



Responses to the Worth Village Survey

Summer 2025

Introduction

From late April to late March 2025 villagers in Worth were invited to complete a 'Worth Parish Survey'. Designed by the Rector and PCC, the intention was to help in setting priorities by listening to what the village felt it wished for from its Parish Church, to help us assess possibilities over several areas, to give people a say in decision-making, and simply to encourage people to reflect on these questions. We hoped that the results could be shared with other organisations within the village who might find the results helpful and interesting.

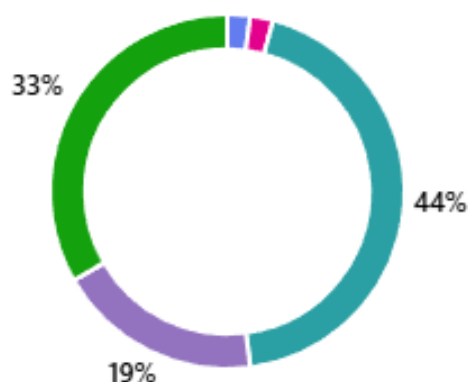
The Survey was promoted on social media, on the Church's website, and by placing hard copies through as many letterboxes as possible.

50 responses were received, 5 had names assigned and 45 were anonymous. Considering that some households may have completed only one form, it is fair to assume that this questionnaire speaks for close to 1/10 of the population of the village (403 households, 953 individuals, at the last census).

44% of respondents have lived in Worth between 3 and 10 years, with 96% of respondents having lived here for 3 years or more. 16% of respondents have one or two people under 20 years old in the household.

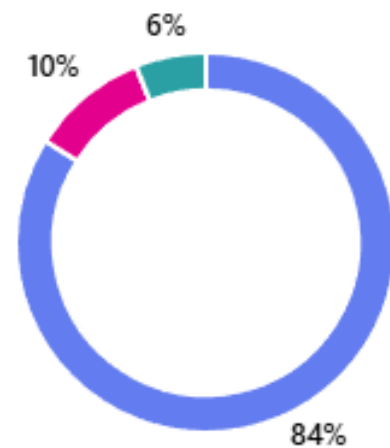
10. How long have you lived in Worth?

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Less than a year | 1 |
| 1-2 years | 1 |
| 3-10 years | 21 |
| 11-20 years | 9 |
| 21 years or more | 16 |



11. How many people under 20 years of age live in your household?

| | |
|-----------|----|
| None | 42 |
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 |
| 3 or more | 0 |

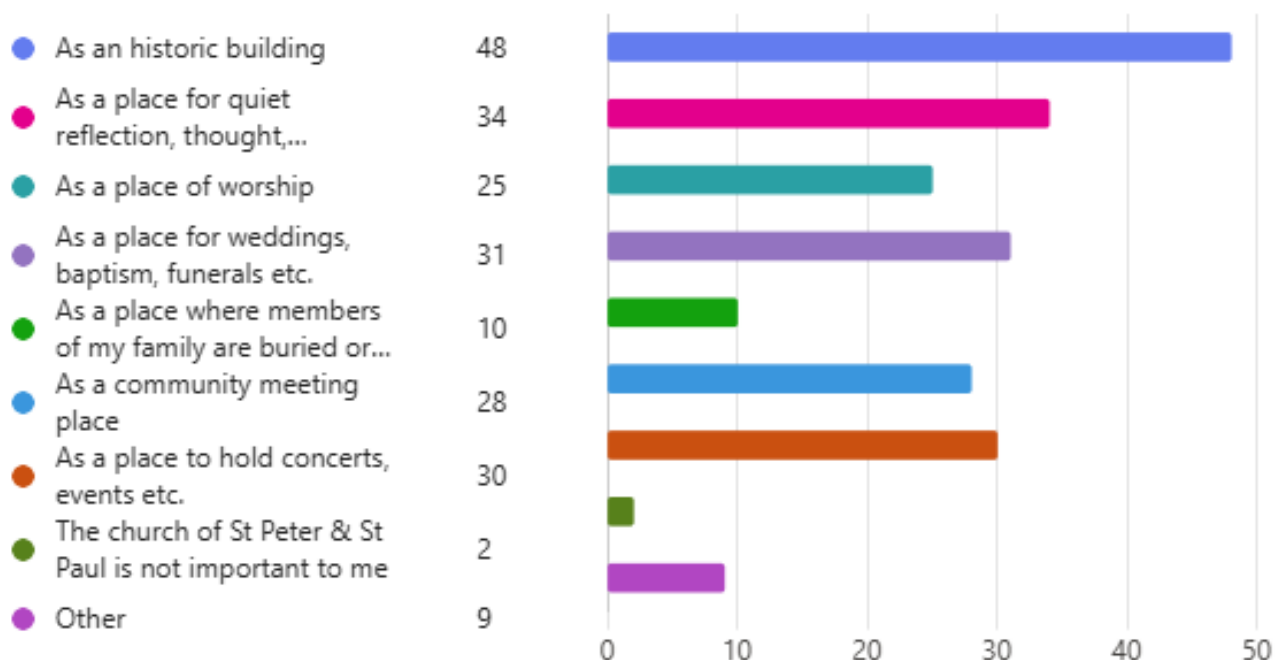


On average, respondents who filled in the questionnaire online took around 40 minutes to answer the questions.

Finally, enormous thanks must go to Caroline Flynn, Parish Administrator, who typed up hard-copy responses so that all these results could be easily collated.

The relationship between the village and the Parish Church

1. In what ways is the church of St Peter & St Paul important to you?



Only 14% of respondents are regular attendees at Sunday Parish Communion, though 52%-67% attend occasional festival services (33% do not).

The Parish Church is open daily, and the importance of this is reflected in 70% of respondents feeling that the church is important as a place for quite reflection, thought, and peace. 31% visit regularly for quite peace or prayer.

Slightly more respondents see the church as an important place for community meetings or concerts and events than those who consider it important as a place of worship, though the sense of its importance as a place for marking life moments in weddings, baptisms, and funerals was seen as more important than concerts, events, or regular worship. Around 50% would want them or a family member to have the right to

a baptism or wedding in the church, and 61% would like the right to a funeral there.

Every respondent (100%) would be concerned in the church had to close, even the two respondents who said that the church is not particularly important to them personally.

2. You and your relationship with St Peter & St Paul

Yes No Maybe

Do you visit St Peter & St Paul regularly for Parish Communion services?

Do you visit St Peter & St Paul for occasional festival services i.e. Christmas, Easter, Patronal Festival etc?

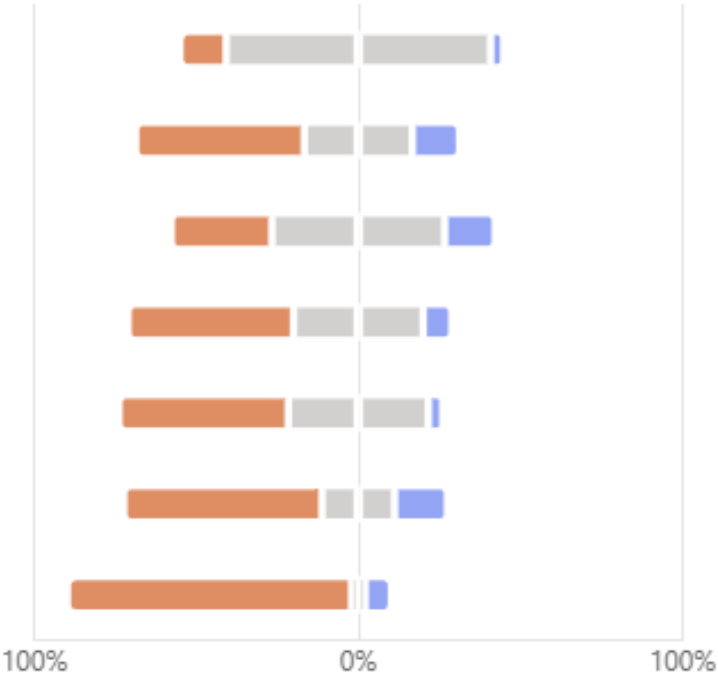
Do you visit St Peter & St Paul for quiet prayer, to remember loved ones etc?

Would you want yourself, a member of your family, a family friend etc. to have the opportunity to be married at St Peter & St Paul?

Would you want yourself, a member of your family, a family friend etc. to have the opportunity to be baptised at St Peter & St Paul?

Would you want yourself, a member of your family, a family friend etc. to have the opportunity to have a funeral service at St Peter ...

Would you be concerned if the church of St Peter & St Paul had to close?



3. What might influence you to visit St Peter & St Paul more often?

● Yes ● No ● Maybe

If the format of the services were more up to date, modern etc.

If the music was more up to date, modern etc.

If there were more child orientated services.

If the seating was more comfortable.

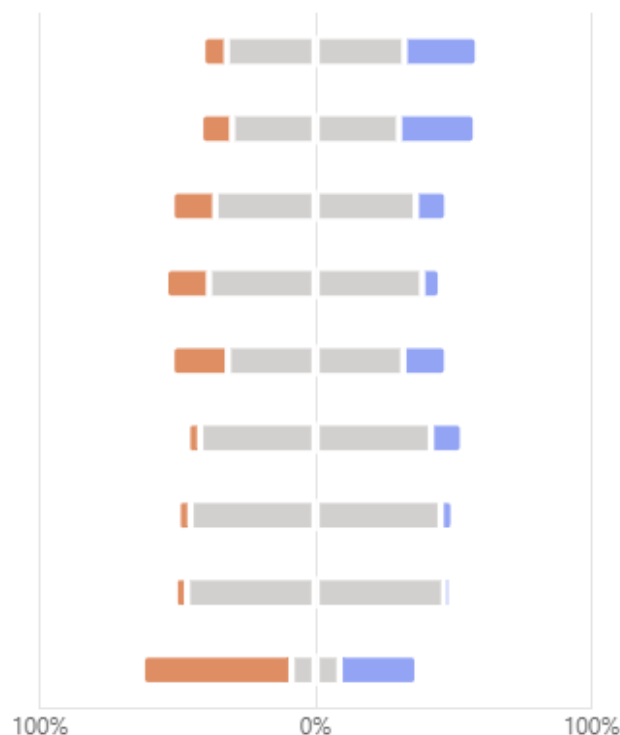
If it was warmer in the winter.

If the interior was more welcoming.

If the church offered enquirers courses such Alpha etc.

If the church were to offer bible study groups for new enquirers etc.

If the church were to offer more informal social events



Some would be more encouraged to visit the church if there were more child orientated services (16%), if the seating were more comfortable (16%), or if it were warmer in winter (21%), but the only particularly notable encouragement to visit more would be more informal social events (54%).

The giving away of money and time

4. We receive no financial support from the Church of England. What support - financial and non-financial - might you be prepared to offer St Peter & St Paul's?

Yes No Maybe

Would you be prepared to make a financial contribution on a regular basis?

Would you be prepared to make a financial contribution on an ad-hoc basis?

Would you be prepared to sit on a church fundraising committee?

Would you be prepared to sit on a fabric committee overseeing the church building?

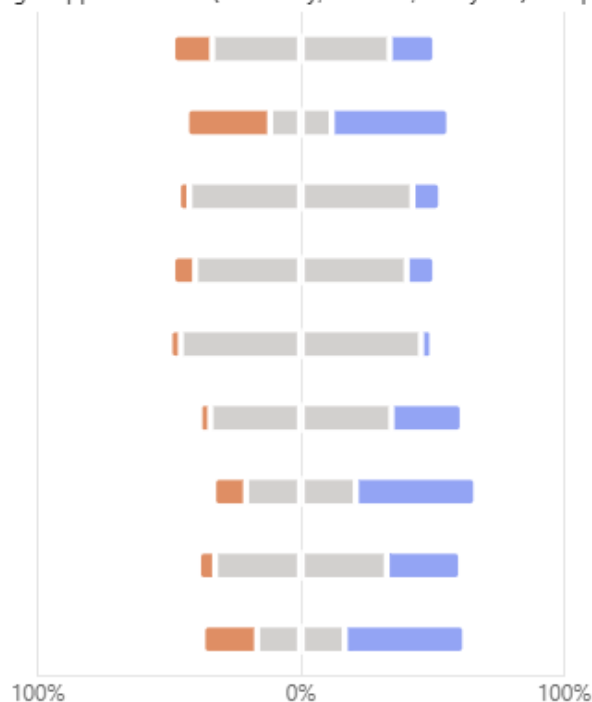
Would you be prepared to sit on the Parochial Church Council overseeing the life of the church?

Would you be prepared to offer some time to help with any youth and children's activities group set up in the village?

Would you be prepared to offer some time to help with any community hub set up in the village?

Would you be prepared to offer some time to help with any family support group set up in the village?

Would you be prepared to offer some time to help with any village support network (for elderly, disabled, lonely etc.) set up i...



15% would be prepared to give financially to the Parish Church on a regular basis (67% would not), while 32% would consider giving on an ad-hoc basis (23% would not).

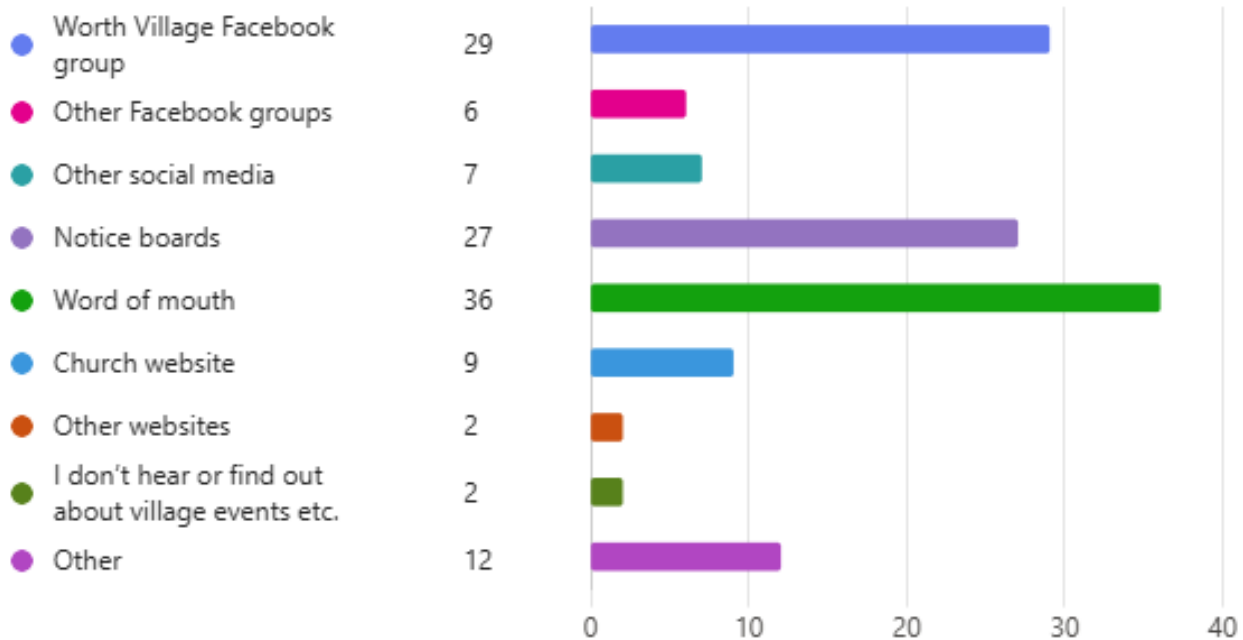
Only 4% would sit on a fundraising committee or the Parochial Church Council, 9% on a fabric committee.

Only 4% of people would give time to help with any youth or children's activities in the village, but 27% would consider it (69% would not).

12% would give time to help run a community hub, but 46% would consider it. 20% would give time to help with a village support network, and again 46% would consider it.

Village Life

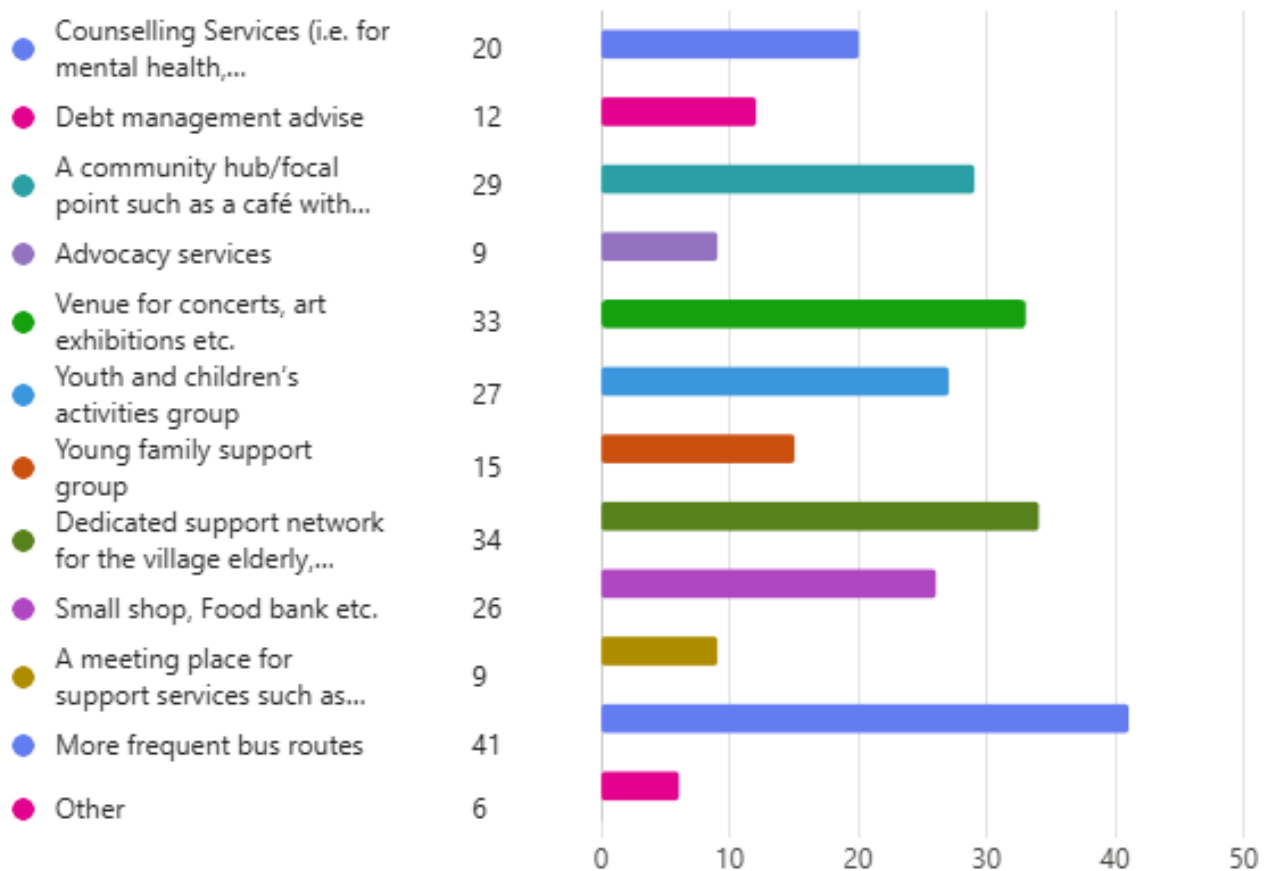
3. **How do you find out about events, activities, services etc in the village?** *Please tick as many as you feel are applicable*



The most popular form of communication is word of mouth, with 72% of villagers finding out about events and activities in this way.

Facebook and notice boards are not far off, with 58% and 54% respectively. Other forms of communication were largely unused, with 4% saying they never hear about local events.

5. What services, activities etc that may not currently be available in the village do you feel would enrich the life of the community if they were offered? Please tick as many as you feel are applicable



In terms of what services might be popular, as might be predicted a more frequent bus service was most popular with 82% of respondents selecting it. 68% would like to see a dedicated support network for elderly or sick villagers.

While 54% would like to see activities group(s) for young people, only 30% wanted to see a young family support group. Only 18% sought advocacy services or a meeting place for support services such as alcoholics/narcotics anonymous.

There was reasonably broad support for a community hub such as a café (58%), a small shop (52%), or a venue for art exhibitions (66%).

The question was posed 'What are the best things about living in Worth?' The most frequent word across the 45 (90%) responses was 'friendly'.

People value the sense of community, while also valuing peace and not being in an overpopulated area. Many highlighted the sense of a traditional village, and of the surrounding beautiful countryside.

Quite a number of people highlighted the church as a focal point for the village and an important part of the village's heritage and culture, and several people commented that it is good to have two pubs/restaurants, and the range of events such as open gardens (with some noting that they appreciate how much work goes into these).

In response to 'What might you like to see change in Worth over the coming years?' 36 responses (72%) quite a number said 'nothing' and were concerned about change that might occur in the village or the church. Quite a few of the responses said no further housing should be built.

A number highlighted the need for better public transport links, and a small number said that they were concerned with the speed of traffic. A common theme was the desire for a convenience store (but only with reasonable prices), and the desire for some more groups (afternoon/evening classes/lectures, walking club, amateur dramatics, etc.).

A section was left for 'any other comments' and of the 12 (24%) left many were related to the church. While most were positive, with one respondent saying 'Even though I have no religion, the church is a great asset to the village for use as a social hub, concerts etc..... it would be a great shame if it closed its doors, so I'm happy to support it.', several suggested the need to be more 'inclusive', to have more special services (including the opportunity to remember departed loved ones), and one

respondent felt that the church was 'very cliquey, not really friendly'. Several respondents, however, emphasised that the church was perfect as it is and they were concerned about seeing any changes at all.

Major takeaways from this survey, are, therefore:

- For the Parochial Church Council to be reassured that the parish church is considered important by many in the village, for a wide range of reasons
- That many within the village would welcome the provision of more informal social events, and that word of mouth, Facebook, and noticeboards are the primary means of advertising these
- That more frequent bus routes is easily the more universally desired addition to the village
- That many in the community value tradition and continuity, and would be concerned at any change too large or too fast

Enormous thanks are given to all those who took the time to carefully consider their responses to the questionnaire.