

St Paul's Parish Summary of Synod responses

Thank you to parishioners who sent responses to the Synod questions. A summary of responses from the questionnaires plus a separate additional response was sent to the diocese.

The St Paul's responses contained much food for prayer and reflection concerning the future of the wider church and of our own parish too. Our dreams were of a more open, inclusive church that attracted young people and family life; a church with a strong priestly ministry and clear Gospel teaching yet with vibrant lay activity and involvement; a church focused on mission and outreach to share the good news of the Gospel in our families and local community. To become this church, the responses suggested that we need to be a welcoming and listening people of God, ready to work together, respectful and inclusive of all, especially those who feel marginalised or set apart from the parish community. The responses also recognised the many challenges facing both the wider church and our parish at this time - sharing faith with others, the role of women, divided stances over the church's moral teaching, declining attendance at sacraments and liturgy, the clergy abuse crisis, concerns over social media and power of technology etc.

What was inspiring to see was the witness and genuine appreciation given by parish respondents to the importance of daily prayer, the practice of faith, participation in the life and liturgy of the parish, the friendship and fellowship of the parish community, the example and contribution made by fellow parishioners, the presence of our school, pre-school and families.

We have so much to be thankful for at St Paul's while there also is clearly much to be done to journey as a parish to get over the pandemic and move together as a community of faith into the future. We hope, at some point, to be able to share more about our parish Synod responses at a future parish meeting.

April 2022