

Forest Parish Synod responses

Core Q1 – Listening

- Valuing homilies from Priest & Deacon
- Value group discussion
- Marginalising those excluded from Communion
- Church doesn't discuss difficult topics
- Hard to listen to voices on the periphery
- Are women viewed as being on the periphery?
- Do you respond to asylum seekers?
- Care for the poor?
- We should be going out more from the Church

Core Q2 – Speaking out

- Hindered by lack of knowledge of faith?
- Faith difficult in a secular society
- Churches together events are good
- Prayer/Faith groups give us a voice
- Not many public meetings
- No effective Parish consultation
- No culture of consultation
- The Parish is welcoming & we do have a voice
- Lack of community events

- Coffee after Mass?

Core Q3 part 1 – Sharing responsibility for our common mission & participation

- Leaving it to others
- Welcomers at Mass
- We need a common vision
- Open the book which goes into schools
- Street Prayer mission hasn't happened during Covid
- Not aware of Parish Council
- Language barrier
- Lack of young people
- Lack of ownership of the Church
- Taking Communion to the housebound
- Do we have teachers in the congregation?

Core Q3 Part 2 – How is the authority or governance exercised in your Parish?

- Do people know about the Parish Council?

- Feeling that we're only 'ticking over'
- Parishioners are trying together with the Priest

Core Q3 Part 3 – Teamwork

- Groups working hard e.g. lifts for people
- Clear timelines of Ministry for lay people
- We depend on the same people

Q4 – Discerning & deciding

- Lack of knowledge of Parish council
- Some changes have occurred because of Inspired & previous questionnaires
- Some decisions seem to be made with little inclusion

Q5 – Celebration

- Sunday hymns not uplifting (unlike other denominations)
- Sunday Mass very uplifting

- Helps every day struggle – good to come together on a Sunday
- Lectio Divina has helped me appreciate Sunday Mass
- Missing the reflection within the newsletter (Sunday plus?)
- A quiet Mass is sometimes appreciated
- Faith groups (inter faith) both in person & online are helpful
- The community aspect of Mass helps to prevent becoming too insular
- Language issues
- Embrace cultural differences
- Nurture the youth from First Communion
- Socials led by some of our Ethnic groups
- Does our communication reach the wider community?
- Learn from other churches how to be involved in the community
- Congregation welcoming but not many new people

