion is very popular and it is difficult to see many advantages.

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

There are already some shared activities. Priory Street will prepare some young people for confirmation even if they are technically in the Lexden Parish if it is easier for parents.

St Teresa is starting a youth group and there has been discussion of opening this to young people who attend St James the less but also St Benedict College and have friendship groups with those from St Teresa.

The Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul has offered help to re-establish the conference in the St James the less Parish

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

The Mile End Mass centre is just nearer Priory Street than St John Payne.
The Monkwick Mass Centre is nearer Priory Street than St Teresa at Lexden.
Mersea Mass Centre is just over 9 miles from Priory Street and on a tidal roadway. By distance Wivenhoe/Brightlingsea is nearer but there is no bridge.

Each Mass centre has a core of worshippers who do not go to other churches except on feast days or special occasions. Others will travel to other churches from week to week depending on their commitments. If one or other Mass centres was reduced to less than weekly Mass or even closed transport to another centre would have to be considered. The Sunday bus service is inadequate in this respect.

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”?

See a

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?

There is an annual "Youth Gather" at Mersea Youth Camp led by the Diocese. There is a local campsite at Aldham run by the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Young people from the parish are encouraged to attend these.

There are catechesis groups for First Holy Communion and Confirmation groups.

Those young people who attend St Benedict's Secondary College have an opportunity to join the Flame camps.

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

On the information the stewards have gathered this is difficult to say.

Most important though is to listen to what they say; it may not be possible to do exactly what is asked but it must be related to what is suggested.

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?

1. Bringing the parish together to have a common mission while respecting the different groups within the family of the parish
2. Encouraging people of all ages to help in the parish even if only occasionally or for one off events.
3. Exploring sharing some activities with neighbouring parishes.

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

The necessity for Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS checks) for most volunteering roles has been an anxiety for many people. They are seen as intrusive by some, irrelevant by others who already have clearance and an expense. I have tried to explain that the cost is carried by the Diocese. The checks are a legal requirement and the process is not onerous for the individual.

The long delay has also concerned some people. As a parish we were asked to renew our checks in October/November last year and nothing has happened since. Other organisations eg the Samaritans seem to be able to process the paperwork more quickly.

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 parish could not continue, let alone thrive, without the quiet work done by lots of people. I am not sure that increasing publicity would be altogether welcomed by the loyal members of the prayer groups, coffee morning groups, flower arrangers, church cleaners and so on. However their work is acknowledged by the priests of the parish and this fruitful co-existence is something to be nurtured. A more distant team of clergy in a "cluster" of churches might threaten this link

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.

See next page; sorry trouble with Word

This survey has been undertaken at a difficult point in the parish's history as Cannon McKentey has been ill. The parish, in general, feels that it has managed to maintain its equilibrium despite the shortage of priests and the extra expense incurred.

Despite meetings at all Mass centres and several at Priory Street there are still parishioners who have not been aware or engaged in the process. Our methods of communication have not been effective. Problems with communication has been a constant theme in written and verbal replies to our questionnaires.

First proposal; Better communication lines in the parish. There are 3 main routes; the newsletter, the parish web site and the parish Facebook site. All have their proponents but information is not consistent. These sites should be co-ordinated. Unfortunately there is currently no parish secretary. The facebook site has 2 moderators but the website is not up to date. The parish needs to identify one or more people to manage how information is shared. In future this could be overseen by a parish administrator.

Parishioners asked for more prayer, spiritual meetings and social events. Some people want more integration between the parish groups and others with the wider community on the town. Volunteers are needed and this is acknowledged but many groups have trouble recruiting.

Second Suggestion; A skills list In the past a volunteer fair was held but was felt to be inefficient in recruiting. An alternative would be to ask all parishioners to tell the parish what skills they could offer and what time, even if only a small amount and intermittently, they could offer. Using this, the parish could ask people for specific tasks which may be less threatening than being asked to run something from scratch.

Many people expressed the wish for more support for children especially in the gap between First Holy Communion and Confirmation. There are two Catholic primary schools in Colchester and one Secondary School. These cannot accommodate all the Catholic children in the town. Suggestions have included a Youth Choir, more social events and more spiritual events aimed at children. There has also been some expressed need for more support for parents.

Third proposal; Activities aimed at families with children. Suggestions for groups specifically for children included Youth Choirs, Scouts Association, discos and camps. All of these require volunteers with training who are in short supply. One way forward would be to share some one off events with the neighbouring parish of St Teresa which is starting to run youth groups. Another would be to build on the catechesis groups and the UCM to explore family based events; suggestions have ranged from family prayer groups to family based walks and picnics.

In view of the expressed need for more spiritual education for families and the predicted reduction in priests more training for catechists and the appointment of a Deacon would be advantageous.

Our initial thoughts and ideas (continued)

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.

| Date of meeting or other activity | Nature of activity (e.g. open parish meeting) | Purpose of meeting / activity | Numbers attending / participating |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Autumn 2016 | 1 minute questionnaire | Initial thoughts about what is done well and what could be improved | 300+ |
| March and April 2017 | Diocesan questionnaire | Asking for specific ideas and plans | 20 |
| March and April 2017 | Meetings after Masses at all Mass centres. Also meetings held by interested parishioners. | Talking about specific plans for the future for the parish as it is and also how to work more closely with other parishes. Would anyone take on a volunteering role? | Overall at least 100 |
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We expect to receive completed questionnaires by 31 December 2016. 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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