

NCD Church Survey Result Summary All Saints', Leek Wootton 8 October 2017

Thank you to the survey participants this year who took part in the third NCD Church Survey that we have undertaken, a survey which discerns the quality of our church life under the headings of the 'Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Growing Churches'. This paper is to give the whole fellowship a flavour of what the survey revealed. Please remember that the results are created solely from the opinions expressed by those who took part - all of whom are regular members of our fellowship. There is no outside influence on these. This is OUR perception of the fellowship of which we are part, not someone else's ideas about us.

You might remember that there was a dramatic, very positive, change in the results between surveys 1 and 2. There was no likelihood that a change of that magnitude would be recorded again. It is apparently quite normal for the third survey to show a slight drop overall, so our apparent plateau, with just a small average increase, is actually quite encouraging – though I'm sure we would all have liked to have seen more.

This first diagram summarises a comparison of the three surveys



NCD *status* guide

for

KE0701 - Leek Wootton All Saints

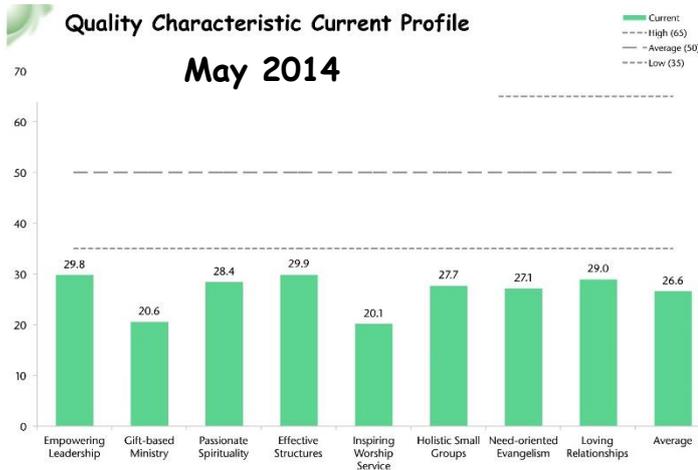
October 2017

Profile	Date	Minimum Factor	Maximum Factor	Min - Max Difference	Average
3	Oct-17	35.8 Passionate spirituality	55.1 Gift-based ministry	19.3	48.2
				Change 2 - 3	+0.9
2	Feb-16	37.1 Passionate spirituality	50.6 Holistic small groups	13.5	47.3
				Change 1 - 2	+20.7
1	May-14	20.1 Inspiring worship service	29.9 Effective structures	9.8	26.6

This brief High/Low summary shows that our average perception of quality over the past 21 months has increased slightly (+0.9%), but our minimum quality remains Passionate Spirituality – and that this appears to have decreased slightly (-1.3%). The survey gives a snapshot of opinions at a given time. There are some changes in the personnel taking part – though a large amount of continuity. While the results show that we all still have much to do to improve the quality of our fellowship life, the main message is that we have maintained the great start we made, and now have the chance to move on from a point of greater strength.

The Story so far

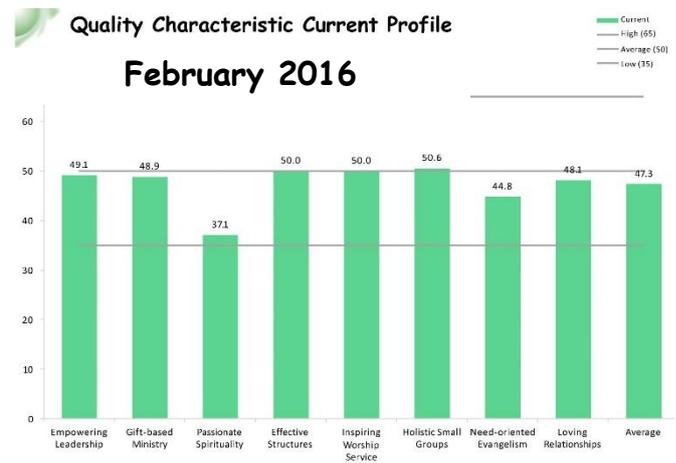
In May 2014, our 8 essential qualities came out in this way:



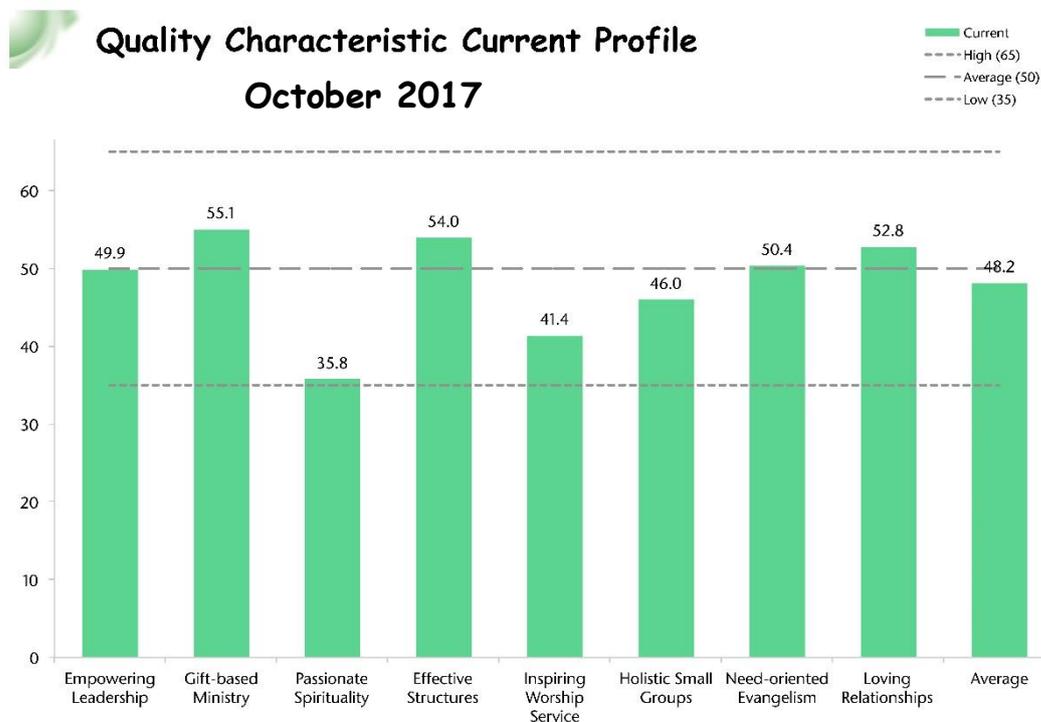
As a result, we chose to focus on two qualities, Inspiring Worship and Gift-based Ministry, rather than just one. Out of the ten questions which showed the greatest positive change, seven of these related to these two qualities.

In survey 2, those qualities were ranked 3rd and 5th rather than 8th and 7th.

In February 2016, our 8 essential qualities graph looked very different:



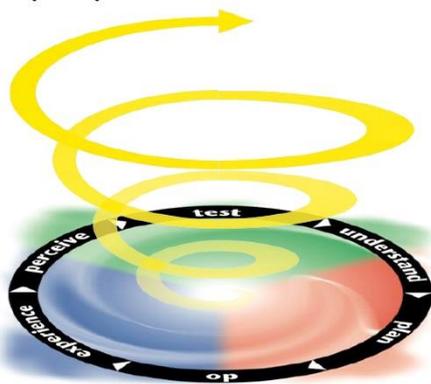
Since then, we have been focussing on our encounter with God in prayer and the Bible. We spent two months in 2016 hosting an exhibition about the Bible. In March 2017, we held an away day with Bishop John to focus on prayer. Last November, 'Fellowship Prayers' began at 8.30am on some '4th Sundays'.



Over the coming weeks, the PCC and Ministry Support Team will begin to discern our goals and actions for the coming weeks and months – but the key message is that we all have a part to play as individuals, to ensure that our own personal spirituality – our relationship with God – is kept healthy and growing.

While our main focus will continue to be on Passionate Spirituality, the survey shows up all sorts of different, interesting and challenging insights about the current state of our life as a church. Individual questions will give the leaders food for thought about the way we do things and the way others perceive what we are doing (which is not always the same thing – or at least not the intention!) Perhaps one of the greatest of these challenges is to do with what we might consider the emotional feel of our fellowship. This is brought out by one of the other summary charts:

My Cycle Starter Plan



Our current challenges

- Faith
- Passionate spirituality
- hope
- prayer
- joy



Hope, joy and enthusiasm, (associated elsewhere in the survey with these), seem to be lagging behind at the moment. These are, of course, infectious characteristics and I admit that, on a personal level within church life, I have been struggling a bit with these over the past year – maybe part of my ‘mid(?)’-life crisis’ since turning 60 at the end of 2016. I’m feeling a bit more settled and forward-focussed again, and I trust that this will filter into other aspects of church life and that, therefore, any negative impact that I have been personally responsible for will be reversed. I know that some other leaders have also had their personal battles to face. All of this has an impact which is why, in the Scriptures, there are calls to all members of the churches to support and encourage those who carry the weighty responsibility of leadership.

However, there are many things from the survey which are a cause of great encouragement and rejoicing, not least the absence of bitterness and resentment within the fellowship – shown to be well beyond what might be considered ‘excellent’. I hope that is your impression too. I know of many of my colleagues who wish it was true of their fellowships. The other great encouragement is the way that ‘Gift-Based Ministry’ seems to have become embedded in the DNA of church life. I’m sure that there are many people with God-given gifts which could be better utilised in the service of God, the church and the world, but we’ve made a good start of making sure that those who are fulfilling roles in the church are doing so in harmony with their gifting.

The other encouragement I want to share from the results is a new diagram that has been produced this time. The basic principle of Natural Church Development (NCD) is that growth happens, 'all by itself' once the conditions are right. Our role is to work WITH GOD, to get the conditions in our church right for growth to be able to happen – to be healthy and balanced across the eight essential qualities.

Our average attendance at worship each week had stayed fairly stable for a number of years now – there have been slight fluctuations, and there is always the requirement to be reaching new members to replace those who naturally move on to other homes earthly or heavenly. Had there been a similar projection after our first survey, the graph below would have painted a very gloomy picture – reinforcing a suggestion made in our 2013 'One of the Family' stewardship campaign that we would be unlikely to still be active as a fellowship in ten years if we didn't address our problems. However, today we can see that the 'worst-case' projection is to make very slow progress in growth and, by improving our 'minimum factor' (which normally affects everything in a positive way), we have a very healthy future.

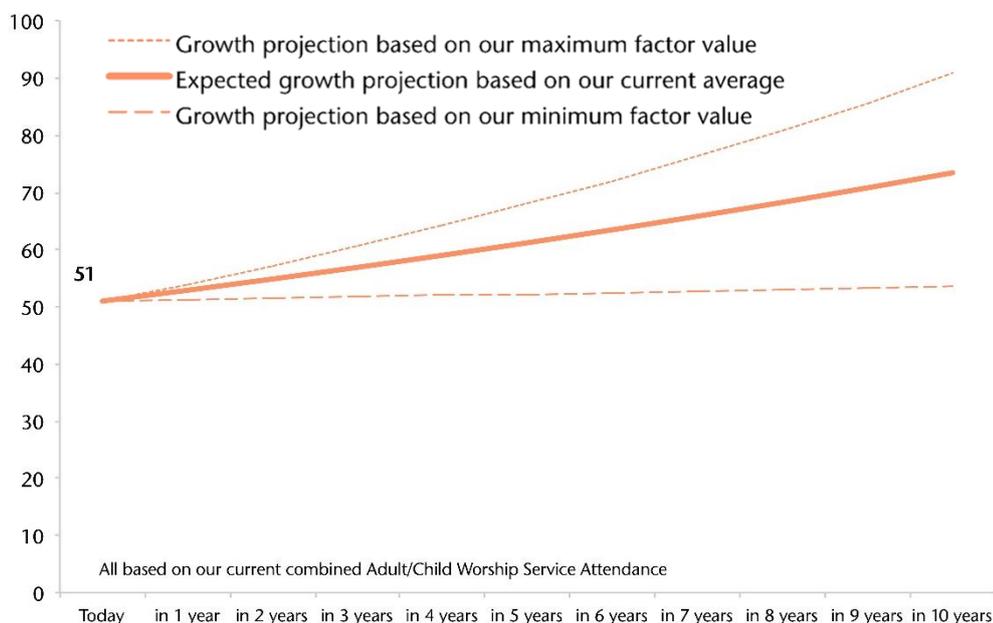


NCD *strategy* guide

for

KE0701 - Leek Wootton All Saints

October-2017



Maximum Factors

Service
 Gift-based ministry
 releasing
 accountability
 good organisation

Minimum Factors

Faith
 Passionate spirituality
 joy
 prayer
 hope

Let each of us, together, be committed to turning these hopes into reality – and in so doing discover new joy and deeper faith in our own lives as we develop our personal relationship with our loving, living God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jim Perryman 11/11/2017