

Congregational Action Plan Survey: Results

Thank you to the 23 members of the congregation who returned the recent Congregational Action Plan Survey. Your responses have been graded, grouped, analysed, drawn into a report, and presented to the Session.

Overall, we believe that our church only ‘sometimes’ holds the attributes, and undertakes the activities, identified by the Survey as the marks of a vibrant and active church.

Our Most Positive Areas

- **Property** is seen consistently positively: you would ‘mostly’ to ‘always’ agree that our building meets our needs.
- **Finance** is also viewed in a positive light: there was ‘mostly’ agreement that we are responsibly supportive, both of ourselves, and of other similar organisations.
- We ‘sometimes’ to ‘mostly’ agree that **Worship & Teaching** opportunities allow us to grow in our faith. There is particular agreement that being at church makes us feel closer to God.
- Consistent praise was received for long-standing and recent **Wider Mission** initiatives like the Warm Space, Christian Aid, and Tabeetha School schemes.
- Our **strong sense of welcome and community** is consistently praised: we are a warm, friendly, and welcoming place of worship for both members and visitors alike.

Areas We Could Improve

- We received consistent feedback that **Pastoral Care** is lacking.
- We also heard that we do not do enough as a congregation **through the week**. In particular, it is clear that we ‘rarely’ take time to pray together outside of Sunday worship.
- **Communication** was identified as requiring improvement: we only ‘sometimes’ know what’s going on in church life.
- Consistent feedback was given that we don’t do enough for **Youth & Children**, both in engaging with those within our parish, and with our present offering of children’s ministry.
- **Local Mission** efforts were said to be lacking, with not enough done to nurture new Christians, or to support wider community initiatives.

- Despite positive responses to **Finance** questions, there was also a notable increase in 'Not Sure' responses in this area, and calls to improve our transparency and reporting.

Your Short-Term Suggestions...

- **More Bible Study and faith discussion opportunities** that complement our Sunday worship offering.
- **Further Fellowship and social opportunities**, similar to the Walking Group, with **greater accessibility** for all.
- Calls to **integrate the Boys' Brigade (BB) more closely** with the congregation through semi-regular BB attendance at worship and a re-instated annual Service of Thanksgiving.
- Calls to **introduce a regular church newsletter** that gives **more transparency about decisions and activities** of the Kirk Session, minister, and Presbytery.
- Support to **encourage greater financial giving**, both from the pulpit, and via practical changes like introducing online banking, card readers, and regularised offering schedules.
- Calls to **introduce a clearer structure for Property Management** bearing responsibility for property oversight.

...and Longer-Term Ideas

- (Re-)start work, with external bodies, strengthening our **outreach in practically tackling social justice issues**.
- **Fresh links** built with our parish's **schools** and **youth organisations**.
- More **engagement with our community** like local student accommodation complexes, the Holland Park residential complex, and those living and working in Anderston.

Next Steps

Your feedback will be used to build our Congregational Action Plan that guides our strategic development over the next five years.

We will aim to address some of the short-term calls in the near future, and will report back on initial progress at the Annual Stated Meeting.

Any offers of practical help with any scheme would be greatly appreciated - thank you!