



# Lewannick Church Newsletter

## AWAY DAY REPORT

20 members of the congregation gathered at Coombshead on 24th May to talk and pray about the way forward for the church in Lewannick.

The day opened with worship and then two groups tackled the matter of 'How do we see our church?' they also completed a questionnaire entitled 'Our church, millstone or spring board'

The groups then shared their discussions and views with each other. After lunch, the groups tackled the questions of 'What do we want as the gathered people of God?' and finally the whole group looked at the question 'How do we shape our 'church' to fulfil that mission?'

The day ended with a time of prayer and reflection on the day.

June 2014

## How do we see our church?

In general people felt that the church was a beacon for the Christian faith, a real presence in the community, and that it meets the needs of those who gather there regularly.. but there was an underlying feeling that there was scope for much more to be done, and that we could improve our outward persona.

The questionnaire Millstone or Springboard was intended to be a slightly light-hearted look at the building which then provoked deeper thought about the church building and how we use it. A score of 0 indicated we thought it was a millstone to our missional work, a score of 7 meant we thought it was a springboard for us to work from.

We looked at 10 criteria

- 1 Did we appear to be open?
- 2 How easy was it to gain access?
- 3 How welcoming are we, not just for services but when we are not there?
- 4 How easy is the church to navigate when inside? Is the layout helpful or a hindrance?
- 5 Is the church comfortable ?
- 6 Is it easy to see what is happening, is there sufficient light or too much?
- 7 When things are happening, is it audible?
- 8 Is the building serviceable for our needs ? Do our facilities meet our needs?
- 9 Is the quality of the building and contents appropriate to reflect the idea of giving our best to God?
- 10 Is the building sufficiently flexible ?

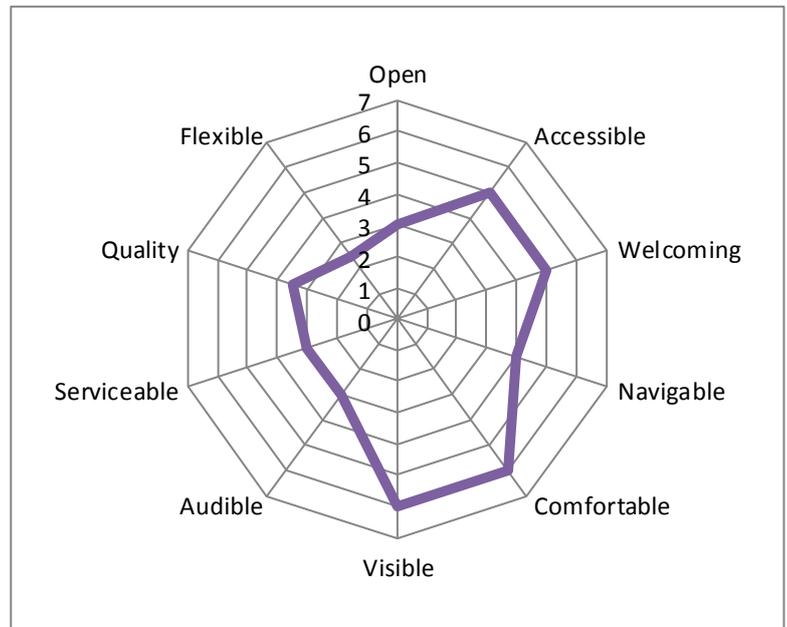
The results were then plotted on a 'spider diagram' showing how viewed our church.

TURN OVER TO SEE WHAT THE GROUP THOUGHT.....



## These are our results

Open	3
Accessible	5
Welcoming	5
Navigable	4
Comfortable	6
Visible	6
Audible	3
Serviceable	3
Quality	3.5
Flexible	2.5



**Clearly the groups felt that some areas need to be improved, while others meet our needs**

### 'What do we want as the gathered people of God?'

This question raised a lot of response, which included:-

A vicar, youngsters, prayer and worship, a sustainable organisation, tranquility, warmth, fellowship, communion, services later in the day, a place for prayer, no 'happy clappy', more people, café / market place., social events, not to be the last generation.

This may appear a diverse and in some cases almost contradictory list - it is a reflection of the diverse nature of us as the people of God, but what was clear was the willingness to think about where we are and what we are doing at present, and that there was a real sense of urgency that we need to act now.

### How do we shape our 'church' to fulfil our mission?

It was felt we need to communicate more with the village, the use of flyers was suggested and to work in conjunction with the school.

We need to make our presence known, improve the visible 'openness' of the building

Make our available space more versatile

Hold coffee mornings in the church

Improve our follow up on baptisms and funerals, review the pastoral care system

Develop a village prayer system, a drop box in the shop and church entrance

Review our notice boards

Encourage people to sit nearer the front.

Invite friends to come,

### FINALLY ...We made a list of things we are going to do,

- ⇒ Get a sign to say we are open,
- ⇒ Use the main door to enter not the side door.
- ⇒ Move the chest to the other side for coffee.
- ⇒ Remove the lino by North door.
- ⇒ Hold a gift day.
- ⇒ Have an open air service.
- ⇒ Open the church.
- ⇒ Set up a steering committee to look at worship, teatime service weekdays, especially for children.
- ⇒ Ask the school if they would like to use the church as a place to exhibit their art work.
- ⇒ Get a prayer box for people's prayer requests.
- ⇒ Set up a knit and natter group in conjunction with project Linus..
- ⇒ Have another away day to see what has happened !

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. *1 Peter 2:9*