

# St James' Church, Thornham

## Summary of Feedback from Congregation: Part 1

On Sunday 7 May, our congregation gave some initial feedback on St James' Church relating to the first two "Marks of Mission" of the Anglican Communion:

1. "To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom";
2. "To teach, baptise and nurture new believers".

These are some of the main themes that came out (mentioned at least 4 times):

### What We Do Well

- Overall, we received 75 positive comments relating to these first two Marks. The most notable patterns included:
  - 19 comments were about the quality of our **worship**, including:
    - 4 comments appreciating our **choir** in particular, and a further 4 supporting the **quality of music** more generally;
    - 4 comments complimenting the **preaching**;
  - 18 comments mentioned the **provision for children**, of which 12 praised our **Sunday School**;
  - 16 comments talked about the **welcome for newcomers**;
  - 12 comments were grateful for the **sense of community** and mutual support within our church family.

### Things We Could Do Better

- In total, we received 62 comments which suggested areas where we could do better.
- There was far less agreement here (many areas only commented on by one or two), but certain points came up repeatedly:
  - 11 comments related to the **choice and range of hymns and worship songs**, with requests for more contemporary and child-friendly songs;
  - 8 comments discussed feelings of *not* being **welcomed or included**;
  - 8 comments were concerned with **difficulty for children to engage with / participate in worship**;
  - 6 comments mentioned the **lack of secondary school age children** in our church community;
  - 4 comments critiqued (different) **aspects of our worship** (other than those mentioned above);

### New Things We Could Do

- Altogether, we received 17 comments making suggestions of new things we could try - some more practical than others! We will be taking these forward and consulting on them.
- Only one suggestion came up more than once:
  - 3 comments suggested the church make greater use of **the Internet and social media**

Do these reflect what you think? These are only the first steps on our journey to the St James' Mission Action Plan. For the latest updates and opportunities to have your say, keep an eye on the weekly sheets, join our Facebook Group or visit our new website: [www.stmarys-stjames.org](http://www.stmarys-stjames.org) .