

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

MYTHOLMROYD

DIOCESE OF LEEDS

2018 PARISH REVIEW

The review was carried out over three weeks in June 2018. There were 51 responses. This represents a response rate of approximately 60% of adult members attending at that time.

APPENDIX B

All written responses (verbatim)

Names of individuals have been removed except for Fr Larkin and Fr John

Verbatim Comments From Respondents

LITURGY / PARALITURGY :	
MUSIC	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the music. Some hymns rather meaningless words – especially for children and newcomers. • Good – especially the music group. Could do with <u>occasional</u> singers to lead new hymns. • Music group is very good. However many well known traditional Catholic hymns for the Liturgical Year (Laudate 64 – 389) are rarely if ever chosen. • We are privileged to have talented musicians. The music is uplifting. • Music group is exceptional. We are so lucky to have such gifted organists and other musicians. • Sometimes the music group is too loud and modern. I love the organ when it is played properly. • Have to declare an interest! We have two regular organists and a small music group, which is small for the size of the congregation and can make it hard to cover every Sunday, especially in a 5 Sunday month and holidays, and to avoid the dreaded CD! I am very grateful for the commitment of the musicians to the ministry to God and the church. • Fantastic! Even the singing is improving! • The music is good. I like the variety of organ / music group etc. • Beautiful music every Sunday. • Excellent. • Very good when music group are playing. • It seems to fall to the same few to keep the music flowing. It would be good to encourage more involvement to spread the load. 38 • Some weeks extremely good (when led by music group). Further practice of new hymns would be useful. • Lucky to have talented musicians each week. • Sometimes the music accompaniment is played too slowly. • Music group is very good. Stuck in a bit of a rut on Mass Settings. • It would be nice if joyful hymns were always played joyfully. • Very good variety of hymns / songs. Good connection to the liturgical season. Distinction on noticeboard between “Mass” and “Hymns” is lost on some of the congregations – particularly younger ones – so some find themselves flitting around, then reverting to the bulletin which is in chronological order. • The recessional hymn is as much a part of the Mass as any other and should not be taken over by tambourines and triangles (in my opinion) spoiling the last part of Mass. 	
LAY PARTICIPATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people seem to do an awful lot while others do little. We need to all support and contribute. • Where have all the servers gone? And why? • Mixed. Fewer volunteers. Why no servers? • Needs committed leadership to encourage and facilitate and maintain this. 13 • Children’s Mass possibly. • Seems alright • There are opportunities for lay members to serve in many capacities if they so wish. 	

- Less deference to the clergy – we may be on our own soon.
- We could do more
- More groups always welcome, more volunteers in general.
- Need to ensure that skills and talents of Eucharistic Ministers is used to the full so that liturgical services are available. Try and widen scope of those willing to participate to lessen burden on the few and prevent “elitism”.
- A lot of willing people do many jobs but it seems to be the same core. Others need to be encouraged to help.
- Greater use could be made of lay participation eg of Eucharistic ministers, altar servers
- Reduced since “retirement” of Fr John. No altar servers??
- Very good for the few who do so much
- Children’s Liturgy – very well led
- There is more lay participation than at first meets the eye. Eucharistic ministry, readers, welcomers, refreshments, luncheon club, flowers. Some are involved in more than one activity / ministry. There are at least 40 people who regularly get involved (out of approx. 120 mass attenders). Many are aged 60 and above. Need to involve young parents with support (when needed) with children.

ATMOSPHERE

- Friendly and supportive, welcoming of new people.
- Still a bit noisy
- Poor! Silence before Mass is necessary for contemplation and spiritual preparation.
- Visitors often comment on welcome and inclusive atmosphere.
- Sometimes it is too loud.
- You can please most of the people most of the timeetc
- ??
- Would welcome “Good morning” from the altar before Mass to add some warmth and set the scene for our coming together as a community (this is different from the individual welcome in the porch).
- Amongst parishioners – very good, but again we need to remember to be inclusive and welcoming.
- Atmosphere should be created by the celebrant eg “Good morning” from the sanctuary. No sense of celebration from the celebrant.
- We are lucky that the layout of a modern church which the GS is, creates atmosphere.
- Very good on Sundays. Wednesday and Saturday Masses lack a sense of occasion. A short reflection (60 seconds, a few sentences) on the gospel / feast of the day would help.
- Very welcoming as far as I can tell. Not sure if it would be so if I was new – how would I be included? There is tension between a sociable, community sharing which can add to a low noise level and the desire to prepare in some quiet or serene atmosphere. Perhaps move book distribution to the porch / narthex and close inner door. Appoint someone to check on door for few minutes before Mass. Music does help.

DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUALITY

- Not sure what this means – the sacred silence is welcome.
- Missing
- Not sure if its being developed at present. In the past it has been – discussion groups, prayer groups, speakers.
- Good preparation and resources for liturgical highlights.
- Whose?

- Fr John provides some excellent courses, not much else. Eucharistic ministers did not have a retreat this year!
- Whose?
- Fr Larkin inherited a rich legacy of spirituality – must take care not to squander it. Need to continue to draw on gifts / talents / experience of the laity to develop and foster our spirituality and to challenge where necessary.
- Perhaps not what it was.
- More lay involvement ???
- Don't know
- Some house groups during Lent or on the Encyclicals - good. Otherwise the assumption seems to be that those really interested will find it themselves.
- Other than Mass there is little further attempt at developing the community's prayer life. Station of the Cross have been offered but at times only for those free during the day. Penitential services of recent times have been sterile with little imagination – simply using the “set down” wording. No visuals / audio enhancing. for themes relating to the challenges of living today.
- The church in the past had a rich variety of services / devotions. I think we have become complacent, scared (of innovation) or even lazy in our approach to spirituality.
-

CHILDREN - FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- Excellent – much hard work done by all the helpers.
- It would be great to have more younger adults able to build on young people's / teenage groups. 8
- Unable to comment on this.
- Excellent Christian influence. What about catholic teaching and practice?
- Is there a balance between teaching the Christian faith and introducing Catholic doctrine?
- Unable to comment.
- A very committed group of leaders.
- It all seems very modern.
- We weekly see the wonderful work done with and by the children – a real strength for the Church.
- Maggie for Deaconess – seriously.
- I know how seriously we take it, but I think we could do more.
- Excellent Children's Liturgy
- ?
- This is good – based on children's summaries and feedback following the sessions.
- Hard work, preparing and delivery of teaching by a dedicated team is very evident in the children's weekly contributions to Mass. Lovely to see children's confidence and participation.
- More opportunities for young people to engage in the church, not just Children's Liturgy. We do better than many, to say we have no school attached.
- Fr Larkin actively involved in sending out and welcoming children for their liturgy. Those involved have created confident enthusiastic youngsters who enhance our celebration.
- Don't know.
- A little adhoc. Needs more planning.

- I have no involvement but the Children’s Liturgy appears well organised and thoughtful.
- Having worked on Children’s Liturgy many years ago I know how difficult it is to achieve what you need to do in the short time available. I am very impressed by the obvious thought and work done to bring alive God’s Word to young minds. It should not be a Doctrine class as it is a Children’s Liturgy of the Word – no more. Well done to all involved and keep it up.

ADULT FAITH EDUCATION

- Very good but very reliant on Fr John.
- Not sure.
- In a previous church the programme for new Catholics was open to all. Not aware of any adult faith education in the parish.
- Its missing.
- Increasingly the priest’s task is that of equipping the laity for their work of being Christ’s Body in a secular and post-Christian world. – Unsatisfactory.
- Again much work has taken place to introduce discussion groups on Bible studies and Vatican documents. Much appreciated – will this continue to be developed?
- Scripture talks and 2nd Vatican Council
- I don’t know.
- ??
- Does this happen other than Fr John’s talks?
- Good – due to the Faith Development classes by Fr John. Will these continue if / when he is not available?
- ??
- No direct contact in this area.
- Aware that all talks, courses etc are provided by Fr John – without his input this aspect would be negligible.
- Patchy – no initiatives at the moment.
- Thanks to Fr John involvement opportunities have been made available in this area. Newsletter informs us of courses at Diocesan level.
- ??
- Some house groups during Lent or on the Encyclicals - good. Otherwise the assumption seems to be that those really interested will find it themselves.
- Don’t know.
- Bulletin / Newsletter does inform us of opportunities in the Diocese for further study. Fr John has done well on Scripture talks, Documents of Vatican 11 and encouragement of study groups for recent Papal documents (Laudato Si / Amoris Laetitia) . Advent and Lent should be used for further developments. Could the Parish bulletin be used for Faith Education in small bursts eg Advent / Lent eg in conjunction with parish discussion groups. What about Tablet articles discussion groups?

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- Don’t know.
- Don’t know.
- Don’t know what this means.
- Unable to comment on this.
- Not sure, as we don’t see the results immediately.

- In Fr John's time the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and revered for one hour on Wednesday. Confessions were also available.
- Unable to comment.
- A very dedicated team.
- I don't know.
- As the Catechist, I know how seriously I take it, but I think we could do more.
- Would like to see the programmes.
- Encourage more people to be Eucharistic Ministers. Annual retreat and Re-Commissioning did not happen this year.
- Cannot judge as no real knowledge how / by whom preparation is delivered or outcomes.
- Good as far as I am aware.
- I know that thanks to individual volunteers preparation goes on but would welcome more information at parish level.
- My impression is that it is good.
- Assuming this means Baptism, First Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Marriage – I have no involvement.
- Don't know.
- First sacraments are delivered well and structured – presumably using Diocesan programme.. Initially mentioned via parish newsletter. It would be good to have programmes available to see. Good to see confirmation now delivered on Deanery basis. Not sure how marriage preparation is delivered at present. More information generally need to inform parish. Perhaps on noticeboards.

MASS TIMES / WEEKDAY MASS PROVISION / HOUSE MASSES

- The early Mass – can be tricky getting children out for 9.15
- Bearing in mind that we have no parish priest assigned to us. We do well.
- Wednesday Mass – 12.15pm is better to fit in with the lunch club.
- Sunday Mass is a bit early and quick!
- It is time we swapped Sunday Mass times with Sowerby Bridge (Sacred Heart/St Patrick's) so that Fr Larkin does not have to vanish. We are treated like a Mission Church rather than an equal.
- House Masses are in danger of becoming exclusive and are perhaps on the wane.
- We need a Saturday Vigil Mass.
- All of the Masses should be reconsidered. Unity has given way to division. 5pm Sunday Mass is in danger of becoming a separate "chapel".
- Time of main Sunday Mass should be reviewed. Swap the time with Sowerby Bridge? There is good weekday provision and Eucharistic Services when needed. House Masses are appreciated – they could be emphasised more.
- House Masses are good. Sunday Mass time – could a compromise be reached?
- House Masses are unique and we are lucky to have them. Sunday Mass needs to be looked at; we are a far flung community and it must be difficult at times for the elderly and those with young families to make it for 9.30 !
- Not enough Masses in church.
- Our early Mass time on Sunday caused consternation initially, but has now settled as the norm. An early set off for those parishioners who travel. Saturday evening 6.00pm is still missed.
- Emphasis on a Sunday Mass as a parish.
- I know there are House Masses but I think there should be more in church.

- I do miss the Saturday Vigil Mass.
- 9.30 am is still very early – particularly in the winter when conditions are bad on the hills.
- Saturday morning – only 5 attend. We requested 12.15 Vigil or Saturday evening. Fr Larkin doesn't accept our requests for suitable Mass times.
- Sunday Mass – early for the elderly and young families. No opportunity for Fr Larkin to spend time to get to know the congregation.
- House Masses and outreach by Fr John provides additional opportunity but limited uptake. Publish Fr John's piece in Calderdale with newsletter to gain wider audience. Regular attendees invite someone to accompany them to a House Mass.
- Still hard to make it for 9.30!
- House Masses are a lovely idea but perhaps not for everyone – has attendance been surveyed? If weekday Mass was more frequent in church maybe it would be more accessible?
- Sunday Mass time is "awkward" – not ideal.
- House Masses – very good..
- Sunday Mass - 9.30am too early.
- Current Mass time on Sunday morning established on take it or leave it basis.
- House Mass provision is good – need further clarity for people to understand how this operates.
- Very much dependent on Fr John's availability.
- I can't get to many. I regret this but can't see a way around it.
- I think one House Mass a week would be sufficient. Not everyone is comfortable attending these. A variety of weekday Mass times gives different groups the possibility of access – early, lunchtime, late, in addition to the majority which are mid-morning.
- 9.30 Mass in Mytholmroyd is too early.
- Sunday Mass time: Too little imagination given to the times of Mass in the two parishes at the time of re-organisation. It was seen as an either /or decision (early for Good Shepherd or late and vice-versa for Sacred Heart). There were other options such as termly rotation eg each parish has early Mass for perhaps 2 months then swap. This is done regularly on the continent when Mass times change for the seasons or in tourist areas. When it was put forward it was suggested people could not cope with changes> A rather patronising, paternalistic and old fashioned attitude from people who clearly have not run families and regularly deal with change often on a weekly basis!
- Still a feeling that Good Shepherd have made more sacrifice than Sacred Heart eg GS gain a Saturday morning Mass but lose a Vigil Mass (many more attended the latter – particularly teenagers with Sunday sports commitments – now all lost). Sacred Heart lose a Saturday morning (sparsely attended) and retain a Vigil Mass. Good Shepherd move to earlier Sunday Mass in a rural context and Sacred Heart retain the main Sunday Mass time. Equable contribution to reorganisation ? I think not.
- We have asked for Mass at 12.15 on Saturdays – hardly anyone manages Saturday at 10.00am.
- Explain in detail things like House Masses to reduce any sense of a small group of activists being responsible for day to day running of the parish.

COMMUNICATION:

This section is to find out how well you: feel informed / given information in the following areas.

PARISH NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN

- Lots of information
- Ask at the door instead of automatic inclusion in books for Mass. Would cut down on use of resources.
- Thanks for all the hard work that goes into this. It is very useful info at parish, diocesan and community level. Easy to read.

- So useful especially during bad weather and if we are away.
- We have directed our family and friends to look at the bulletin. They are “gobsmacked” to see what goes on at Good Shepherd compared to their own parishes!
- Not very helpful. Too much information.
- Very much appreciate the informative and well designed weekly bulletin in both electronic and hard copy.
- Best in the see!
- Very informative.
- Excellent – good communicator.
- Informative and attractive format. I appreciate the large print edition. Good mix of parish, deanery diocesan news etc.
- Could it include weekly tip for “Live Simply”
- Could it include information / update on ONE aspect of parish work each week?
- Colourful, interesting – a valuable lifeline.
- Attractive format. Very full of information about parish and diocesan life.
- Should be used more explicitly to make the housebound more included by taking a copy to them / putting it through letterbox. Many useful things in it. They may see that they are not forgotten eg sick list. Do we have a list of these previous regulars?

EMAIL

- Electronic version is enough for many.
- Divisive. Those not on the net feel they’re missing out.
- Still problem of reaching those not on email.
- Not working – despite opting in.
- Excellent idea.
- I like the fact that it is available in e-format.
- Do not use it as main means of communication.
- Buddy system to provide one to one contact with someone who can’t access email to address changes / late information that inevitably occurs.
- Doesn’t reach everyone, especially some older parishioners. Facebook group works well but needs more members / contributions.
- I appreciate the availability of the newsletter.
- Facebook is a good tool too.
- One of our better innovations. Would be good to regularly offer to add people to the list. Do newcomers / visitors know it exists? Is the facility advertised on the noticeboard?

DISPLAY / NOTICEBOARDS

- More spaces for children’s work perhaps.
- Well maintained.
- One cluttered table should be replaced by a new board of some size accessible to all.
- Hymns ok. Otherwise ok.
- There seems to be a lack of noticeboard space. Items stuck to windows.
- An improving picture.

- New boards are clear and attractive. May need to expand these.
- Need to provide more information for visitors and newcomers to help engagement.
- More aspects of parish life need to be on them eg luncheon club, children's liturgy, youth group, discussion groups, book group, library, flower arrangers and more.

PARISH FINANCE

- Good weekly info given. This gives regular small scale information but does not give the bigger picture. Perhaps a monthly / every 2 months simple update eg how much in our accounts overall (including held by diocese). Ballpark figures. How much we pay to refugee oriented charities (Catholic Care) also how much we have paid to charities / 2nd collections over the year.
- ??
- Should there be a quarterly update?
- No overall picture so unable to comment – apart from parish (collection) totals. No awareness of finances.
- Don't know.
- Income has not significantly increased for years. We appear to have money but can we use some of it to make church even better?
- Feel I know very little about it. Weekly amounts don't tell the whole story over a financial year.
- Would be interesting to give annual total of charitable giving as the parish appears very generous.
- Kept up to date in bulletin and annual accounts.
- ??
- Examples locally of doing good with the money.
- Don't really know.
- ??
- The parish is way ahead with its standing order procedure. If it is true then I am not happy with only one signatory for cheques.
- Maybe more income / expenditure information.
- Not sure that many parishioners are aware of (parish) finances.
- Don't know.
- Doesn't seem to have altered for years. Perhaps people have less money to give.
- Unsure as not aware of this.

HALIFAX DEANERY

- Don't really feel that much part of it.
- I know very little about it.
- Don't know.
- More use of minibus to attend Deanery events. Repeat of superb Deanery Mass at Halifax Minster?
- Is the Deanery for priests alone? Why cannot the Deanery come alive for everyone – meetings and occasions.
- The Church of the Good Shepherd feels isolated.
- Thanks to bulletin.
- ??
- Not always in touch.

- ??
- Apart from news gleaned through newsletter I have very little sense of being part of a wider Catholic community in Halifax.
- We know little about our sister churches or deanery meetings and outcomes.
- No sense of belonging to this body after re-organisation concluded. Therefore unable to judge its purpose.
- Little activity at deanery level to communicate. What happened to the co-operation that was supposed to follow the deanery re-organisation? Little info on the deanery website.
- ??
- A disappointing lack of progress from the ray of hope that some felt when the deanery organisation took place. Is there leadership of any meaningful kind from deanery clergy. I get the impression that they are essentially only interested in their own areas of influence / comfort zone. This of course is then inevitably reflected in a similar lack of interest and ownership among their own parishioners. Laity might be able to make a go of it but clericalism quoting Canon Law cannot let go of the reins and trust – so I’m afraid it will always be a “cinderella” as our leaders lack vision and courage.
- Close down all churches except one (one Sunday a year) and have several Masses in that centre. A truly deanery event. It would be initially unpopular but very symbolic.

DIOCESE OF LEEDS

- Again I feel slightly less connected – could be distance.
- Again I know very little about it.
- Remote!
- Don’t know.
- Again minibus.
- There are many lectures and events at Leeds Cathedral, Trinity University and other places in the diocese – but not at times we can attend or too late for returning. Could the minibus be used?
- Thanks to bulletin.
- Finance letters gobbledegook. Bishop’s letters – dull.
- ??
- A long way away.
- Unknown territory.
- More communication on a regular basis would be helpful.
- Again information from Leeds is gleaned from newsletter and appreciate knowing what is going on.
- Remote – we have little regular contact or updates, plans, mission etc since the diocesan newspaper was closed down.
- Thanks to content of newsletter and occasional letter from Bishop.
- Seems a bit hit and miss. A lot of what appears in the regular information to priests and parish administrators could be sent out more directly to the people rather than having it mediated (or not) through the clergy.
- ??
- Regular if rather dull communications from the diocese (Cathedral / Bishop based), other information is excellent eg justice and Peace Commission, Catholic Care, Caritas, Trinity University. Too many events are Leeds based though. There are many big towns available.

PARISH CONSULTORS

- Hardworking
- Excellent in fact.
- Definitely overworked – should be time limited and elections held as used to be the case. In which direction is “consultation” prioritised? Congregation – Consultors – priest or vice versa OR Consultors – congregation etc??
- Thanks to bulletin and emails.
- Methinks working under difficult conditions? The purpose of a good management team is to support **and** challenge! How often have suggestions / initiatives been allowed to just “fade away”?
- Too many busybodies.
- Declare an interest again! Any group can wander at times but Consultors at GS remain focussed and well chaired.
- Need to show less deference to clergy.
- Seems to take a long time to resolve issues.
- Less impact than formerly. Wonder about function.
- Always open to listen.
- They work so hard. I’m really glad of them. Keeping us up to date on things.
- Need to be tougher when presenting feedback.
- Need to be updated on composition of Consultors. Open meetings up to non-members to sit in when appropriate – or have an introductory meeting to explain their role. This is important for new members of the congregation. I appreciate notes in the newsletter from Janet Almond.
- Have a comment / suggestion box in the church / centre.
- It would be good to know what was discussed and conclusions you come to in our name.
- A small group works hard for the benefit of the community but it would be nice to know who represents us and outcomes of meetings.
- Welcome Consultors minutes in newsletter but parish priest seems unwilling to share running of the parish in any meaningful way by not fully utilising the skills and talents available within the laity.
- Job description ???
- Are the minutes still published?
- ??
- Good workers but could be a danger that they are simply doers, rather than having a vision for the parish. Mundane tasks should be done in another context. Time should be spent on longer term issues rather than practically organising events, services etc.
- Is there a spiritual element to your work as leaders in the parish?

PARISH WEBSITE:**ACCESSIBLE FOR VISITORS**

- Don’t know.
- The main reason I visit parish websites is to find Mass times. These should be prominent, preferably on the home page.
- ??
- Don’t know
- Apart from Mass times and parish priest’s name and church address there is nothing about the parish as a whole.

- Apart from inclusion of the newsletter they get little sense of the vibrancy of the parish.
- What do they do?? (How can they navigate?)
- I find it's not always up to date. I've had to give out other (differing) info when I am at church.
- Very amateur and static feel to the home page. Not many places to go to to find out what is going on. Given the average person will only tolerate 20 seconds on a site before moving on if it hasn't given them feedback I am afraid people will not travel to weekly bulletin to get a feel for the parish. There should be obvious accessible buttons to get to: services, parish groups, luncheon club, children's / family issues, campaigns, parish outings (religious and cultural), scripture, events (parish, deanery, diocesan), thoughts from priest or previous homily (some parishes do this).
- What about links to videos, YouTube, Facebook videos about Church news, teachings, Vatican website etc
- Not impressed.
- Gives the bare information so rates as satisfactory.
- Poor information. Not kept up to date with events.

ATTRACTIVE / APPEALING

- Don't know
- Ghastly American style picture. Can't we use a picture of our own to put our own stamp on it – our beautiful stained glass windows, an arrangement from the flower festival, external or interior views of the church etc.
- ??
- Under developed – missing an opportunity I feel.
- Website picture is good.
- Use of photos?
- ??
- I would prefer a photo of the wall hanging at the back of the altar, or one of the windows, to the old fashioned picture of Christ heading up the website.
- A church with such a rich variety of visual resources and hardly anything on the site. Beautiful windows with symbolism – could be explained and a definite opportunity for evangelisation missed. The shape of the church is a symbol – not acknowledged. Buildings speak – when given the chance.
- No.
- Missed photo opportunities. Bland.
- Don't know.
- Not really.

REPRESENTATIVE OF PARISH LIFE

- Don't know
- Needs pages for different areas of parish life. It currently fails to show our activities other than via the parish bulletin so it's hard to gauge what sort of parish it is.
- ??
- At present it is limited and doesn't reflect our community, who we are and what we are.
- Job for a group of young people??
- No.

- Does not reflect the warmth of the parish or its vibrancy. Mission Statement?? Working towards “Live Simply” status ??
- The parish needs to advertise what is on offer. Vestibule / good but limited.
- ??
- The bulletin is.
- Ask the parishioners to contribute their knowledge and experience of the various activities. Testimonials are a powerful way of telling our story.
- Very little of parish life is evident. No sense of an outward looking community. No sense of the joy of the Gospel.
- No.
- Nothing to suggest parish life or how vibrant the parish is.
- Don’t know.
- Not at all.

PARISH OUTREACH:

INTER-FAITH / INTER CHURCH EVENTS

- Efforts have been made eg Lenten Discussion groups and services / lunches. More could be done. Made aware through parish newsletter of local interfaith initiatives.
- Change of our Sunday Mass time has made Sunday initiatives eg Interfaith Lenten lunches more difficult as we finish far too early for other churches.
- Need more.
- Not sure. Is it co-ordinated in any way?
- Better at an individual level than joint services / initiatives.
- Very little.
- Mostly through “Christians Together” which promotes good relations.
- More events would be appreciated.
- The connections are there, I know we are notoriously bad at joining in.
- Lack of enthusiasm to participate in events.
- GS is a very real part of the Churches Together in the valley.
- Insufficient in comparison with past.
- Small core of people involved but always trying to encourage others.
- OK
- I feel that this could be integrated into Mass.

CHARITABLE GIVING

- Finance committee currently working on the tithe – in line with parish mission statement.
- Very generous parish – good mix of local / faith / global charities benefitting. Much of this work is led by individuals.
- We donate approx. £500? per month (from rent of former presbytery) to Catholic Care to specifically assist in work with refugees. A great symbol of commitment . Interestingly we have not heard from Catholic care about what they do with the money as far as I am aware!!
- Good Shepherd parishioners have always responded well when called upon. Many donate to charities quietly and regularly.
- Publish Annual total of all charitable giving.

- We seem no longer to support charities as a church community as we used to eg Peru.
- An area that I think we are doing less well in.
- GS rises to every request!
- Very generous parish.
- The Good Shepherd has a reputation for generosity.
- People here are very generous.

CHARITABLE WORK (CAMPAIGNS ETC)

- ??
- “Living Simply” campaign – addressing further development. Newsletter keeps us informed. Committed individuals.
- Newsletter keeps us updated with parish supported initiatives, as do individuals. Need to build a children’s village campaign to create links between (us and them).
- ??
- People here are very generous. Good ideas.
- GS has supported quite a lot of campaigns in recent times eg Writing letters for Amnesty International Prisoners, Gianni Project, Refugees, Justice and Peace information, Hope Village.

YOUNG PEOPLE / CHILDREN – PROVISION

- Don’t know.
- Very good Children’s Liturgy, Youth Group and preparation for Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Encouraged to be aware of the lives of others – CAFOD. Perhaps we (the parish) need to be made more aware of these activities/outcomes.
- In church it is very good.
- Difficulty in engaging children post 11+. Not confined to GS. Need to know more about this work.
- ??
- They love it.
- Children’s Liturgy is very good.
- Very good but have links with local Catholic and state been lost? (Flower Festival notwithstanding).
- Very good - thanks to the dedication of those involved in leading this.
- Disappointing after First Communion and Confirmation.
- Excellent work done.
- Youth group does good work as well as the Children’s Liturgy group. Probably would be good if we knew some of the activities / topics covered. Provide more than some parishes in the deanery.

PROVISION FOR ELDERLY

- Don’t know.
- Luncheon Club. Anything else?
- Luncheon Club, minibus transport for Sunday Mass and summer trips / also other events.

- In church and luncheon club – very good. Minibus provision excellent.
- Sunday Mass times probably cause difficulty for some. Many individuals appear supported and included but aware many don't take opportunity to stay for coffee or attend luncheon club.
- Hold a meeting especially for this age group to get their views ?
- ??
- Successful Luncheon Club, would like to see more parishioners using this.
- Don't know.
- Be good to see an active SVP.
- We could do better, the lunch club is a great provision.
- More efficient hearing technology (needed).
- Luncheon Club is lovely.
- ?? Role played by Fr John. Does our PP really know our elderly and housebound?
- Luncheon Club is a good example.
- Luncheon Club fantastic. Generally an area we should give more thought to.
- Who are the elderly?
- Unable to comment on this.
- ??
- Feels like we are just beginning to look at this so I think more will happen in the next 18 months.
- Only the Lunch Club is good. Further possibilities?
- There could be more child / adult interaction / activities.

SOCIAL ASPECT OF PARISH LIFE

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS / VISITORS

- Good I think but need to ask a visitor. We seemed to be much appreciated for the Organ and Flower Festival.
- Takes a while – few years!
- Need a plan. When new people attended the former 8.30am Sunday Mass we made a point of asking them in for coffee.
- People comment on the warmth of atmosphere of the church eg Organ and Flower Festival.
- No welcome pack for new arrivals. Some community members do try hard to be welcoming, unofficially and that's good.
- Individuals are often very alert to newcomers' presence at Mass and often invite to coffee and engage. Recent organ recital showed how much visitors often commented on "warmth" of church and felt very comfortable and welcomed.
- Hit and Miss. No longer have information / Welcome packs.
- ??
- Still would be good to follow up newcomers.
- Always seems to be a positive feedback from visitors.
- Positive comments from visitors.
- Church building should be more accessible at more times.
- Laity quite good at this but it must be awful for a newcomer not to see the priest after Mass.
- I felt very welcome when I first turned up here.

- Needs some kind of information booklet to be given to newcomers.
- Could we produce a parish directory showing different groups work within the parish eg Consultors, children’s liturgy, safeguarding, etc. There is an assumption parishioners know about how groups operate – spelling out the function / role of the group. This may encourage wider participation.
- A guide to the church and windows should be available (printed and on website).
- Have been fairly new to Church – made to feel very welcome – am very happy to attend such a friendly and caring community. Thank you.
-

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Need more events eg Meal at Top Brink (restaurant).
- Summer Trips and a few other events.
- There appears to have been a reduction in the use of the church for community events. This is a missed opportunity to make non-parishioners aware of the church.
- Need more.
- Not what it was, a lost opportunity to build relationships.
- Opportunities to get together have diminished considerably. For many social gatherings are a more comfortable environment to participate in parish life.
- ??
- Lack of regular social events. Perhaps a group could be formed to organise.
- Need more of them and a greater mix of events.
- Another area that we do less well in.
- ?? There could have been so many more – but they have been “stifled” or stopped.
- Another area that has slipped. Good when we have them.
- Poor in comparison to how they were.
- Could have more / concerts / fundraisers etc
- Not as many as we used to have.
- There could be more child / adult interaction / activities.

CONTACT / SUPPORT FOR THE ILL

- The move to be dementia friendly is good.
- Don’t know.
- ??
- Not sure what there is on an organised basis. Does it rely on friendship groups.
- Need a plan. When a person does not attend Sunday Mass for a number of weeks there should be an action plan – particularly if they live alone.
- Not able to comment – but aware of individual support given informally.
- No SVP, nothing defined – left to personal relationships, Eucharistic Ministers perhaps not being informed of need?
- Can’t comment as we do not hear anything about it, as I presume these things to be confidential.
- Don’t know.
- Individual support given. Don’t feel able to comment on this aspect with any confidence.
- Aware that Fr John visits sick and dying.

- ??
- I am not sure who is in charge of this. It would be helpful if someone was.
- Not sure.
- ??
- Ministers should play a part – leave with the host from Sunday Mass.
- Good on a personal level.
- Am assuming good /-but no personal experience to relate to.
- Unsure about involvement of PP. Aware of the role played by Fr J. I could be very unfair here to PP as he may wish to keep a low profile.
- Not really sure – but do not know of systematic approach – who knows?
- This requires a pastoral priest and willing laity who must be informed.
- Unable to comment on this.
- Don't know – seems very little organised.
- Don't know.
- ? Don't know enough about what happens.
- Fr John.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

- Don't know.
- ??
- ??
- Don't know.
- No way in!
- Not sure what there is on an organised basis. Does it rely on friendship groups.
- Not able to grade this item.
- Aware of recent initiative / meeting / Outcomes??
- I'm sure that on a one to one basis this is good and done quietly. However some direction to those in need might be helpful from time to time.
- I can't comment , as I know some people went on a bereavement course, but some feedback would be helpful.
- No experience yet, thankfully.
- New initiative was welcome to equip interested parties with developing insight / skills etc. Evidence of individuals being supportive and engaging with recently bereaved.
- ??
- Is this available?
- Don't know.
- Not sure.
- Am assuming good /-but no personal experience to relate to.
- ??
- ??

- This an area for development and is at an early stage in the process.
- New group – needs to grow.
- Not sure what there is. Very individual.
- Good on a personal level.
- Unable to comment on this.
- Don't know – seems very little organised.
- Don't know.
- Informal – support and fellowship.
- Fr John
- Some initial awareness work started. We are just beginning to look at this so I think more will happen in the next year or so.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

- Don't know.
- ??
- Although I've not been on it, the residential Parish Weekend always seems to go down well.
- ??
- Don't know.
- Not able to grade this item.
- Not able to comment.
- Nothing known. NB: our young people used to babysit to allow young parents to meet and socialise.
- Do we give support to young families? I don't know.
- Mass time on Sundays not ideal for young families. Very little in way of non-liturgical social occasions. Annual Away Weekend seems well supported and enjoyable.
- Good but care needs to be taken over physically impaired young people needing to go upstairs.
- ?!
- Don't know.
- Other families seem to support each other.
- ?? Am assuming good /-but no personal experience to relate to.
- Cannot comment.
- I think it is good through the children's work.
- Good on a personal level.
- Unable to comment on this.
- Don't know – seems very little organised.
- Don't know.
- ? Don't know full story.
- Not sure.
- Perhaps there is opportunity to develop some self help approach among families within the parish.

SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- Luncheon Club, Mass at Kershaw and Mytholm Meadows. Minibus for Sunday Mass. Not sure what else there is on an organised basis.
- Am assuming good /-but no personal experience to relate to.
- Tend to slip off the radar – we are good generally.
- Unable to comment on this.
- Don't know
- As far as I am concerned it is good.
- Don't know.
- ??
- Lunch club good.
- Apart from luncheon club no age specific activities targeted at this age group. Can this group be canvassed to garner ideas.
- Minibus provision good if needed and allows access for parish activities / events. Further social events to wider group who are supported and less isolated.
- Weekly cake / coffee morning and chat group??
- This doesn't seem to be co-ordinated so it seems to be up to the individual.
- Mostly on an individual basis. Maybe an SVP group could help.
- Don't know.
- Wed lunch club and Mytholm Meadows ???
- Luncheon club provides an excellent opportunity to reach out to our own and the wider community.
- There is a need to do some needs analysis on this area.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS

- A very important aspect of parish life. Many, especially the elderly, see it as a vital link when they may not see / speak to others in the week.
- Patchy
- Good I think.
- Conversations suggest it is ok.
- Aware many do not choose to stay and engage, and this can create division with those more aware of parish life that is gleaned by informal contact at coffee time.
- Seems to fall on the same small group. Gone are the light lunches (Mass times changed), social gatherings and barbecues after Mass.
- This provides the main opportunity for people to meet, chat and support each other.
- A bit crowded – can we improve the layout somehow.
- Excellent!
- Need more helpers on the rota.
- Disappointing when there is no coffee / social.
- Rota needs to be publicised more and people thanked.
- Presently providing a much needed service. Those who come tend to stay for a long time. Quite a lot of informal networking and discussions.

PROPERTY – STATE OF BUILDING

EXTERNAL: GARDENS / ORCHARD

- Back garden – a disgrace.
- It would be helpful if whoever cuts the grass could mow around the outside of the orchard – otherwise this space will revert to jungle.
- Hard work done on gardens.
- We need to get the volunteering back to what it was pre-flood.
- Back garden in a terrible state – forgotten.
- Memorial Garden often untidy.
- Little use is made of the garden
- Probably more helpers needed for the gardens etc. Memorial Garden always needs attention.
- Barry’s work is excellent. Peggy’s work on the orchard is also excellent.
- The church and grounds were originally designed to be low maintenance with open grassed areas easy to mow. Planting has moved away from this and made the grounds difficult to keep tidy.
- We need a full time gardener! “Presbytery” garden! As an affluent yet ageing parish we can afford it.
- Memorial garden could be so much more attractive with sensitive colourful planting (pots).

CAR PARK

- Problem with Sunday 9.30 Mass parking. Many spaces taken by local people. Difficulty even when we arrive for 9.15.
- Carpark flooding.
- Why has nothing been done about the lake in the car park?
- Why are cars parked on a Sunday which do not belong to people at Mass?
- Car park ok except after rain!
- Sunday parking is difficult – this may improve after flood defence work completed.
- Mytholmroyd church car park barely adequate.
- Difficult at the moment due to external usage. – understandable.
- Can we solve the car park drainage issue?
- Unauthorised parking needs to be tackled once the pub car park re-opens.
- Too many people not connected to church using our car park on Sundays in the football season people playing on Scout Fields taking places.
- Marking required around circle blocked by parked vehicles at times. Flooding / ice main issues in winter.
- Car parking can be difficult on Sundays.
- Should be a cross hatched painted markings to allow vehicles to turn.
- Car park flooding needs looking at, as it has been going on for some time now. Also parking: it is NOT a public car park.
- Car park space limited.
- Current use by others’ cars make parking difficult – hopefully temporary. Could “No Parking” marking be put at far side of Memorial Circle – sometimes blocked by cars preventing full access. Flooding remains an issue in winter.
- Still problems with parking, which will hopefully be improved when flood defence work is completed.
- Too many unauthorised vehicles using the car park.

- Cr park drainage.
- Monitor external usage please.
- Better prominent notices. Perhaps numbered spaces for neighbours to rent. Could car park be extended with money from rent?
- Sundays should be treated differently in terms of who is permitted to park there. Notes should be issued asking non-church users to vacate for a few hours at least. A few weeks pressure would probably make a difference. Other churches I have been to have wardens and it works.

INTERNAL: DÉCOR

- Lovely building – well looked after and floral displays.
- Flowers always look lovely.
- What is the one, two, three year plan to maintain the high standard after the refurbishment of 2015 / 2016?
- Church walls lack any cohesion (Artefacts)
- OK
- Upstairs need refreshing – not part of restoration work.
- Renewed just before / since flood.
- Believe cleaning of church should be outsourced as those involved are active in other areas of parish life.
- Is it time to re-think the Good Shepherd tapestry? It certainly needs an easier hanging system. Love the stained glass windows.
- Parish centre lighting is awful.
- Generally the décor is tired. The collected artefacts do not seem to have any logic to them. There will need to be a thoughtful and sensitive rationalisation of these historically (for GS parish) relevant items. Some are in need of explanation by use of brief descriptions as the relevance is being lost in the mists of time. Separate out (perhaps to the parish lounge) the historical bits (parish pilgrimages, mementos etc from religious symbols which should be retained. And given greater prominence. In this instance less is more! Eg Stations of the Cross – cannot be seen properly – no lighting, dingy wall and too high. Plenty of space around the church walls to display them to greater effect.
- Windows need cleaning.
- Roof lights are very dirty.

ACCESS

- Wheelchair access is good and chairs can be easily moved to accommodate wheelchair “parking”.
- I assume we have a hearing loop
- The move to be dementia friendly is good..
- Church building should be more accessible at more times
- Unauthorised parking makes access difficult at time.
- OK
- Thoughtless parking (across parking bays) by church users and others limits capacity. Improved since newsletter notices for a few weeks.
- So sad that church is no longer open every day.
- Aware that upper rooms of centre not accessible for wheelchair and some with mobility issues.
- Church = good Downstairs lounge centre = satisfactory Upper floors = unsatisfactory.

- Accessibility to Church: not much during the week.
- Could we produce a parish directory showing different groups work within the parish eg Consultors, children's liturgy, safeguarding, etc. There is an assumption parishioners know about how groups operate – spelling out the function / role of the group. This may encourage wider participation.
- Sadly church is not open daily as it used to be, providing a valuable haven for the community - what can we do?
- Disappointed that the church itself is so restricted in its access by being closed except for services.

FURNISHINGS

- The lectern cannot have been designed to sit below the level of the reader, and it was not in that position pre-flood. It needs to be raised.
- Hymn and Mass Book stands seem unstable when moved.
- Please bring back kneelers or cushions to kneel on. Respect for the Eucharist is being diminished because one cannot kneel down.
- Kneelers for those who wish
- OK
- Tables at back of church need rationalising. Too many small leaflets / pamphlets stay too long and get covered up. Larger (pockets) noticeboard inside church for religious / mediational / spiritual matters. Organisational matters should be out in the narthex. / entrance porch.
- Sometimes too many chairs out for those attending. Give the impression of being cramped.
- The Book of the Gospels should be displayed and recognised – what has happened to the Procession of the Holy Book. It should be accorded more prominence and respect. It is a highly symbolic act and has been lost in the last 18 months.
- Lectern is too low. It looks silly and is not easy to use for people of average to tall height. It is the Table of the Word and should be accorded prominence along with the altar.

SOUND SYSTEM

- Microphone not always on.
- Live camera system link to allow streaming of Mass.
- A more effective audio system should be in place – a little primitive to be bringing projectors in for audio visual input. Forces us to rely on printed matter.

LIGHTING

- Lights in church not bright enough.
- Levels in church are quite low. Overhead lighting above altar /lectern needs replacing.
- Lighting in centre could be improved – ongoing project.
- For older people lighting is not too good.
- Very poor.
- Need light on lectern.
- Back of church is extra dim.
- Sometimes seems on the gloomy side. Very bright in the lounge – for social functions.
- Café needs mellow lighting.

RELIGIOUS DÉCOR / ARTEFACTS

- Stations of the Cross plaques are poorly sited, compete with and lose to the Children's Liturgy posters / work.
- Would like a re-issuing of booklet explaining original meaning of artefacts /windows . Need to ensure Fr John's knowledge on these matters are recorded for the future.
- Explanation of their origins needs to be chronicled for visitors and newer members.
- Would be nice to have icons in the café area and one for upstairs.
- Items accumulate over the years. Do they still hold relevance for the current congregation?
- Some more inspiring and re-positioned Stations of the Cross would be good.
- Bit outdated in social areas.
- A working group should sensitively look at how to display the various pictures / plaques etc around the complex – not just in church. All is good but not necessarily where it is at present.
- New style spots / uplighters to enhance artefacts would benefit – relatively inexpensive these days.

OTHER ISSUES NOT COVERED

- The move to be dementia friendly is good.
- There needs to be more structure where Eucharistic Ministers, parishioners etc can feed back to the PP when he has two parishes but if he would only spend time within the GS community he would realise that there would be a great deal more support forthcoming. Would PP consider allocating one / two days per week based at GS where church could be open, he would be accessible, and he could visit elderly, sick etc.
- Don't feel Father Larkin listens to us. We are thinking, spiritually alive church.
- We have a large south facing roof ideal for solar panels. This could feed into the grid when church is not in use. It could save money long term.
- I appreciate Fr Larkin's generosity of spirit in continuing to use Fr John's support to enhance our spiritual wellbeing.
- More use of lay talent should be employed. Our priests are a valuable resource and should not have to spend unnecessary time on administrative tasks that the laity could do.
- We could employ a part-time parish assistant rather than rely solely on volunteers which can constrain what we can offer.
- I have found recent Reconciliation Services uninspiring. At their best these can be very thought provoking and help re-calibrate one's compass.
- A liturgy group could look at the provision of services during the year – not just Mass. The broader provision of services eg Penitential services, holy hour, Benediction, and others.