

# St James' Church, Thornham

## Summary of Feedback from Congregation: Part 3

*On Sunday 21 May, our congregation gave some initial feedback on St James' Church relating to the final two of the "Marks of Mission" of the Anglican Communion:*

4. *"To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation";*
5. *"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth".*

*The following are some of the most important specific issues relating to these identified by members of St James' congregation.*

### The Most Important Issues Today

- Overall, we received 87 comments which identified the following as the biggest issues:
  - 15 comments talked about **inadequate resourcing for health and / or social care**;
    - 7 of these specifically mentioned **lack of funding for care of the elderly**;
  - 12 comments mentioned the various **challenges faced by young people today** and / or lack of support for them;
  - 9 comments mentioned the related issue of **under-funding of schools**;
  - 7 comments discussed the growing problem of **homelessness**;
    - With another related comment about **affordable housing**;
  - 7 comments related to issues around **conservation and the environment**;
    - 3 of these specifically mentioned the **preservation of Royton's green belt**;
  - 6 comments discussed rising levels of **poverty and inequality**
  - 6 comments related to what I have called a **lack of community spirit**, in terms of respect and care for one another and the surrounding environment
  - 5 comments talked about **prejudice**, particularly racism and religious prejudice
  - 4 comments mentioned **anti-social or poor behaviour by young people**;

*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) .*