

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, Dundee

Questionnaire about Congregational Life

April 2015



The Cathedral Church of St Paul, known as St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, a
Scottish Charity (SC004696).

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Background

In March and April 2015 the Cathedral Vestry and Ministry Team together undertook a review of the life of our congregation recognising the importance, in our journey together, of periodically stopping at a milestone and taking stock of where we are and where we believe God is leading us. 2015 is such a milestone being the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the present building and the 110th anniversary of St Paul's becoming the Cathedral of the Diocese of Brechin. To this end we sought the views of the congregation about all areas of the Cathedral's corporate life, seeking and recognising the importance of all views and voices within our community.

The survey was carried out both online and by paper, with Survey Monkey links being sent to those we held email addresses for and paper copies of the survey were made available to those who preferred to complete in this way.

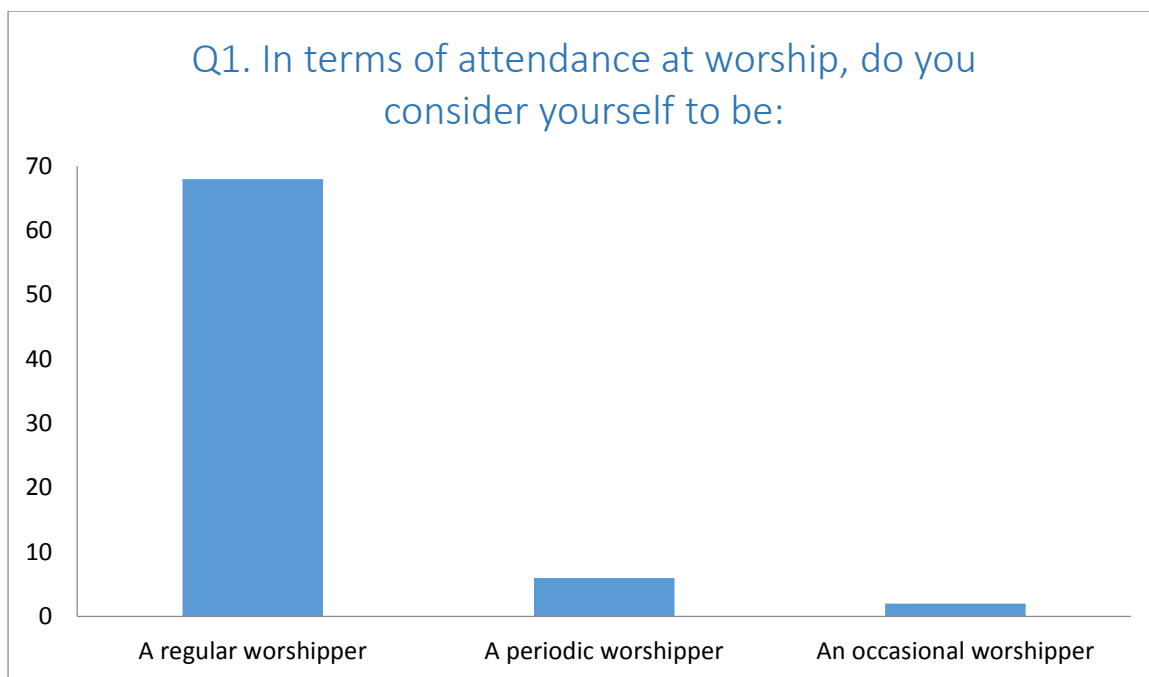
Approximately 137 questionnaires were issued and 79 responses were received overall. This represents an estimated response rate of 58% - estimated because some email addresses are for couples who may have responded individually and some individual email addresses may have responded as a 'family unit'.

A lot of work has gone into this survey, its production both on paper and online. I am grateful to the survey team: Cathy Mitchell, Carole Spink and Roxanne Campbell who undertook this task assisted by Kathy McLemore in ensuring it was sent out to as wide a constituency within the congregation as possible. I would particularly like to thank Roxanne for the enormous amount of work she has personally put into analysing the results and putting together the summary of findings which now follows.

The findings make fascinating reading and whilst, in one or two cases, I have wondered whether the respondent could actually be talking about St Pauls, most of the criticism has been constructive and provides much food for thought, prayer and consideration about how we move forward in our mission and ministry in the next phase of our life together in this fascinating community that is clearly so immensely important to so many.

Jeremy Auld

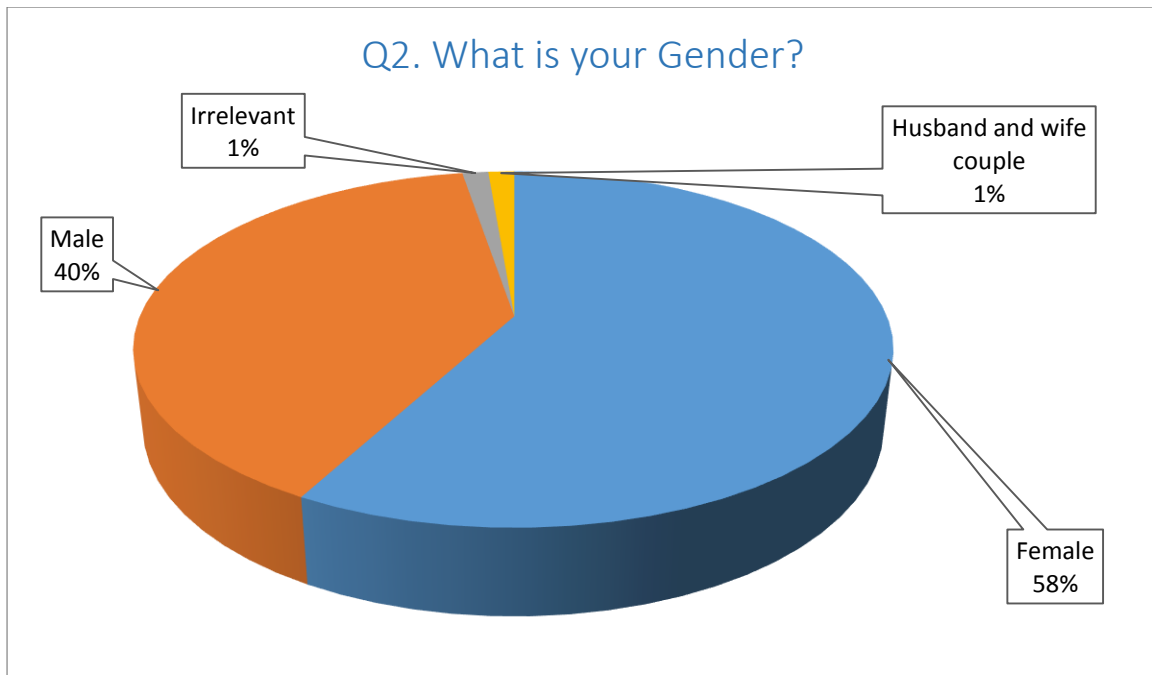
May 2015



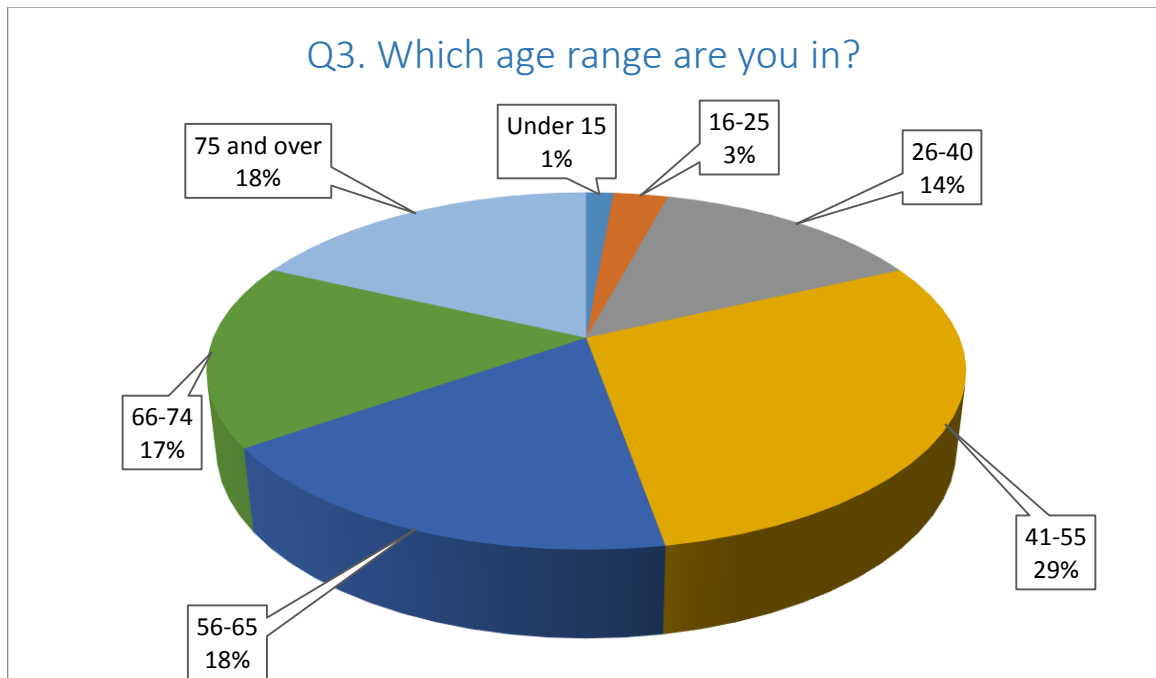
Of our 79 respondents 68 (88.73%) identified as regular worshippers at the Cathedral defined in the survey as attending a cathedral service at least twice a month, 6 (8.45%) as periodic worshippers at the Cathedral defined in the survey as attending a cathedral service monthly or more often, and 2 (2.82%) as occasional worshippers at the Cathedral defined in the survey as attending a Cathedral service less than once a month. There were two further categories which were not picked by respondents: of being a periodic visitor to the Cathedral but regular worshipper at another church; and a visitor to the Cathedral with no active church links.

Three respondents skipped this question.

The above demonstrates that the highest level of engagement with this survey was from regular worshippers at the Cathedral.



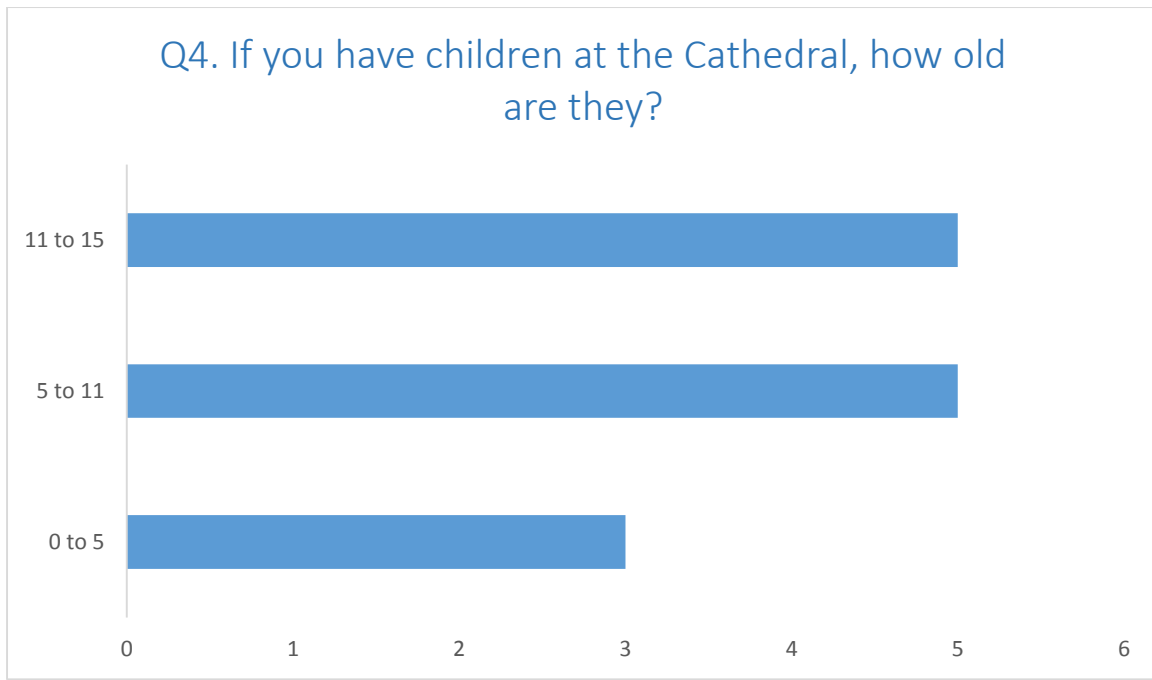
Of the 76 participants who provided data for this question 44 identified as female, 30 as male, one as a husband and wife couple who were answering the survey jointly and one respondent stated their gender was irrelevant. 3 respondents skipped this question.



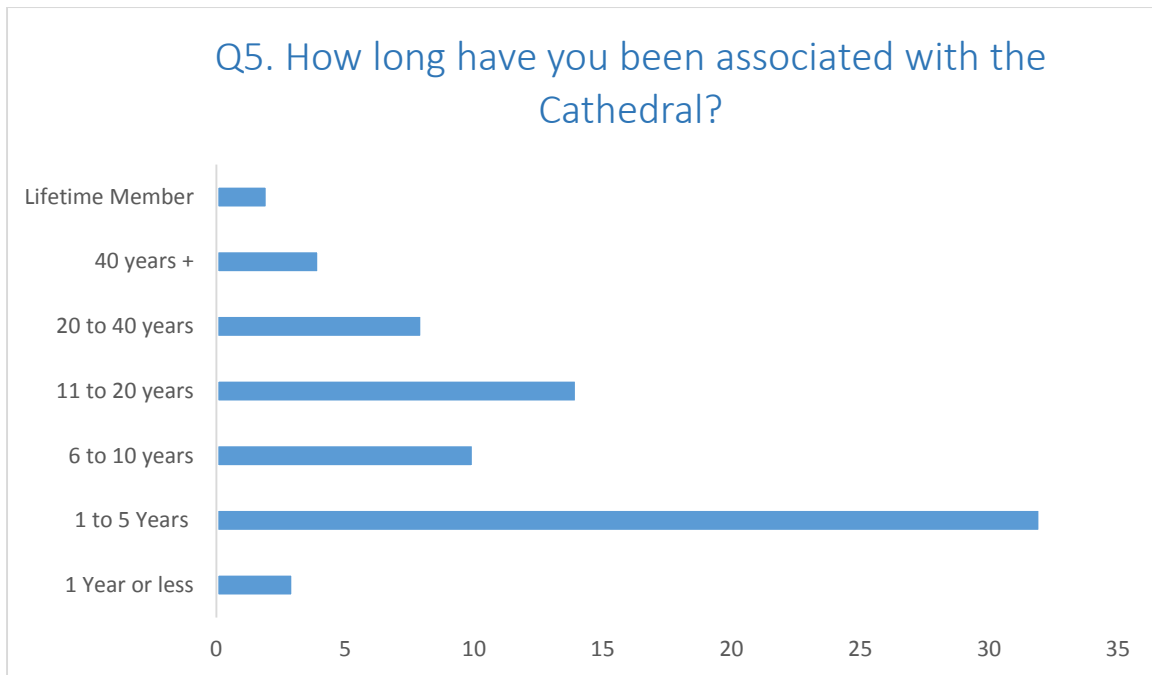
The 76 participants who provided data regarding their age were split into the following age ranges:

| Age Range | Number in category |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Under 15 | 1 |
| 16-25 | 2 |
| 26-40 | 10 |
| 41-55 | 21 |
| 56-65 | 13 |
| 66-74 | 15 |
| 75 and over | 14 |

A total of three participants skipped this question.



7 respondents provided data regarding the ages of their children. Several responses identified multiple children within the same family. Additionally one respondent noted that their adult son(s) and/or daughter(s) attend the Cathedral.

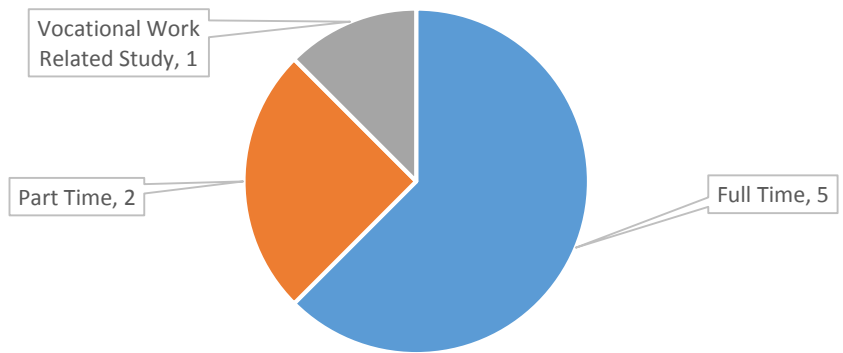


75 participants provided data for this question, with 4 skipping the question.

The largest category of participants, 44%, have been associated with the Cathedral for between 1 and 5 years, and the second largest category, 19%, have been associated with the Cathedral for between 11 and 20 years.

The lowest number of responses came from those who have been associated with the Cathedral for 1 year or less (4%), and those who identified as Lifetime Members (3%). It is pertinent to note that any respondent giving a number of years could potentially be a lifetime member, especially those in the category of 40 years+.

Q6 & Q7. Are you currently in further or higher education & If you answered yes to Q6 are you full time or part time?

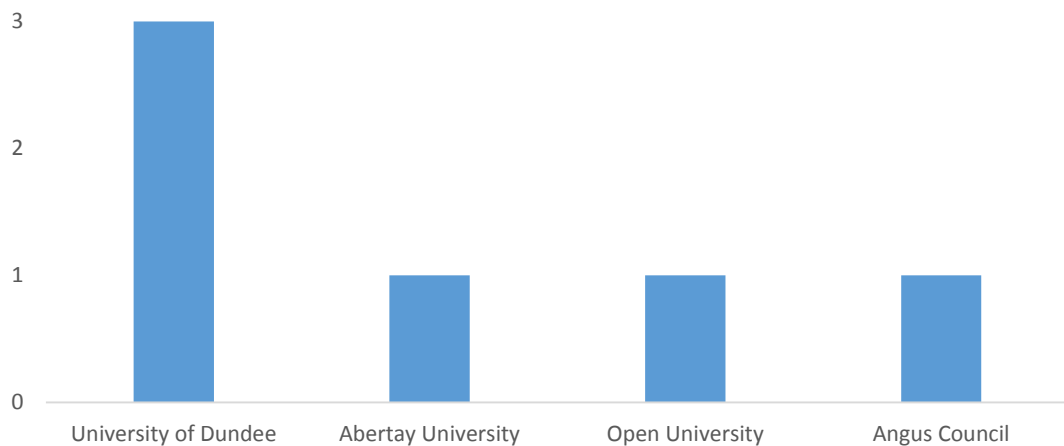


66 respondents answered question 6, with 5 of these respondents indicating in question 6 that they were in some form of further or higher education. 1 respondent stated that they were not in further or higher education but that they attend primary school. 8 respondents then provided data as to whether they were in full or part time education, which suggests the data given in Q6 was not accurate.

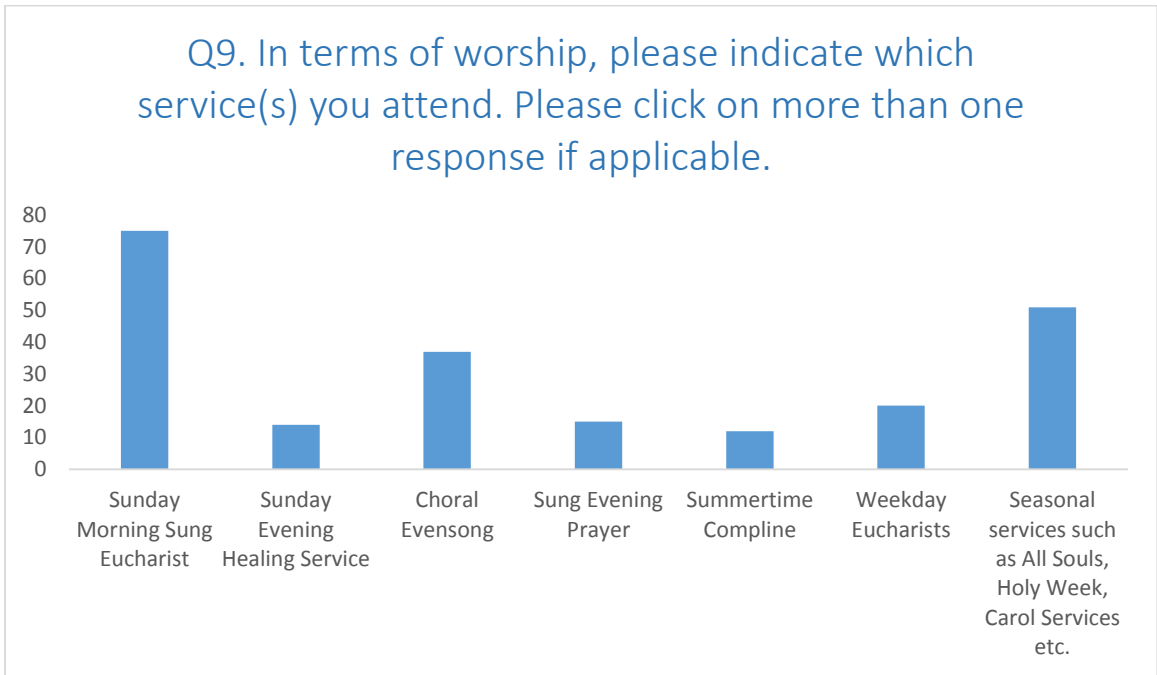
13 participants skipped Q6 and, 70 skipped Q7.

Six went on to provide the name of the educational establishment in Q8, below:

Q8. If you answered 'yes' to question 6, what is the name of your educational establishment?



One respondent noted that they attend St Joseph's Primary School.



A total of 77 participants provided responses to this question with 2 skipping the question. Sunday Morning Sung Eucharist was the most well attended service with 75 respondents indicating that they attended and the least popular choice was Summertime Compline with only 12 indicating that they attended this service.

Q10. Are there any other weekday activities associated with the cathedral in which you regularly participate? If so, what are they?

27 participants responded to this question. Many of the responses given duplicated responses received in question 9; for example people identified a particular service which they attend or reiterated that they attend weekday Eucharist, Choral Evensong, or information was given regarding activities to be covered later in the survey such as Soup and Soul.

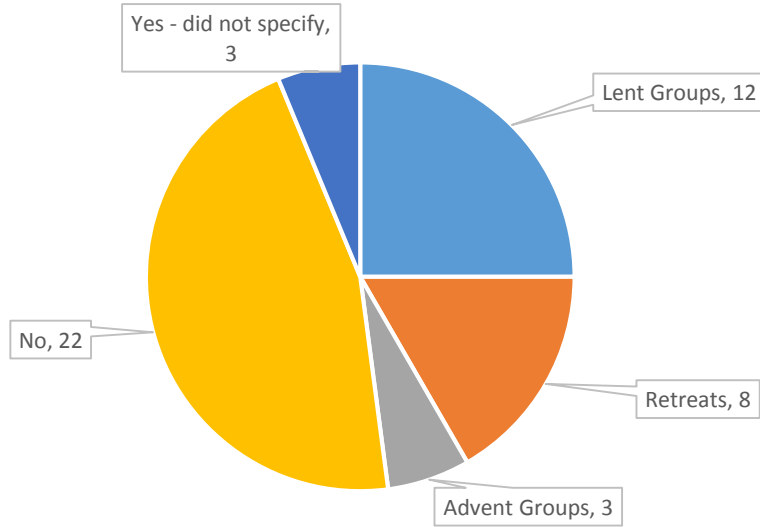
One respondent identified that they had attended the special service to pray for the Referendum on Scottish Independence.



43 responses were received to this question, with 36 participants skipping the question. Often more than one service was mentioned in one response and responses have been broken down into categories and grouped into the on the above chart.

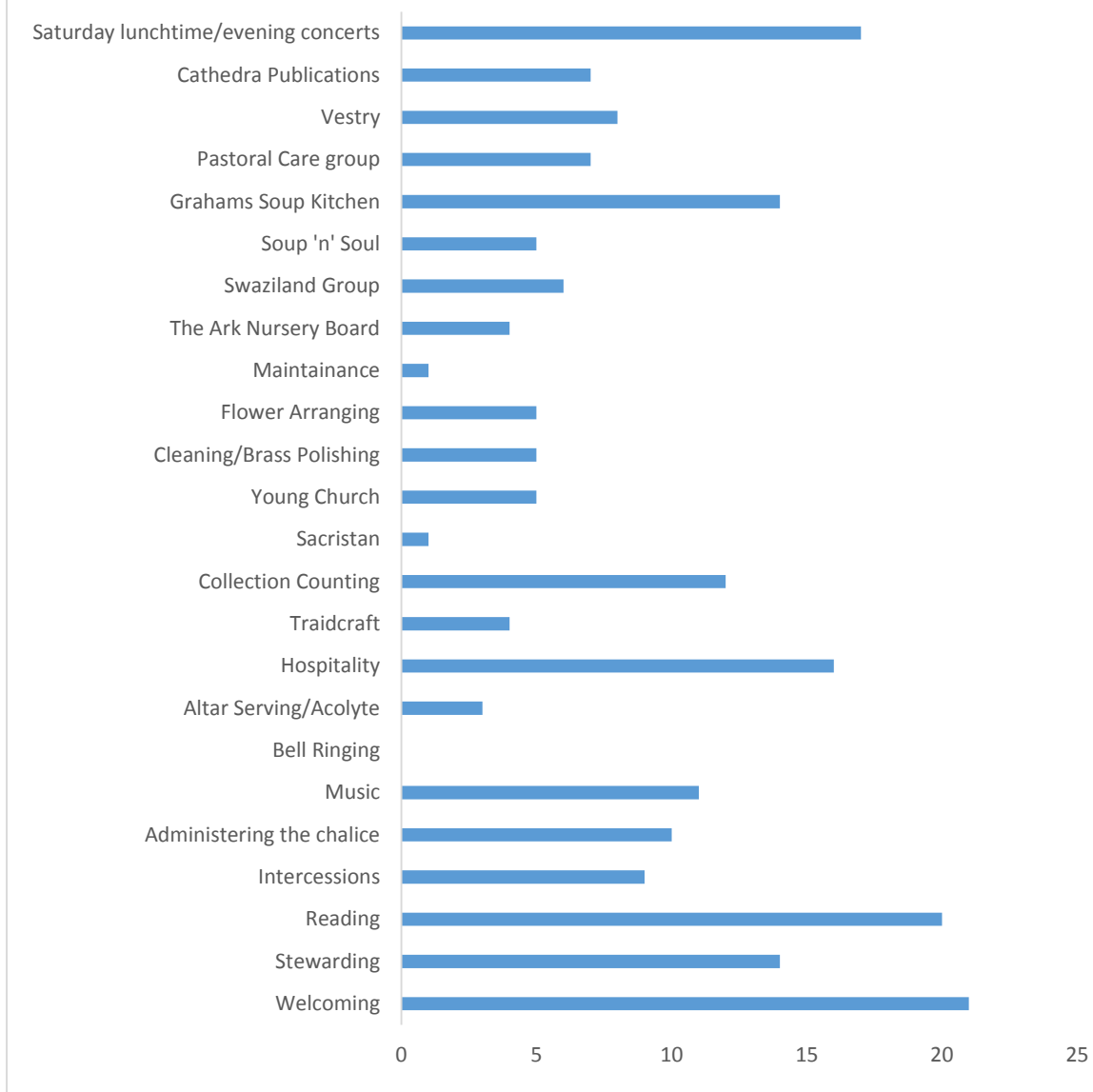
Additionally, 4 participants commented that they enjoy all of the seasonal services. 2 participants commented that they like to participate in flower arranging and 1 participant commented that they take part in fund raising activities.

Q12. Do you participate in seasonal study groups such as Lent and Advent groups or parish retreats? What are they?



Of the 49 participants who responded to this question 10 respondents named a combination of the above as activities that they participate in. One respondent noted that they did not participate as they are a member of a house group from a previous church they attended. One respondent explained that they try to attend these things when possible but are constrained by childcare and two respondents noted that time constraints make it difficult for them to attend. One respondent expressed that they have not participated in these things previously but they would consider doing so in the future.

Q13. Do you currently contribute to the life of the Cathedral in any of the following Areas? Please tick as many of the boxes as are applicable.



53 people provided a response to this question, with many participants indicating that they are involved across a variety of areas.

The highest areas of participation are:

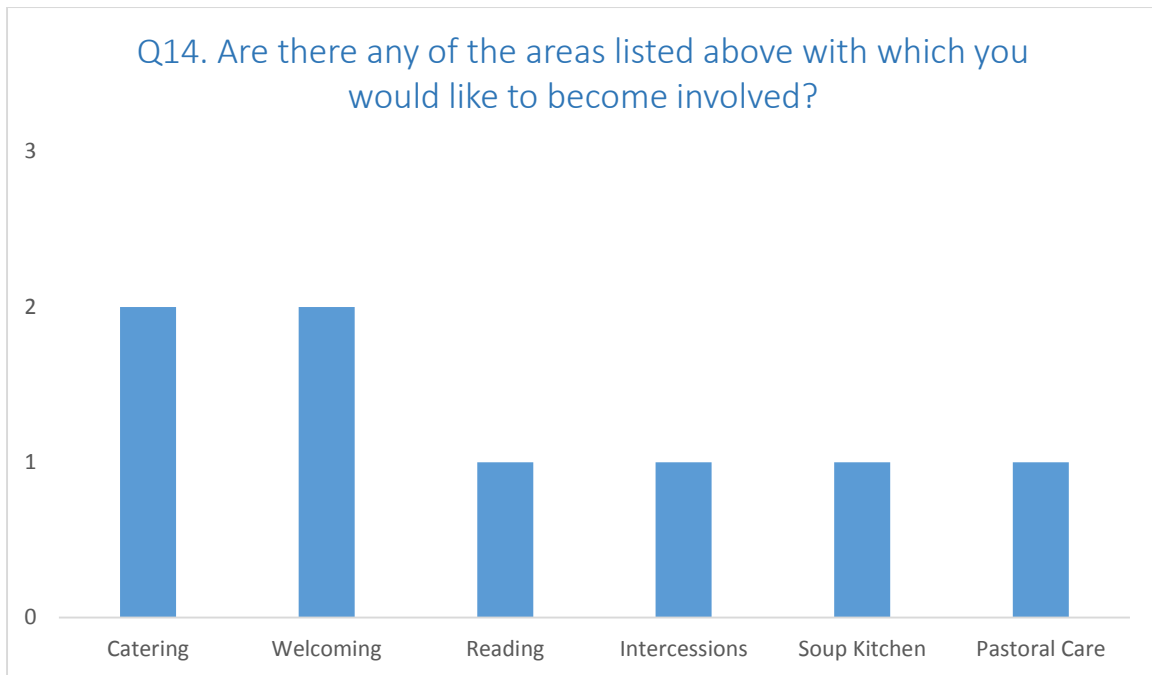
- Saturday lunchtime/evening concerts;
- Reading;
- Welcoming.

The lowest areas of participation are:

- Bell ringing;
- Maintenance;

- Sacristan duties.

It is perhaps concerning to note, at this stage of our journey towards developing our fabric, the low level of involvement in the maintenance of the Cathedral. Only one participant indicated their involvement in this area. It is clear that involvement and a sense of ownership needs to grow among the congregation for keeping our space to the standard needed.

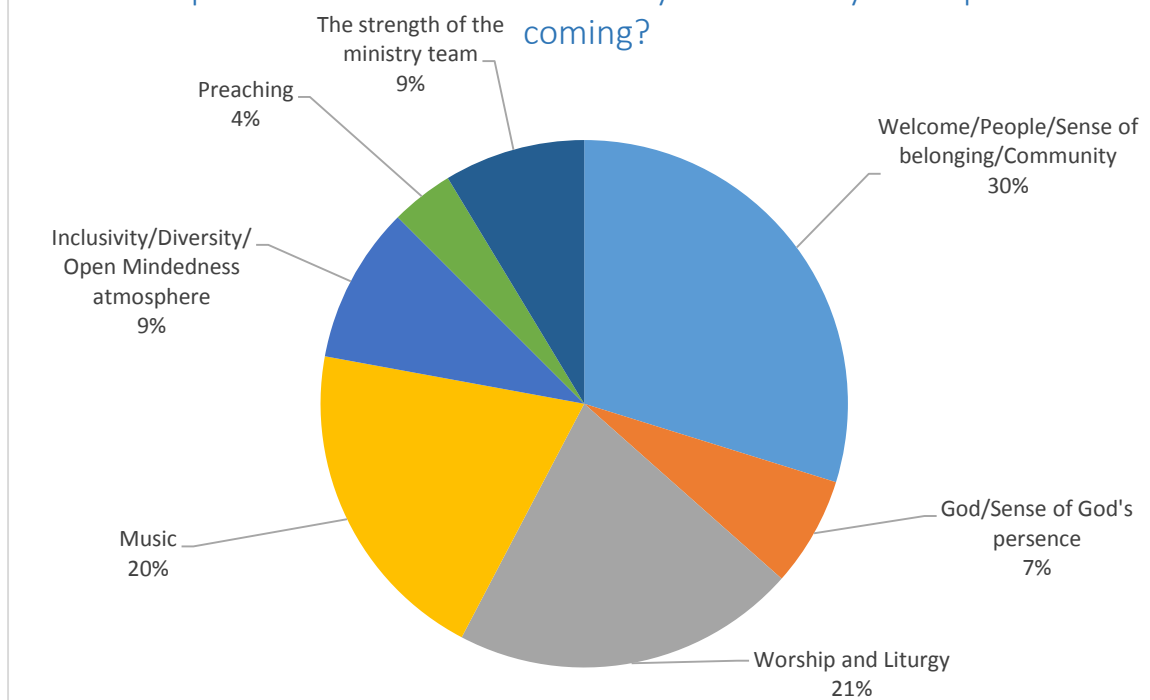


16 people provided a response to this question, with the majority identifying that there were no further areas in which they would like to be involved.

As the survey was anonymous, details were given at the end about who to contact in order to become involved in various areas.

1 respondent indicated 'yes' but did not specify which area(s) they wished to become involved in. 1 respondent explained that they may consider becoming more involved in the future and 1 respondent stated their intention to stand for a further term on the Cathedral Vestry.

Q15. However regular or irregular you feel as a member of the Cathedral, what is it 'in nutshell' that makes you feel part of the Cathedral community and makes you keep coming?



A total of 65 participants provided responses to this question, often commenting upon more than one area. The responses were free typed and have been categorised into the above areas.

Responses in this area were overwhelmingly positive and much encouraging feedback was provided on the sense of community, care and fellowship at St Paul's.

A key theme that emerged in this section was the sense of community and welcome which draws people back to the Cathedral. One respondent commented:

"I can't think of another church in which I would like to worship on a regular basis. I love being part of such a warm, friendly, welcoming and caring community. It is good to meet so many people from so many different parts of the world. Wonderful music and on the whole interesting sermons."

Another key strength that was identified was the ministry team itself, with one respondent highlighting:

"The Provost - warm, engaging and funny and without him, we would not be the community we are."

Whilst another said, commenting on the music:

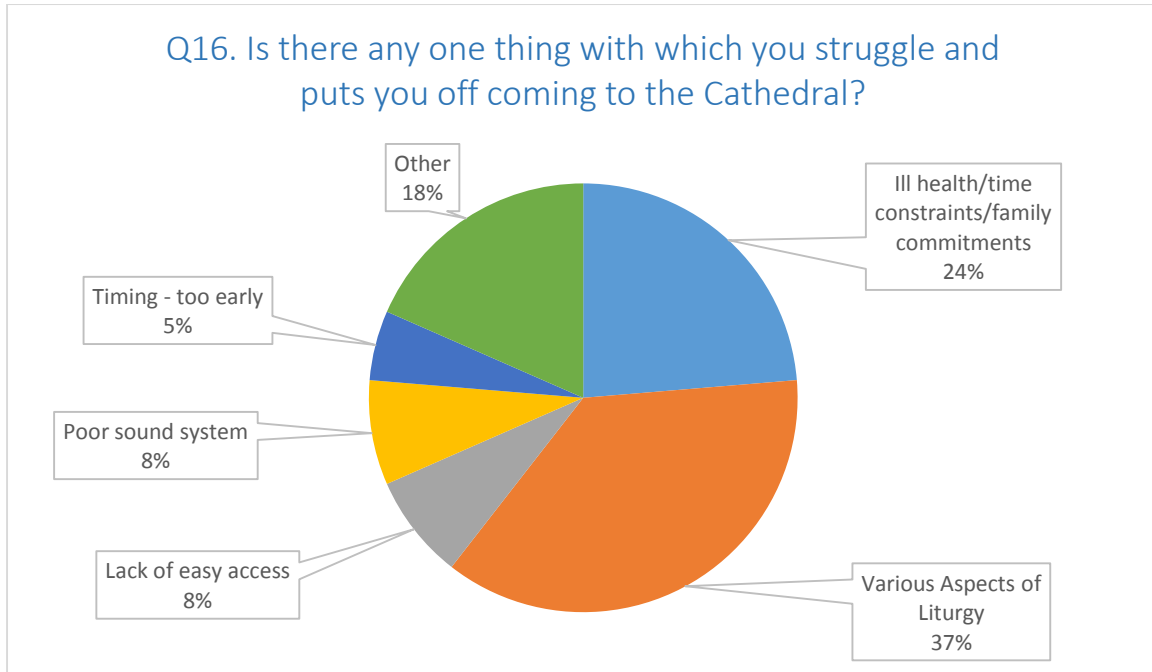
"Everything: music is wonderful..."

And another specified:

"I love the Cathedral, its people, its liturgy and its theology".

It is clear from the responses received that the overwhelming majority of respondents are drawn to keep coming back to St Paul's from a very real and strong sense of community and care within the congregation and from the ministry team combined with a positive experience of our liturgy and music.

Q16. Is there any one thing with which you struggle and puts you off coming to the Cathedral?



53 people provided a response to this question with many simply answering 'No', however some responses provided several reasons that put participants off coming to the Cathedral.

The category 'Form/Conduct' of Liturgy encompasses a range of responses and has been broken down below:

| Aspect of Liturgy | Number of Responses |
|--|---------------------|
| Not traditional enough | 6 |
| Sharing of the Peace – too informal or distracting | 2 |
| Noise from young children | 2 |
| Changes to liturgy during Lent 2015 | 3 |
| Find Palm Sunday Passion Play distressing | 1 |
| Service is too long | 1 |

Some comments which reflect common themes in this section were:

The Sound System

"I find it increasingly difficult to hear all that is being said because of an inadequate sound system. The problem is further exacerbated when the person involved is unable to project their voice. It has been more difficult than expected to adapt to the earlier time of service during the winter months."

The Sharing of the Peace

"Sometimes things get a little too 'touchy feely' - not everyone in the congregation is of left-leaning liberal disposition. Does not put me off coming, but I don't feel comfortable with how we normally share the peace - enjoyed the dignity of the Easter services and like to share the peace with those in the immediate vicinity."

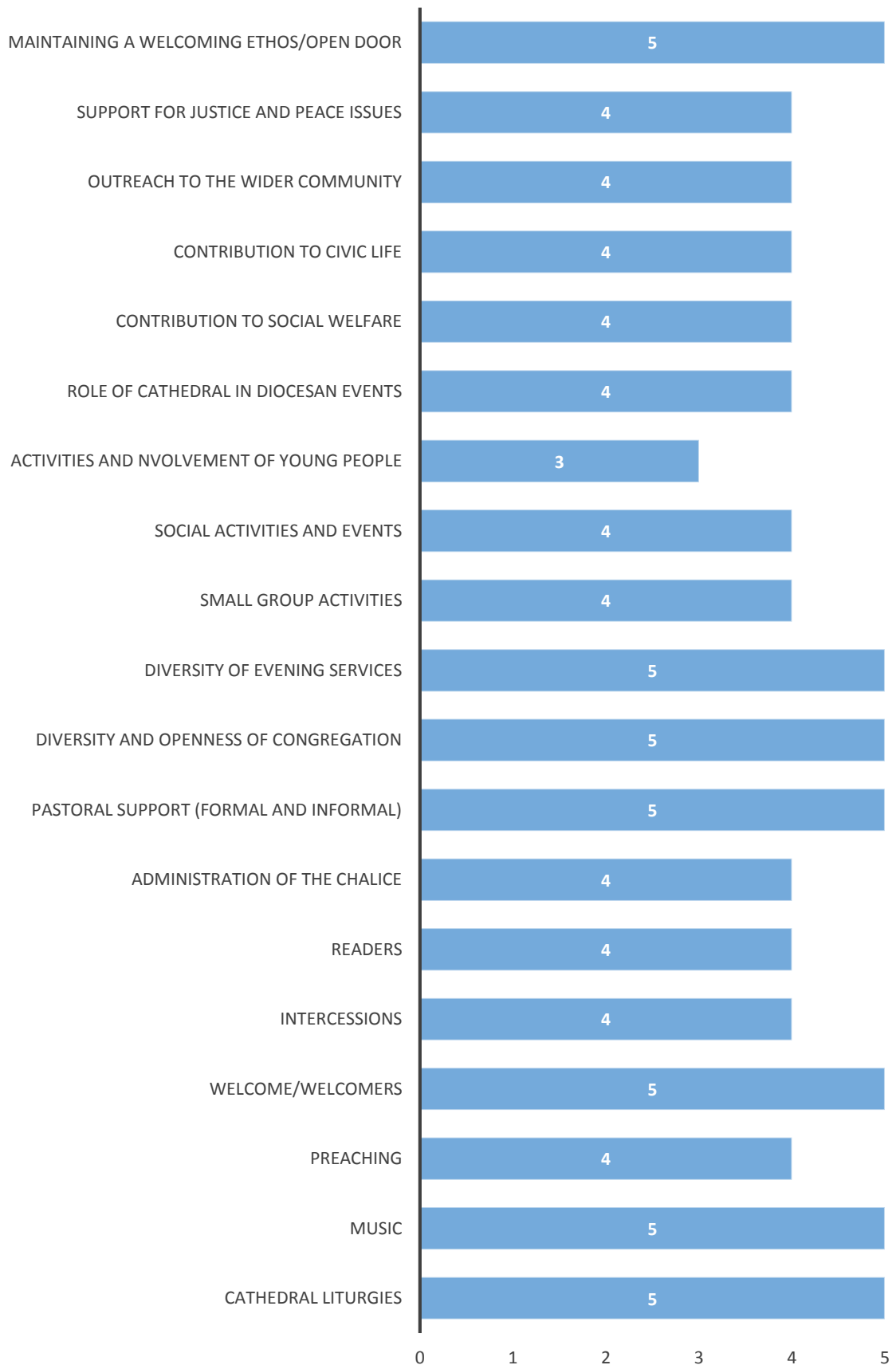
Involvement of the Congregation

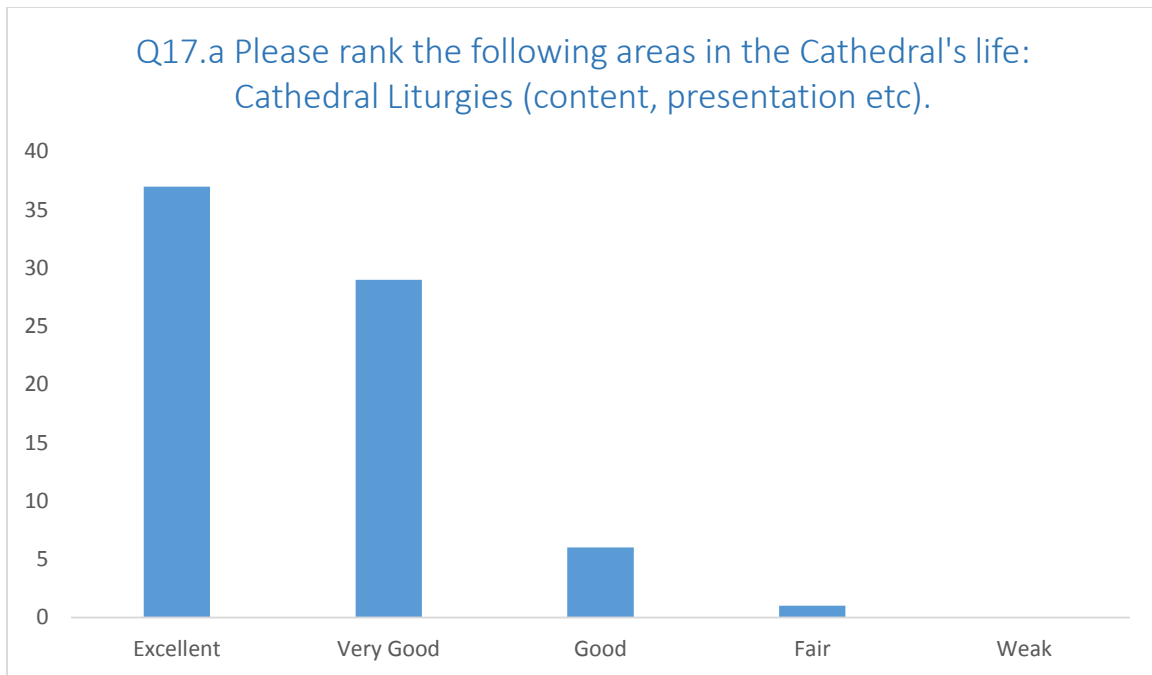
"It sometimes feels that a small group of people are keeping the place running and not enough volunteer to take their turn to help."

Atmosphere

"Before the service the choir is practising, people are running around getting things ready for the service. Maybe the Lady Chapel or St Roque's could be a 'quiet space', not sure how this would work practically though".

Q17. Please rank the following areas of the Cathedral's life
(Overall Rankings: 1=Poor, 5=Excellent):





67 Participants ranked this area, the majority rating it as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

Written feedback in Q18 in relation to liturgy was, overall, very positive.

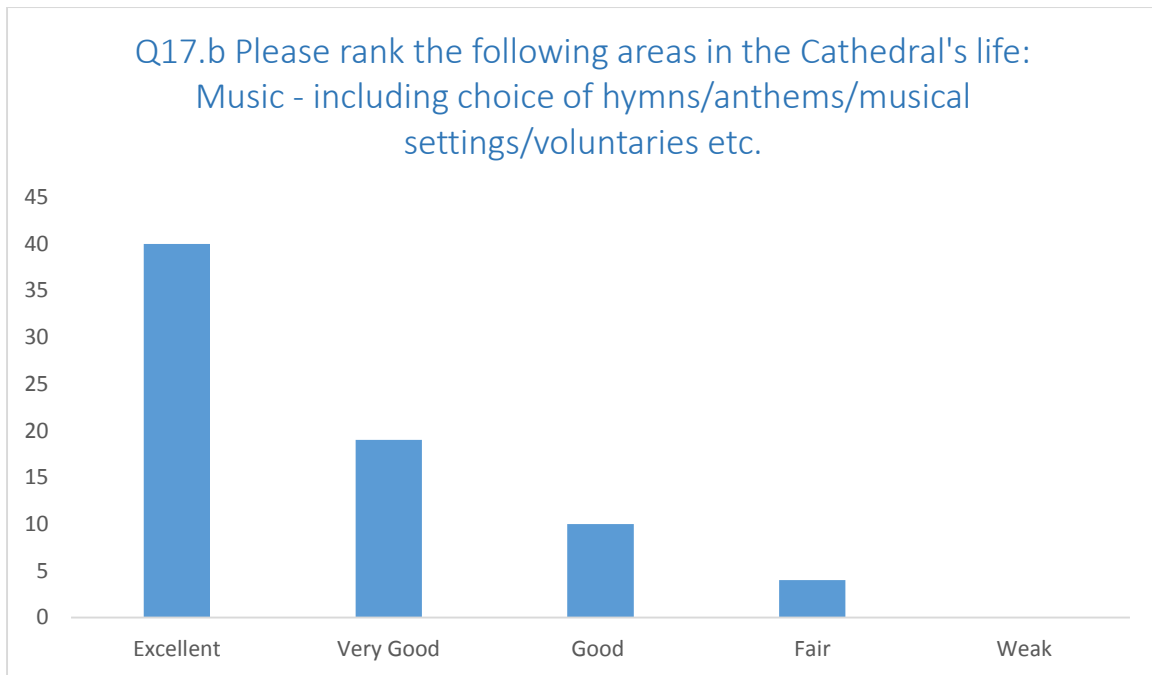
"I have attended Eucharist services in several Cathedrals and often think there is no feeling behind the words and the ritual, the clergy are just going through the motions. This is never the case in St Paul's, Jeremy makes every service special for me, both with what he says, how he says it, and the way in which he performs the ritual gestures".

"Liturgy: Really enjoy / appreciate the beautiful and varied non-traditional liturgy. A positive contribution to worship".

However, a number of respondents identified that they would appreciate some more traditional elements and wording in the liturgies:

"Liturgies - Delivery is routinely excellent, but it would be nice to have some traditional wording/prayers from time to time."

"Dislike modern poorly written hymns and some of liturgical non-traditional prayers e.g. Creed."



67 Participants provided a ranking for this area, the majority rating it as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

In the written feedback in Q18, a key theme that emerged over several responses was a recognition and praise for the standard of the delivery of music, but a desire for more traditional hymns and wording:

"Music - a difficult category. Organ music and choir music are excellent. Recent hymns should be more carefully considered for theological content. More use of classical hymns from 17th to 19th centuries"

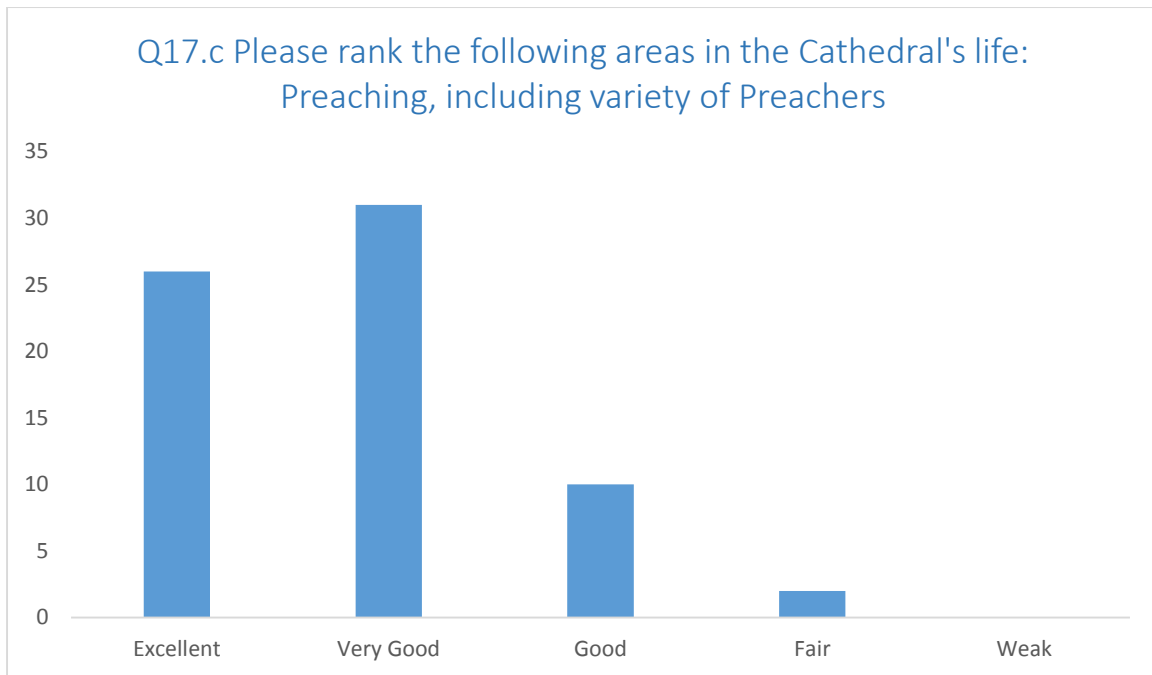
"the music is of a pretty impressive standard but sometimes the choice of hymns leaves much to be desired."

"Music: Cathedral's crowning glory. Organ repair should be the priority because of the importance of the music to worship."

"Music: we appreciate the very high standard but we feel the use of Latin in choral pieces is questionable. Also it would be interesting to have pieces by JS Bach and RVW."

"Music - more traditional hymns and musical settings would be welcome."

"Music - presentation and delivery are excellent, but the choice of words for hymns is not. I would like my children to know some of the traditional wording for the most well-known hymns, but this does not happen."



63 participants ranked this area, with the majority of participants rating it as 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'.

Written feedback in relation to this in Q18 was generally good, with one respondent commenting:

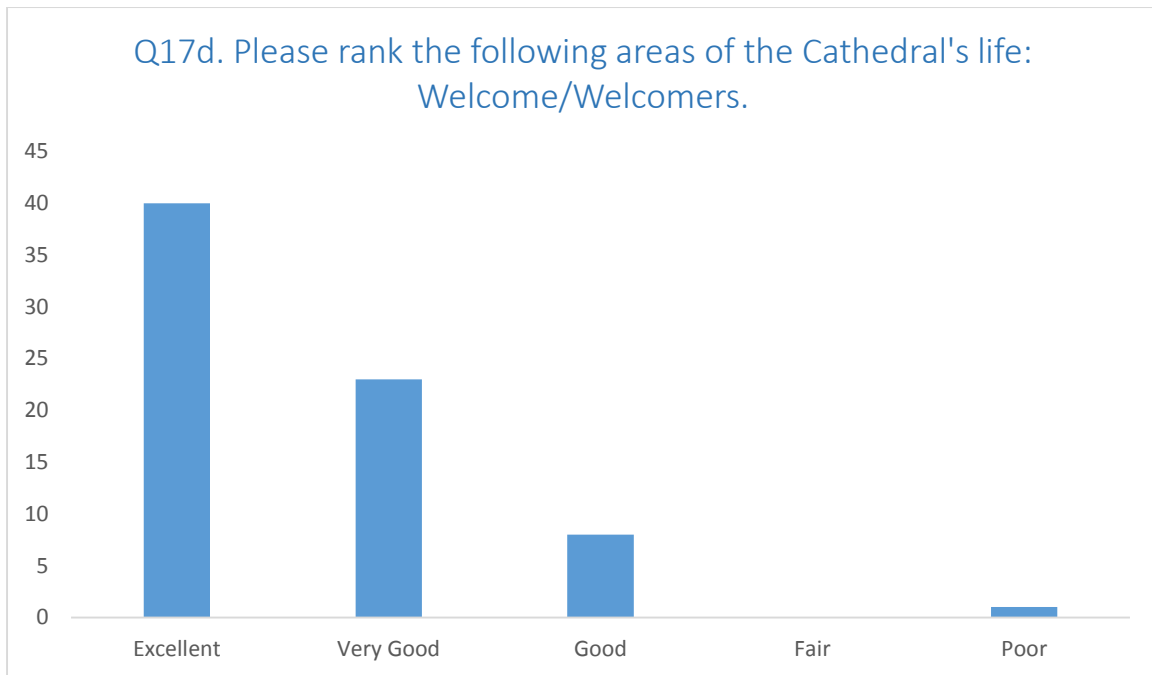
"Any Cathedral, or Church, which can boast of having three preachers of the calibre of Jeremy, Hugh, and William is very fortunate."

However, a theme which emerged in this area was the standard of preaching from guest preachers:

"Preaching: Generally very good with a contemporary relevance and very humanitarian, but visiting non-Episcopal preachers can preach for too long and become boring."

"The preaching is generally pretty good compared with most places but one or two sermons from guests and some assistant clergy have been too long, inaudible or poor in content."

"I have rated preaching as fair as we have some excellent preachers, however there have also been a couple of sermons from guest preachers which have really turned me off."



66 participants provided a ranking for this question, the majority ranking Welcoming and Welcomers as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

Several respondents in Q18 commented very positively on how welcome they felt, both through the formal presence of the Welcomers and through the welcome of the congregation as a whole:

"The most impressive aspect of Cathedral life for me is the way that people are welcomed into the church by both the clergy and the lay members of the congregation."

"Welcome - we get a pleasant welcome every time."

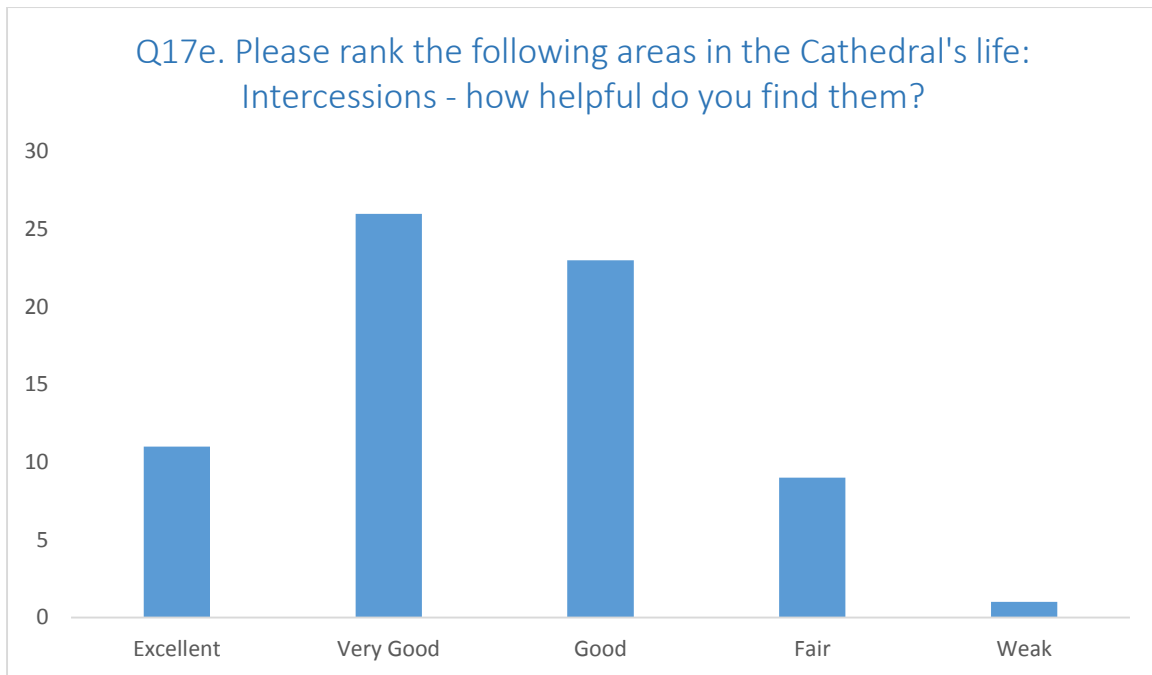
"On the whole, I think the Cathedral works well to be inclusive and welcoming."

"The Cathedral is a welcoming and diverse community who on the whole are sensitive to others needs."

However not all written feedback was positive in this area with two respondents commenting:

"Welcomers seem to be a 'closed' group. Same faces."

"The people on the door can be nice but some are not."



64 respondents provided a ranking for this area, with the majority ranking the helpfulness of the Intercessions as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

Much varied written feedback was given on the intercessions in Q18 with respondents highlighting mainly highlighting that the intercessions are not always audible and that the quality of the intercessions can vary greatly:

"Intercessions: these vary but on the whole are beautiful and meaningful re content. The quality and clarity of the voice of intercessor very important."

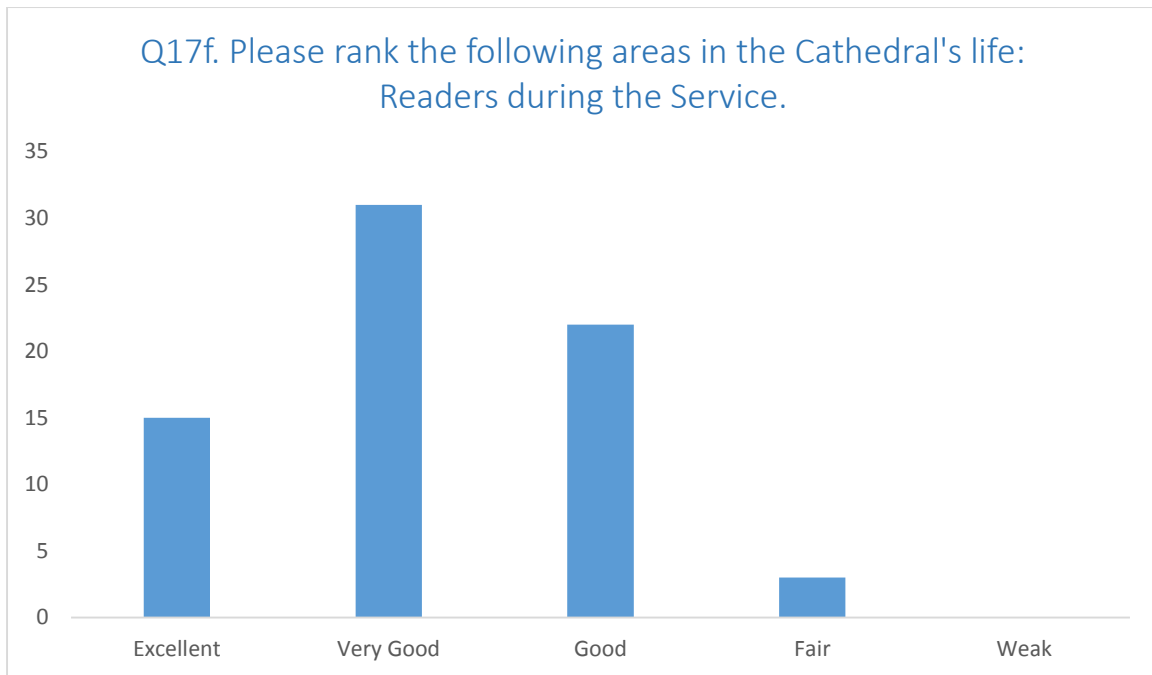
"Intercessions vary a lot but that's nice. It's good to get different perspectives on the world's prayer needs. My only criticism is that sometimes people aren't easy to hear."

"Intercessions sometimes feel 'distant' and although I would find it difficult to lead 'communal' prayers I would like us to pray for individual congregations in our companion dioceses'."

"Intercessions - sometimes too many words and not enough silence in between topics."

"The Intercessions aren't always fully audible."

"Intercessions are a real mixed bag with some really good ones and some really terrible ones."



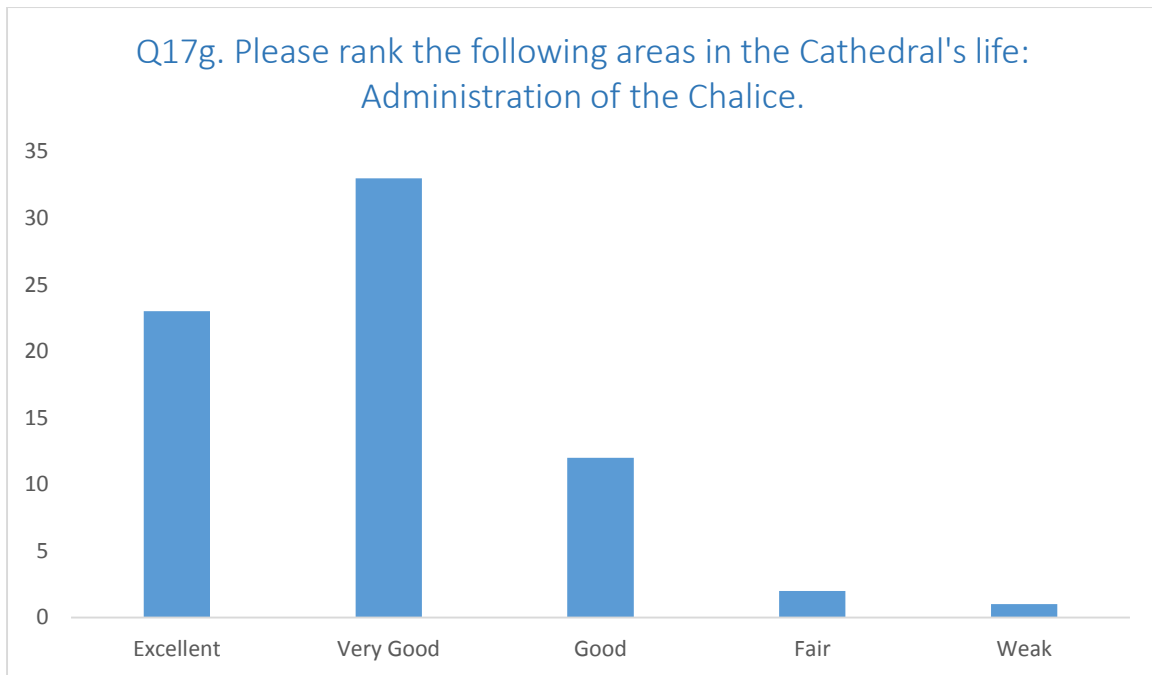
65 respondents ranked the readers during the service, the majority ranking this as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

Much like the feedback on the intercessions, the written feedback on the readers focused on the variable quality of the readers during the service and highlighted that the readers are not always audible:

"Readers: some are very good, very clear. Some are not and speak much too quickly and could do with improved diction and projection. Some readers are very good and communicate meaning not just words."

"Readers - It would be much better to have two readers for each service. This would allow more of the congregation to read. It would also be nice to see the children and young people given more opportunities to read".

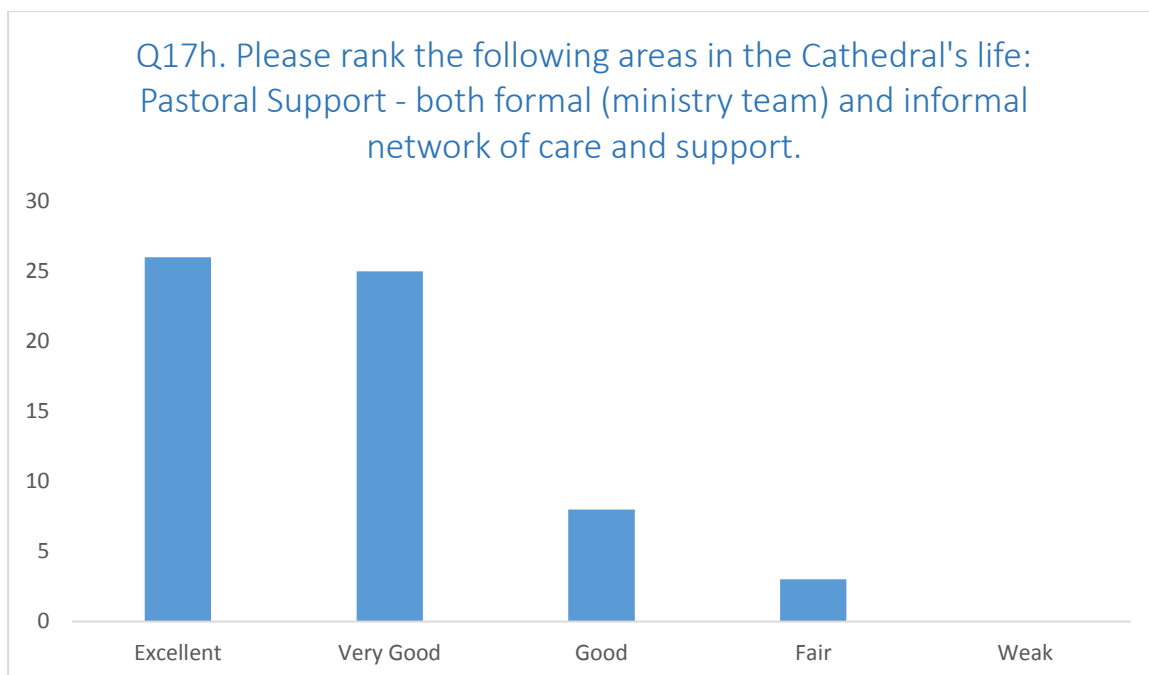
"Readers: Could actually hear them on Easter Day – Alleluia."



65 participants provided a ranking for this area, the majority rating the administration of the chalice as 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'.

One respondent suggested that refresher training could be offered on Administering the Chalice, and the only other piece of written feedback provided in Q18 on this area is below:

"I wish people administering the chalice would let go; sometimes I don't get any or it feels like a fight."



57 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority of respondents rating Pastoral Support as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

Written feedback given in Q18 on Pastoral Support was largely good:

"The community grows all the time but there is still a great feeling of everyone being known to the clergy."

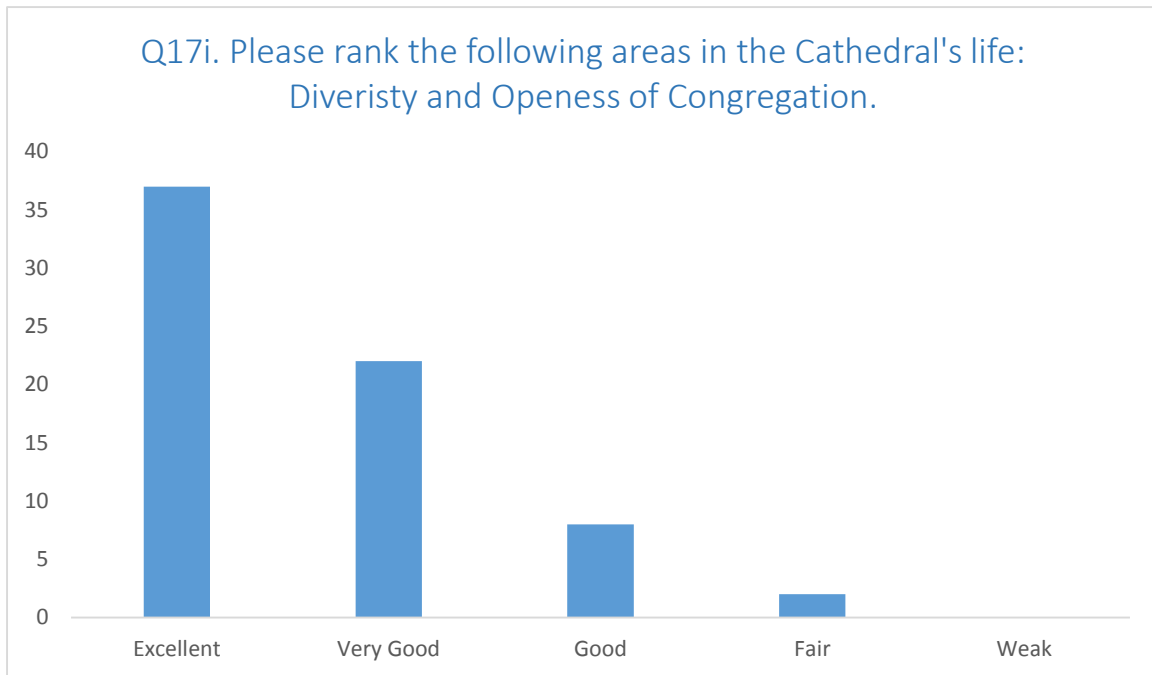
"Pastoral Care: Informal relationships much more helpful. Perhaps that's as it should be."

One participant enquired as to the structure of pastoral care in the Cathedral, which suggests that perhaps more awareness could be sought of this area amongst the congregation:

"Pastoral: is there a formal Pastoral Team? Is there a list - are there names? The informal group is very good indeed and pulls out all the stops when needed - and has good liaison with Provost team".

One respondent also provided feedback, which was reflected in some responses to other areas of the questionnaire, with regards to how some individuals and situations are managed:

"However on many occasions a few monopolise the attention of the Cathedral team to the detriment of the wider community who can sometimes feel that they are neglected."



64 participants ranked this area, with the majority of respondents rating the Diversity and Openness of the Congregation as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

All of the written feedback on this area provided in Q18 was good and a selection of comments have been provided below:

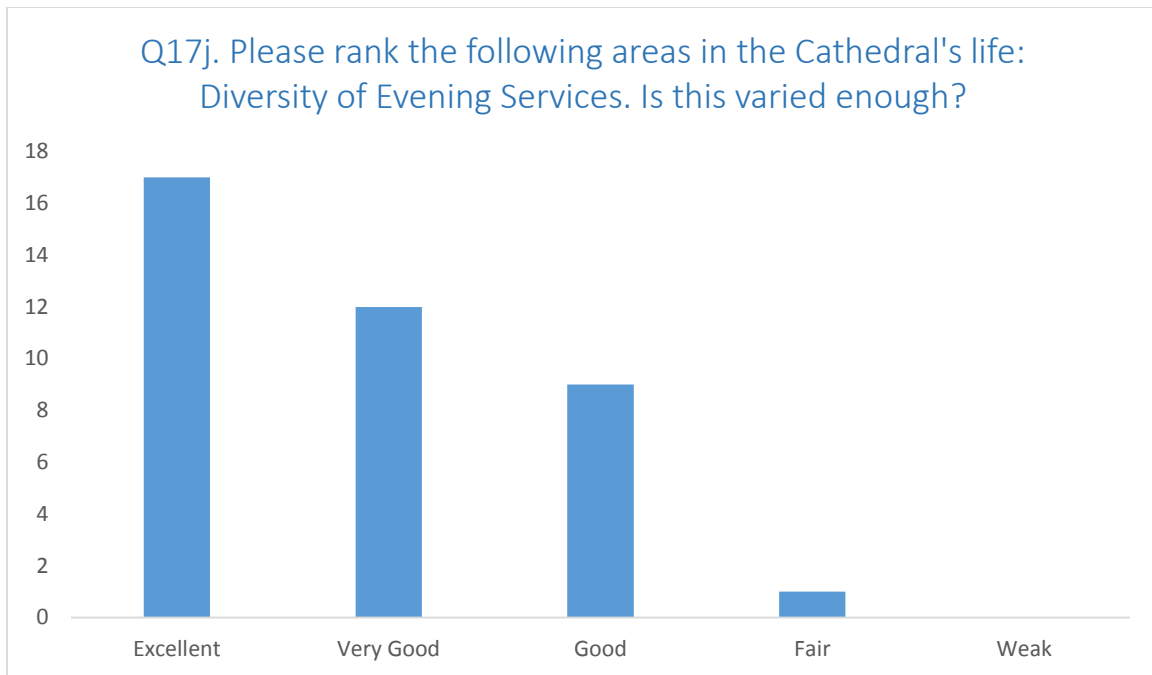
"Diversity: The congregation seems to have a magnetic internationalism."

"The Cathedral is a welcoming and diverse community who on the whole are sensitive to others needs."

"On the whole, I think the Cathedral works well to be inclusive and welcoming."

"The diversity of the congregation came as a real surprise to me. It is an amazing mixture of nationalities from all walks of life, and all are made welcome."

"Diversity - excellent: especially in the welcome shown to the homeless."



39 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority of respondents rating Diversity of Evening services as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'

On the whole there was not much written feedback in relation to the diversity of the evening services in the written feedback in Q18, however some comments and suggestions were made in relation to individual kinds of Sunday evening services:

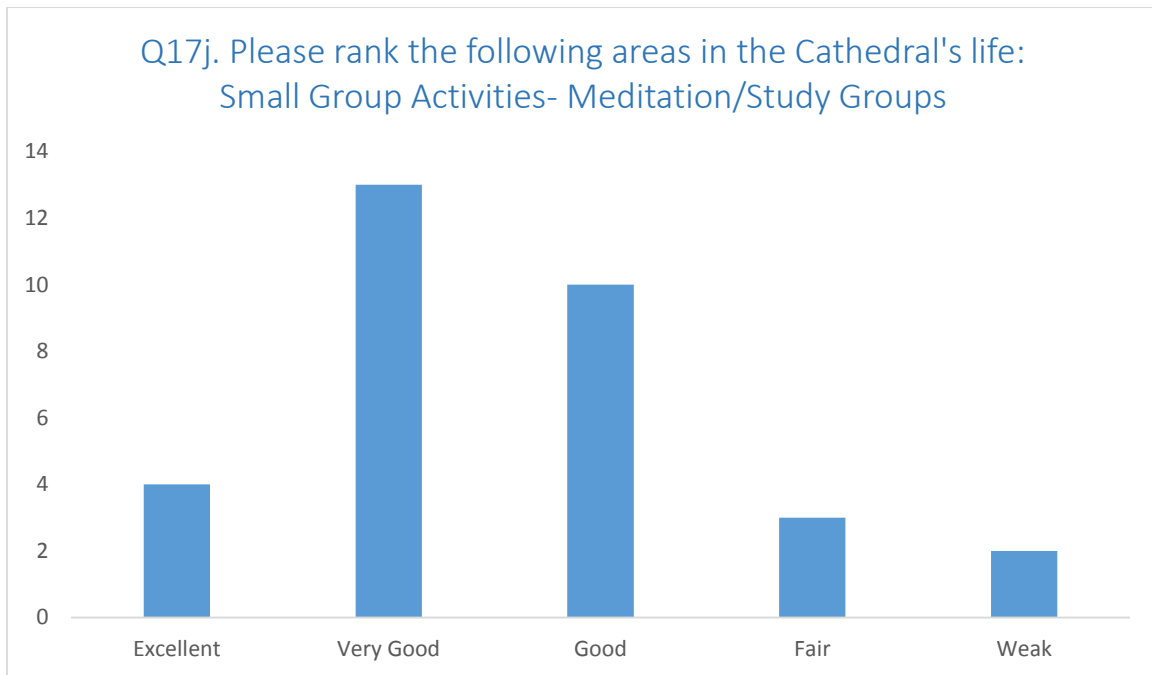
"The Healing Service is also excellent with lovely hymns and meditation."

"Evening services - I only really go to choral evensong but I really like that service, it is so peaceful, a good end and start to the week."

Two comments were also made suggesting an openness to alternative 'styles' of Sunday evening service:

"Evening services: all beautiful and deeply moving. Never do less - be open to new ideas and experimentation."

"Perhaps some Sunday evening services with some modern worship music could be considered."



32 participants provided rankings for this area, the majority of respondents rating Small group activities as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

Despite the overall rankings given in Q17, the written feedback on Small Group Activities that was given in Q18 focused on negative experiences of these:

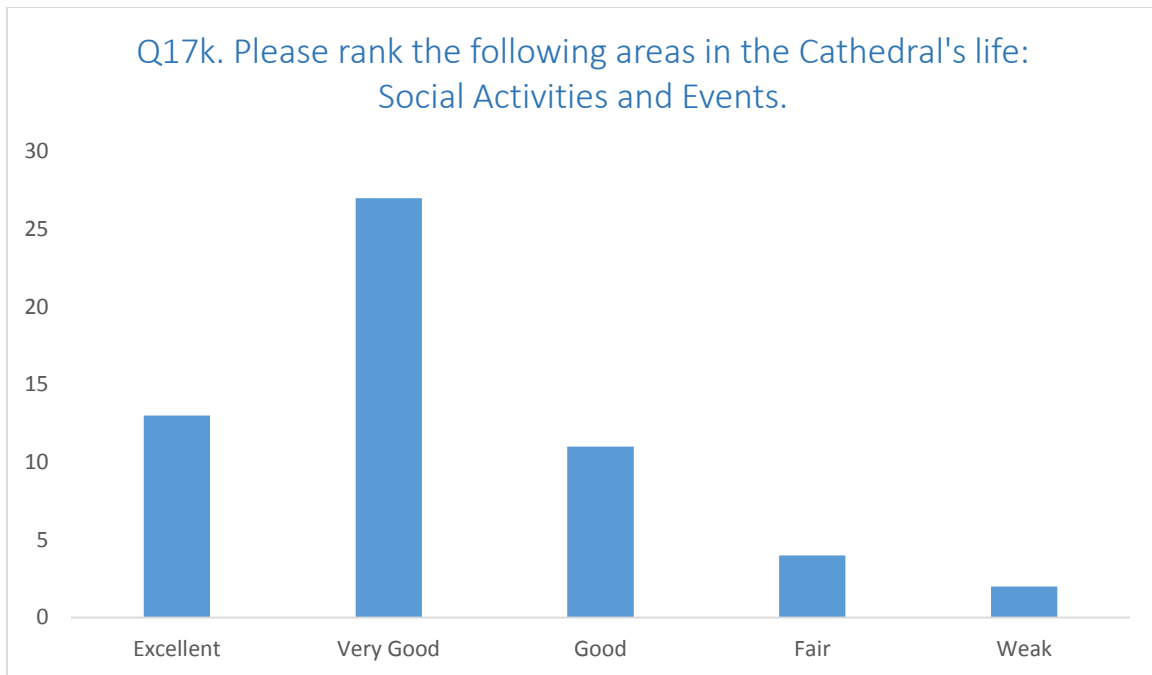
"Small group activities can be really good at the start and then get wrecked..."

"Study groups: Attended by the faithful few. I go from a sense of duty and am often disappointed by the discussion."

"Small group activities sometimes seem ill prepared; not always sufficiently controlled [comment redacted] why limit them to Advent and Lent? More Bible study would be useful. My perception is that 'social' issues given more focus. Like to see more on spirituality."

One respondent also suggested:

"Would it be possible to have small group discussions on matters of concern in and for the people of the world instead of always following a book?"



52 participants provided rankings for this area, with the majority rating Social Activities and Events as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

Overall the feedback in relation to Social Activities given in Q18 was good, however there were some comments and suggestions around the organisation, cost and limitations of these:

"Social activities: these events need to be organised so that people mix."

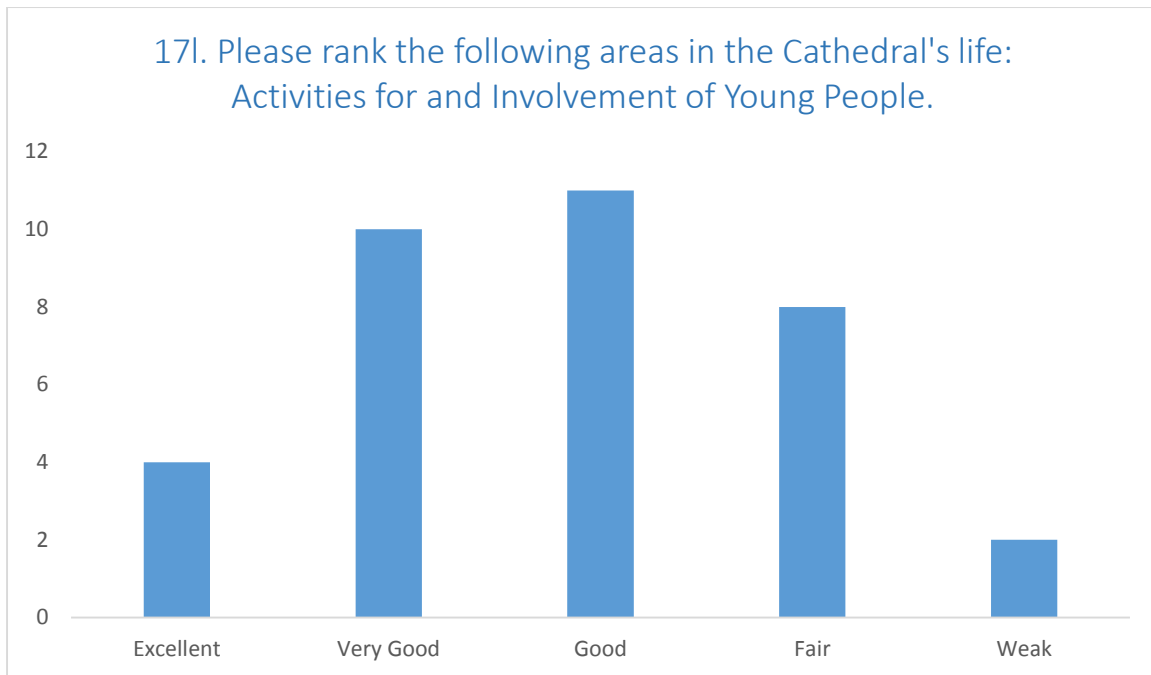
"Social events - limited but quite enjoyable."

"I feel we are restricted in social events and activities as we have no room of our own or church hall."

"Social activities and events: That we are a geographically 'gathered' congregation, affects our ability to arrange / attend other than after Sunday morning service. Info is apt to be given at short notice so that missing a pew sheet can mean not knowing something is happening."

"Social activities, such as fundraiser meals, are usually beyond my ability to pay."

"Social activities - Possible forming of interest groups e.g. Book club, walking group."



32 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority rating activities for and involvement of young people as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

In Q18 one participant who is an attendee of the Sunday School commented on their ranking of this area:

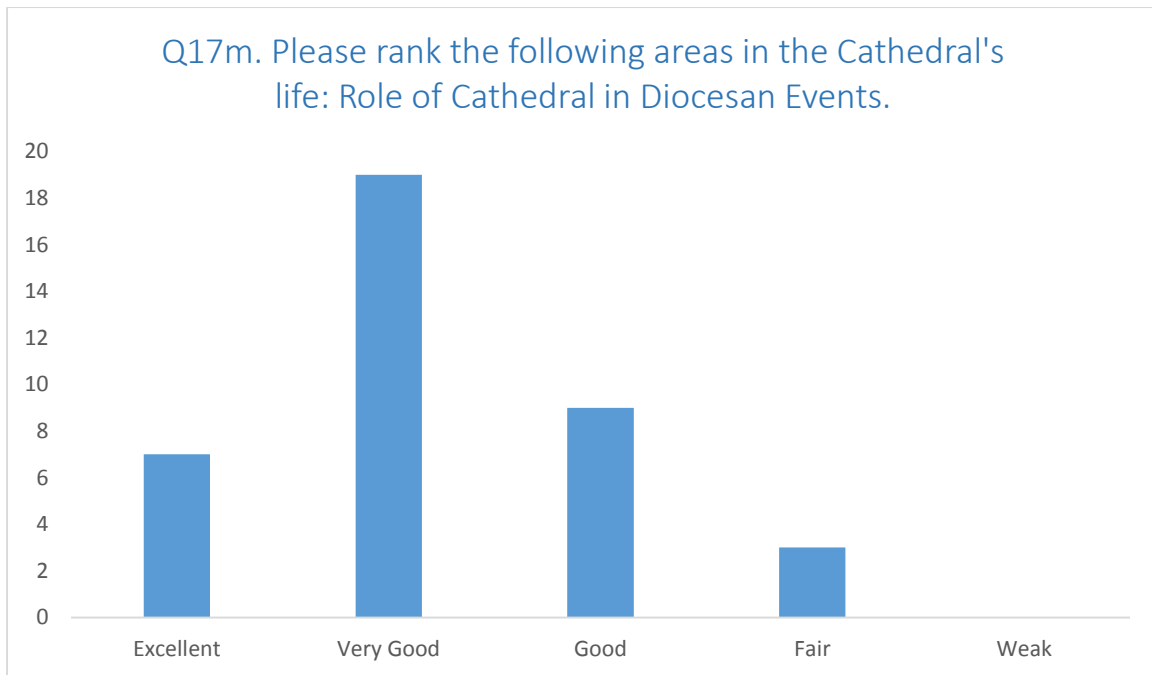
"The Sunday school is fab I think because of all the knowledgeable tasks but fun tasks we do."

Two responses to question 18 indicated that the participants who commented on this area would like to see our young people being more present at, engaged with and involved in our liturgy:

"...It would also be nice to see the children and young people given more opportunities to read".

"As an observer I see the young of all ages present regularly and at ease within the congregation. It would be good if there were more opportunities for interaction between 'BeansTalk' and the congregation. I wonder if the congregation in general appreciates the work of Young Church leaders."

"It would be nice to see our young people engaging with the church community and worshipping with us more frequently. I do think that it is so important for the future of the church to engage our young people with the main body of the worshipping community and the liturgy."



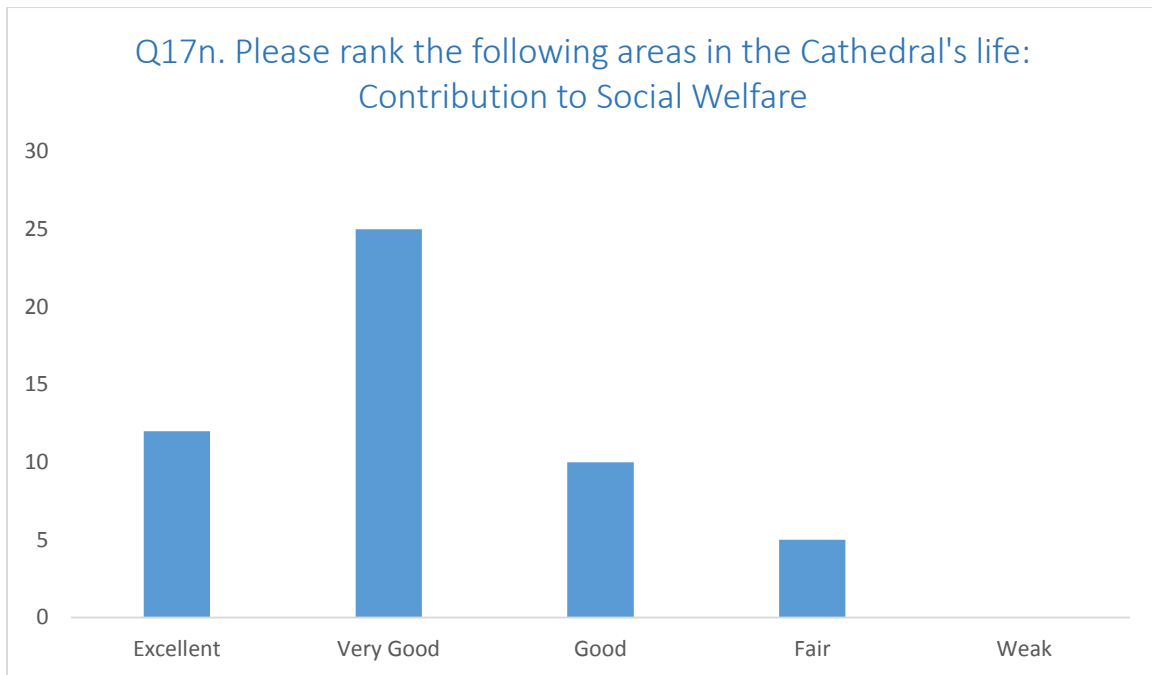
33 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority of participants rating the Role of the Cathedral in Diocesan Events as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

Written feedback in Q18 focused on the perceived relevance of Diocesan Events to the Cathedral Congregation, and the importance of the Diocese worshipping together, with one suggestion that greater involvement in providing for these events could be undertaken by the whole Diocese:

"Diocesan events are well hosted but sometimes it seems that the congregation doesn't feel it is relevant to them and maybe they need to know that meeting s like Synod can be enjoyable and a way of becoming part of the wider church community."

"There appear to be two Diocesan events, the Chrism Mass and Bishop Forbes Day."

"Cathedral at diocesan events: An important focus for the Diocese to worship together. Is there scope for more people from the whole diocese to take part in the provision of the events to promote sense of community not just in the Cathedral but in the whole diocese?"



48 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority of respondents rating Contribution to Social Welfare as 'Excellent or 'Very Good'.

The written feedback on this area of Cathedral life provided in Q18 focused on the contribution that the Cathedral makes to supporting homeless people within the city, asked questions about support for those involved, recognised that increased involvement in these areas depended upon more people becoming actively involved:

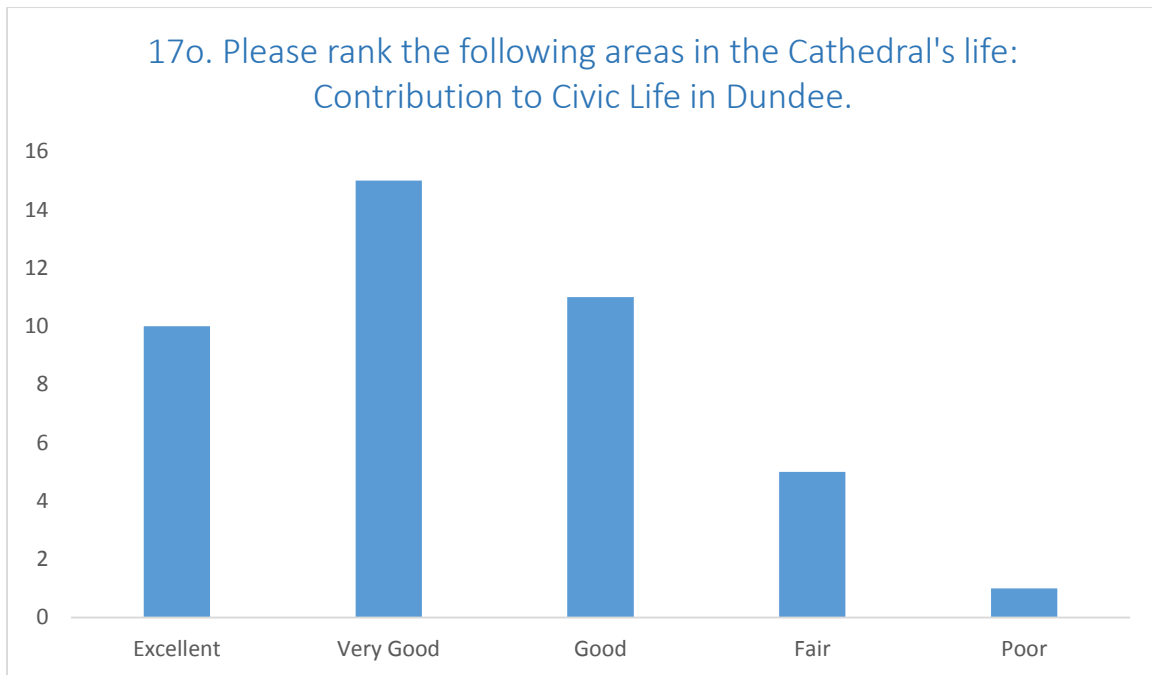
"Contribution to Social Welfare...I do things as an individual but not as part of a group."

"Social welfare - we like the involvement of the Cathedral with homeless people."

"Social Welfare: is slowly improving with splendid input by Catherine and Vivienne - is there the support for those involved?"

"I think that the Cathedral's continuing and increasing involvement in some of these issues/area depends on more individuals becoming actively involved. It's not something that can be forced into action."

"Social welfare – Do we need to talk about this? Many will be aware of the Soup Kitchen and Soup & Soul, but it's more than that. Is there enough general awareness of and responsibility accepted for the work of those involved with those on the doorstep?"

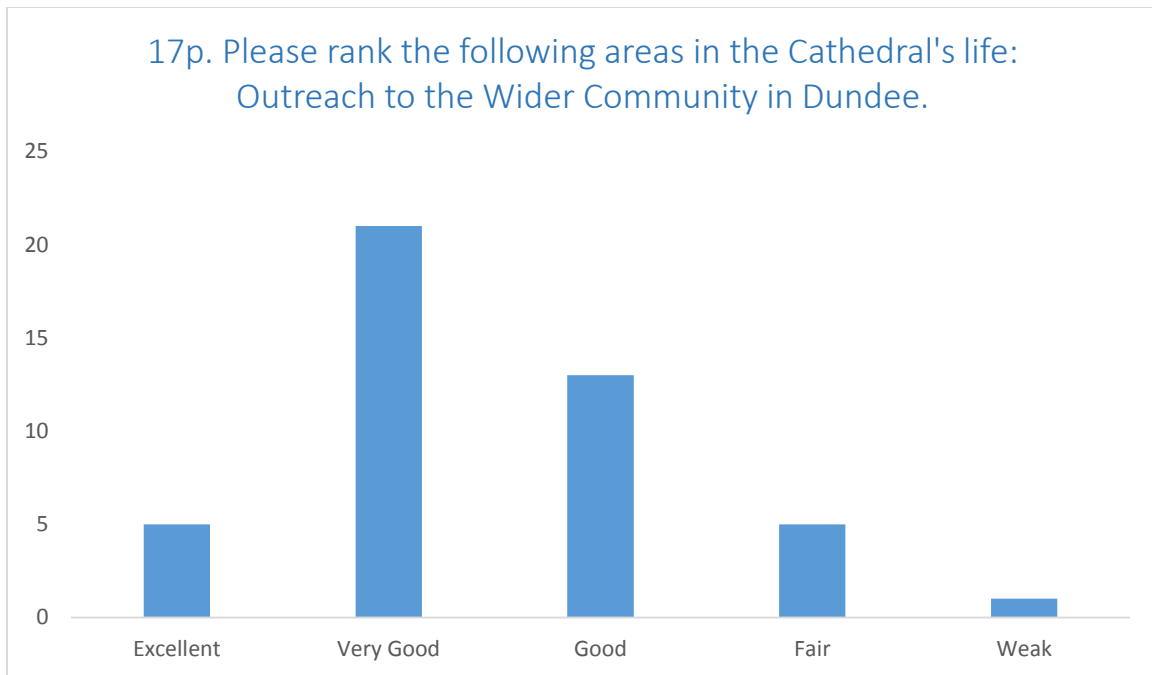


42 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority of respondents rating Contribution to Civic Life in Dundee as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

Very little feedback was provided in Q18 in relation to the Contribution of the Cathedral to Civic Life in Dundee. The two comments that were offered both mentioned the Twin Cities Service:

"Civic Life is a small part but it is good to be recognised as a welcoming venue for Twin cities and similar events."

"Civic life - especially the Twin Cities service is excellent."



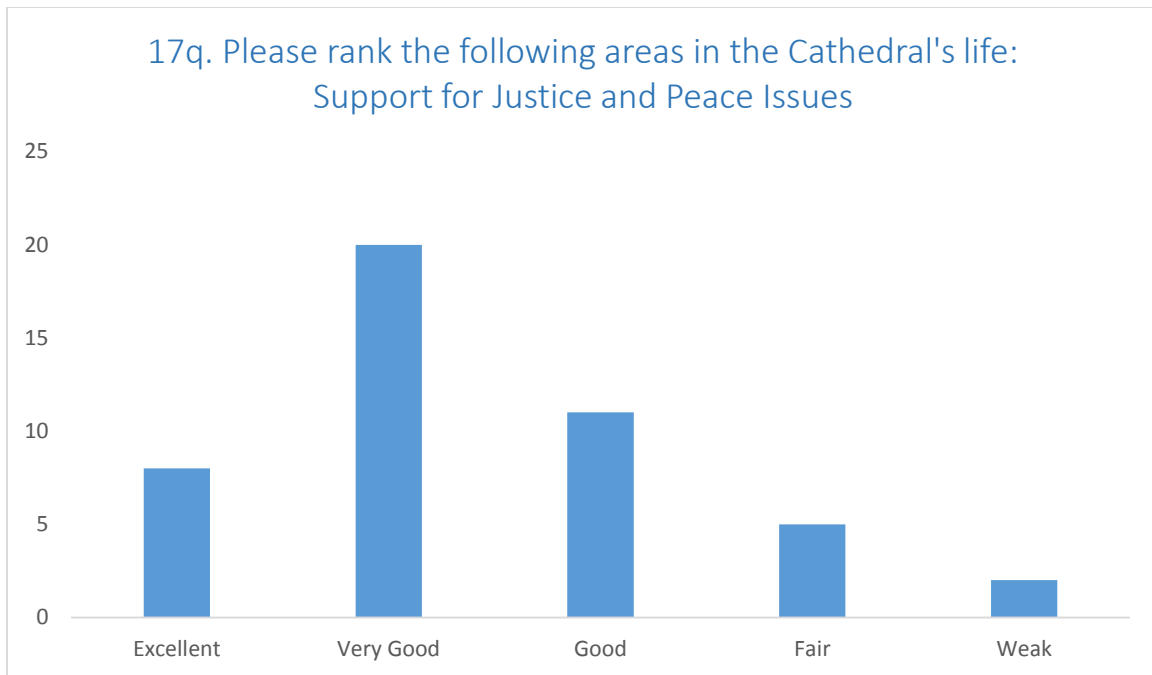
43 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority rating Outreach to the Wider Community in Dundee as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

Comments that were made in Q18 in relation to this focused on the perception that we could be doing more in this area and the need to make our space accessible in order to do so:

"I know that outreach to the wider community is 'under construction', and look forward to more being done in this area."

"We could probably be more of a presence in the city as a whole."

"If the Cathedral is going to reach out then it has to put more effort in making worship accessible to those who don't come. The building also needs updating and refurbishing to make a more flexible space."



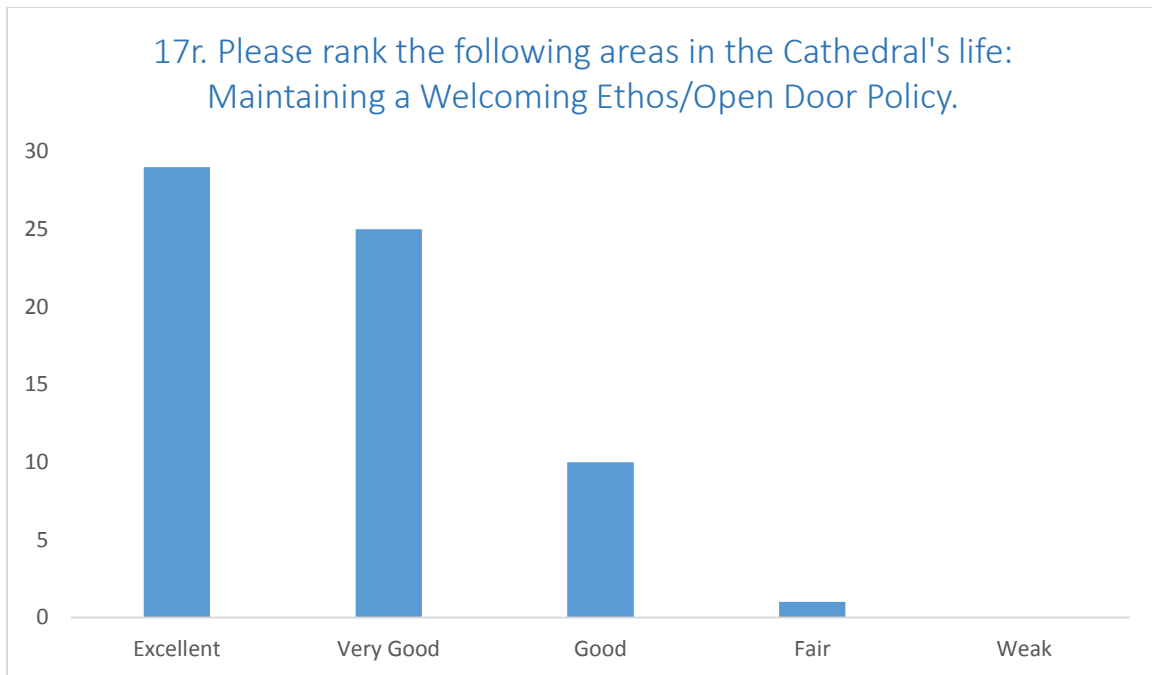
41 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority rating Support for Justice and Peace Issues as 'Very Good' or 'Good'.

Comments that were provided on this area in Q18 were:

"Not sure how to do it but we should know more about local justice and peace issues."

"Support for Peace and Justice: Not sure what we really do other than support Swaziland, Fair Trade stall, using fair trade products and in our prayers and intercessions."

"Support for justice and peace areas - I feel we could be more active in these areas."



60 participants provided a ranking for this area with the majority of respondents rating Maintaining a Welcoming Ethos/Open Door Policy as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

Many comments were made earlier in the survey about how welcome participants had felt at the Cathedral, however in relation to maintaining a welcome, only one comment was made in Q18:

"Maintaining a welcome: 'I was a stranger and you took me in.'"

Q19. Are there any other areas not covered above upon which you would like to comment?

Key themes that emerged in the responses to this question are outlined below:

Issues with the Sound System:

Two respondents highlighted issues with the sound system, echoing points raised in the responses to earlier questions regarding readings, intercessions and in some cases preaching being inaudible. One respondent raised the following concern regarding the loop system:

"The sound system needs urgent repair and upgrade. On many occasions the loop system isn't working".

The Sharing of the Peace:

One respondent raised concerns regarding the manner of the sharing of the peace during Sunday Morning Eucharist, and again this echoed comments made earlier in the survey. In this case the respondent wrote:

"I am uncomfortable with the style of sharing of peace at the Eucharist. Too disruptive. Puts my children off attending even occasionally. The Lenten style was much more dignified".

Involvement with other City Centre Churches, Fellowship and Outreach

Other key themes which echoed earlier comments were fellowship and outreach, along with more involvement with other city centre churches:

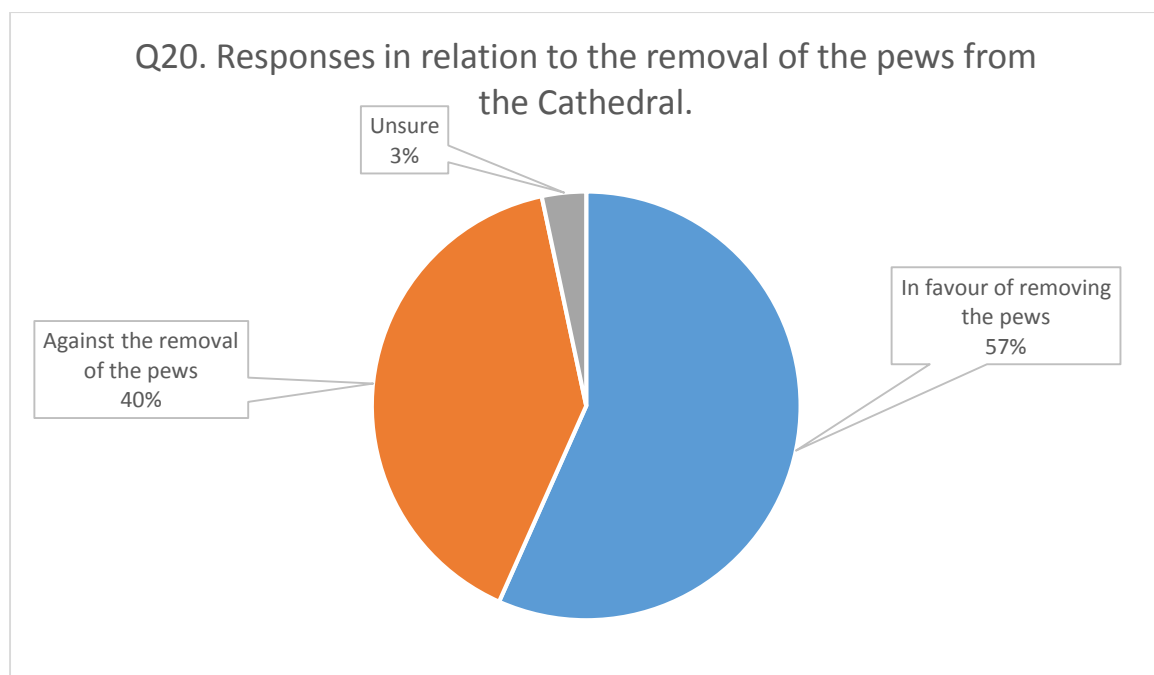
"We used to have regular Big Sings, or even Wee Sings which were a wonderful and enjoyable way of coming together, and making a lovely sound. We were often joined by folk from other churches. Although a City Centre Church we don't do much with the other churches. I feel concerned that we have no representative on the World Day of Prayer Committee. I feel it is important to continue to have people to preach from other denominations, or at least to give a homily. Iona Community Members as well. A walking group? Other things we might do together.....pilgrimage, art group, something like a Julian Group meeting in silence and followed by fellowship. Must be many other ideas of getting together."

Q20. Looking back over the list above, are there any areas that you would particularly like to highlight for future development? For example, you might like to comment on the proposals to remove the pews to create a more versatile worship space, to install a glass porch under the tower to create a more welcoming entrance and the vexed question of achieving disability access to the Cathedral. Or perhaps there is something new that you think we should be doing. We invite you to comment below on the areas which you think we should be really concentrating on developing and perhaps give some indication of how you think we might set about achieving those aims.

A total of 56 participants provided responses to this question, with 23 skipping it.

Removal of the Pews:

A total of 30 participants provided views on whether we retain the pews in the Cathedral. The responses have been tallied below:



One respondent commented, in favour of removing the pews:

"Future development should include the removal of pews to open up the Cathedral as a more useable space. We could then offer this space for others in the

community to use. To offer the space we would also have to tackle the access problem which we currently have."

Whilst another commented, against the removal of the pews:

"I love St Paul's the way it is; I don't want to see the pews removed."

Installation of a Glass Porch

Of the 8 responses which covered the proposed installation of a glass porch, 7 were in favour and 1 was unsure.

One respondent commented on the current entrance to the Cathedral:

"Installing a glass porch is an excellent idea. I do find the closed, solid wooden door a bit unwelcoming - and remember thinking so on my first visit. In fact, I walked hesitantly up the steps thinking I must have got the time of the service wrong as it didn't look open".

Whilst another commented:

"I'm not sure if I like the idea of the glass porch because it's a barrier and I like sitting on the steps sometimes if the church is closed, but I understand and appreciate the intent of the glass porch".

Disabled Access

All of the 22 responses that covered disabled access to the cathedral were in favour, and many identified that this should be a priority. One respondent highlighted their experience in a previous church to illustrate the importance of this:

"In one of my previous churches, I watched several people become ill with a terminal illness (in one case the person was aged 17) and very quickly become wheelchair bound and was aware of how important continuing to be part of the church life and community was to each of these people."

Finances

9 responses raised concern over Cathedral finances, many in relation to the proposed changes to the Cathedral and being able to pay for these.

Two suggestions were made:

"A programme of fund raising events with the proceeds going to the restoration fund could be a starting point".

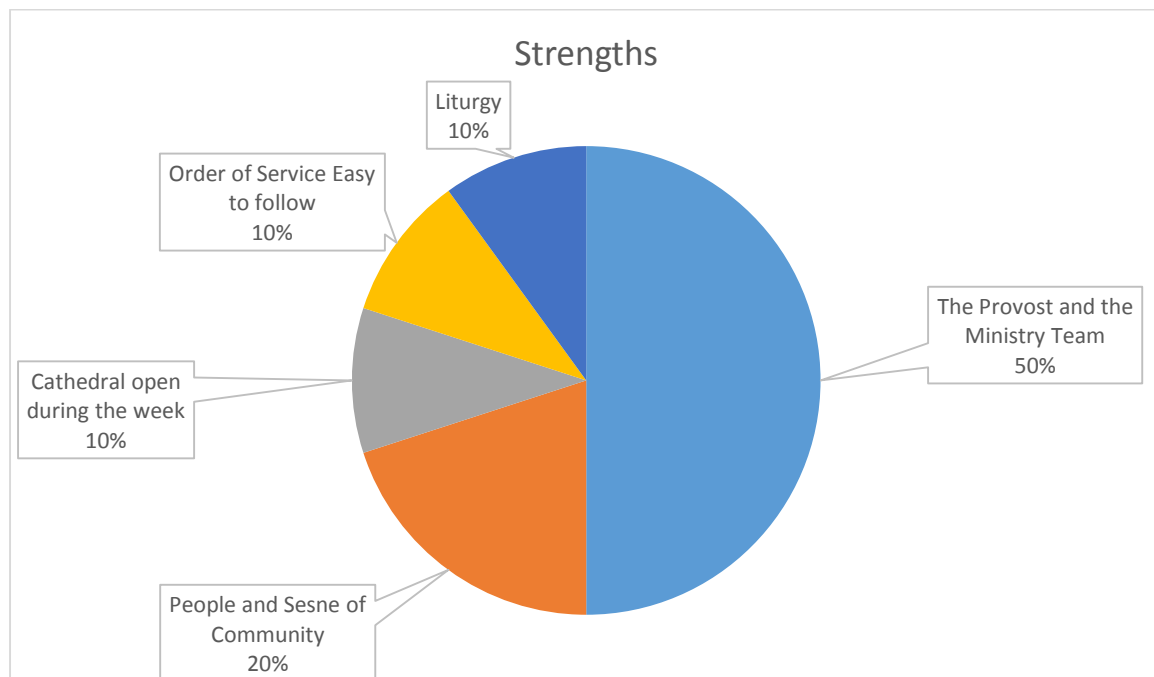
"I think there should be an Eco Group to draft plans for action which will support proposals for renovation and satisfy requirements for funding applications".

And one respondent noted financial concerns (echoing other comments in relation to finances and the planned renovation):

"Plans for development should remain within the 'means' of the Cathedral. I do not support overly squeezing people who are already giving spare time and money, for more".

Q21. Are there any particular strengths or weaknesses that you associate with the Cathedral that have not been covered elsewhere?

28 participants provided a response to this question, with 51 skipping the question. The responses have been divided into strengths and weaknesses and categorised in the charts that follow:

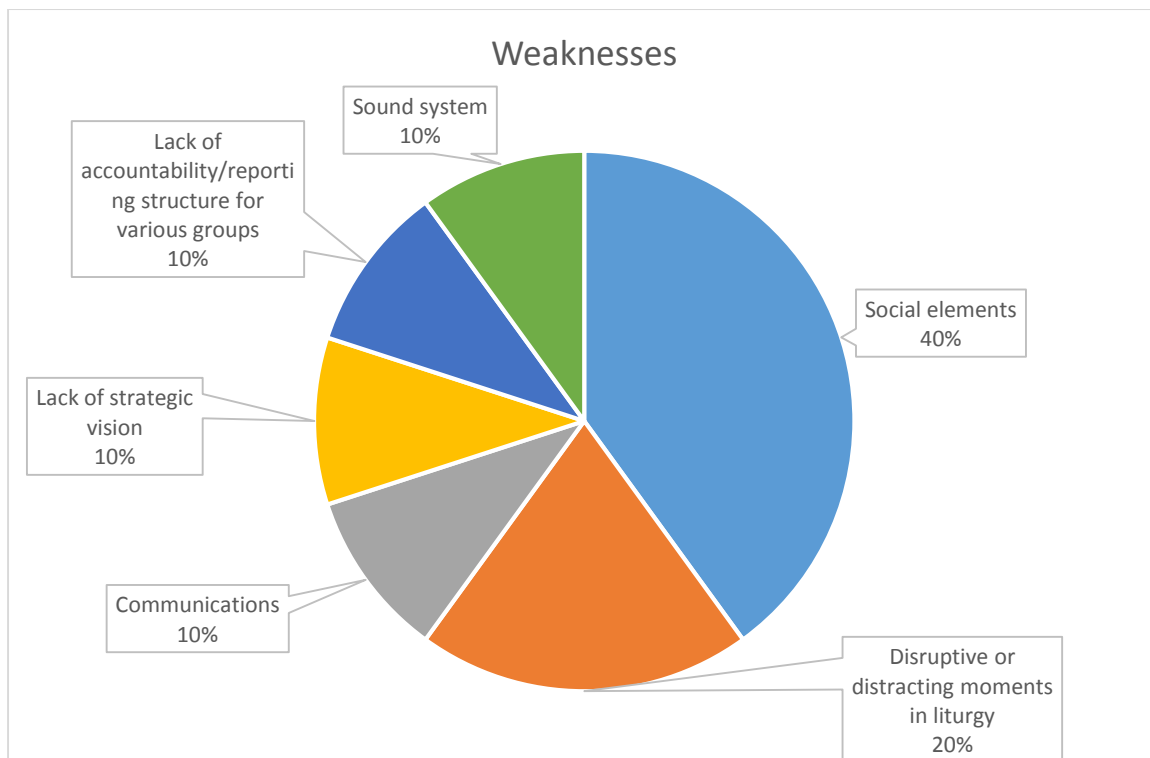


One respondent commented on the ministry team:

"Jeremy in his love of God as shown by his love and care not only of members of our congregation, but for all who come into the cathedral for one reason or another. For taking the time to listen, and for his sense of fun and the joy he brings. For Hugh, Tracy and Carole, and for William who make up a wonderful clergy team. Stuart and his outstanding choir, and for all who are involved in any way, by giving of their very best Sunday by Sunday, and during the week. The greatest strength of the cathedral is its people."

Whilst another focused on the people who give of their time to make the cathedral a place where people are drawn:

"The main strength of the cathedral to me is the people. The people who give their time to volunteer in so many ways which make the cathedral somewhere people want to come".



Comments that reflect key themes in this area were:

"Risk that as a church we plateau. Now a much stronger body than a few years ago but needs strategic vision allied to the practical...Cathedral magazine...Should be a regular publication organised by a group and not left to one person."

"Lack of a structure of groups reporting to the Provost and Vestry. Each group to have a remit on which to make proposals and initiate action as required."

"It can feel like a social club sometimes, not necessarily in a good way!"

"Getting to know people's names is a particular problem..."

Q22. Are there any other comments you wish to make?

20 participants provided a response to this question, with 49 skipping the question.

Several respondents used this as an opportunity to record their thanks to the Provost and the ministry team, and the wider Cathedral community. There were also several responses which gave witness to the positive role the Cathedral has played in the lives of respondents with one person writing:

"The Cathedral has changed our lives and brought us back to Christ, just when we needed something. Truly a life-changing decision to come here."

And another saying:

"Worship is the source of joy. I am filled with joy on every visit to the Cathedral."

Two respondents commented on fundraising with one writing:

"We have heard over the last year or so about the need to raise large amounts of money to renovate the Cathedral. Some of us would be happy to become involved in fund raising for this and, indeed, maybe commit funds to this cause. Maybe it is now time to establish a separate account dedicated to this purpose into which monies that are collected or promised could be collected. I think there is a need to separate these funds clearly from those used for the day to day running of the Cathedral".

Other responses:

- highlighted the need for streams of communication within the Cathedral to be clear and up to date;
- noted the importance of the Tradecraft stall in supporting issues of justice and peace;
- praised the success of previous art and photo exhibitions held in the Cathedral;
- raised the importance of delegated leadership and possible complacency and a disposition to complain amongst the congregation;
- expressed upset at the 2014 Nativity play;
- commented that the organ needed to be repaired;
- asked for lecture series.