

Results of a survey of the residents of Cold Harbour about the new St Luke's

Jane Sherwood, 3rd September 2013

Summary

The entire St Luke's Parish was covered (including Bertie Place, which is technically St John's Parish, but where we have a lot of involvement.) Of these, 58 surveys were either completed on the doorstep or returned through Jane's letterbox. The majority of people interviewed liked the area they live in. 75% of those who filled in a survey had been to an event at St Luke's.

When asked about potential new activities for the church to run, a community café was the most popular idea but this was closely followed by creative workshops. OAP lunches were the least popular idea. All the other activities suggested attracted a good degree of interest too, (ranging from 56% - 46%.) except support groups (33%) and OAP lunch club (28%)

Nearly half of all people questioned (47%) volunteered skills or interests that they felt might contribute to the community through activities run by St Luke's.

The vast majority of those contacted on the doorstep were happy to speak to the interviewers, and many are interested in the development of St Luke's both as a building and a focus for the community .

Thank you to all who helped in doing this survey. I feel it has been a very valuable thing to do, and we hope will bear fruit in the future.

Introduction

The survey was carried out to find out what local people already knew about St Luke's, and what new things they would like to see happening there. It seemed an ideal time to conduct this survey as the building is visibly being transformed. It also had the advantage of helping people to feel that their opinion matters to the church, and make them feel that they can be involved should they wish to.

Who we interviewed

58 residents of Canning Crescent, Fox Crescent, Abingdon Road, Peel Place, Weirs Lane, Chatham Road, Rivermead Park and Bertie Place were interviewed using a questionnaire completed by the interviewers or completed their own questionnaires between July and August 2013. 37% of respondents had been to a church service at St Luke's but 75% had attended at least one event there.

What they liked and disliked about living in the area.

We asked them what they liked about living in the area. Twenty three people mentioned access to town as being something they liked. Others mentioned proximity to the river (16 people), the park (two people), schools (two people) and the Children's Centre (two people), one person mentioned the sense of being 'rural' though near the city. One person mentioned the church. Eleven people said they liked the area because it was quiet and 14 people said it was friendly or had a good community spirit.

[Comment: people general seem to be thinking of 'area; in relation to location rather than community/people and hence the emphasis on convenience and access to nearby facilities. This may be a function of asking the question in the particular way it was asked. Nevertheless 14 people spontaneously mentioned people rather than place.]

We also asked them about ways in which living in the area could be improved. Whilst everyone bar one person could think of something they liked about living in the 17 people couldn't think of anything they disliked at all. No one thing stood out as something a lot of people wanted improving. Nine people had problems with traffic, six with parking, six with the new Tesco development and five people wanted more places to meet.

What they like about what we currently do

The table below shows the number of people who said they would be interested in a group we already run.

Group	Of 58 people
Monday Club 4–5pm (5–8 yrs), Crafts, games and trips	30%
Wednesday Drop-in 10–12 noon (All ages) (+ welfare rights advice session fortnightly)	26%
Monday Plus 5–6pm (9–12 yrs), Crafts, games and trips	23%
BabyMania! Monday 10–12 noon, Baby and toddler group for ages 0–4 years and their parents/carers	21%
Sunday church (with Salvation Army, Wytham Street, till October), 10.30–12 noon	18%
Youth Space Thursday 6.30–8pm (13–18 yrs), Crafts, games and trips	14%

What they would like us to do.

We asked people what activities they would be interested in joining at the new St Luke's. We gave them a list of possibilities and, in some cases, asked them for specific suggestions for what they would like

The table below lists the possibilities, the percentages of people who said that they would be interested in that activity and, where applicable, the most common specific suggestions (where three or more people made the same suggestion).

Possible activity	Of 58 people	Most common specific suggestions
Community café	62%	NA
Creative workshops	60%	Painting (13 people); sewing and knitting (3 people)
Keep fit class	56%	
Dance classes	53%	Zumba (4 people)
Family fun days	46%	NA
Training courses	46%	IT training (8 people); driving (4 people)
Social activities	46%	Quizzes (3 people); bingo (3 people)
Support groups	33%	Mental health (5 people)
OAP lunch club	28%	NA

NA= people weren't asked for further suggestions

So a community café was the most popular idea but this was closely followed by creative workshops. OAP lunches were the least popular idea

Not surprisingly people had a lot more suggestions for some activities than others. So for example: 73% of people who were interested in a social activity had a suggestion for what that could be, but only 36% of people who were interested in a keep fit class had a suggestion for what type of keep-fit class they'd like. Suggestions for some activities were extremely varied. E.g. suggestion for creative workshops, ranged from acrylic painting to cake decorating or basic dressmaking. For some activities a significant number of people had a similar suggestion. For example 8 people mentioned IT as something they would like to see training courses cover. But for some activities, e.g. social activities, there was no one type of activity that was favoured over others.

We also asked people whether they would 'like us to come and pray with you?' and whether they would 'like a home visit from St Luke's?' 11% said they would like prayer and 19% said they would like a visit.

What would they like to offer

Nearly half of all people questioned (47%) volunteered skills or interests that they felt might contribute to the community through activities run by St Luke's? These ranged from the specific, such as eg. adult numeracy teaching skills, bike maintenance courses, photography, flower arranging, Indian dance, history talks, Asian cooking to the general, such as 'help with setting-up'.

21 new contacts were made and 11 old contacts renewed. There were 20 offers of help in various ways.

Conclusion

We have concluded that initially it would be good to think about starting a community café in the new St Luke's, and perhaps use this as an opportunity for taster sessions for creative workshops (as these were the two most popular ideas.) We will be thinking through the other ideas, such as training opportunities during our first year back in the new St Lukes' building.

Thankyou for your interest and support!