

St Augustine's Church

Scaynes Hill

Community Audit



*Let us love not in word or speech
but in truth and action.*

1 John 3:18

Contents

Introduction

SECTION 1 Community Audit Process

SECTION 2 Community Survey Findings

SECTION 3 Conclusion

Appendix I

Appendix II

Introduction

The community audit arose from St Augustine's Church Mission Action Plan of 2018-2019. The MAP committed St Augustine's to exploring "its future mission direction ". The first part of the process "Considering what mission is and how we might do it better, through an audit of the congregation" was carried out in the early part of 2018. The second part of the process "Exploring how we can serve our community better through an audit of our parishioners' needs" has been undertaken during the last year and is the subject of this report.

The task was carried out by the Community Audit Group with the assistance of Diane Watts from Together in Sussex. The group was supported by the visiting Mission Project Team in the final stages of the process.

The community audit was undertaken between the period of October 2018 and November 2019. A pilot survey was carried out in July 2019 and the main community survey was conducted in mid- October 2019.

The purpose of the community audit was to identify the needs of the local community. The group also wanted to look at the church's profile in the community – how it is perceived by others and how aware people are of the church's activities. The information gathered will help to inform St Augustine's plans for further developing the church and serving the community through the next MAP.

The Community Audit Group consulted publicly available statistics and information about the parish (quantitative data) and collected qualitative data by seeking the views of members of the congregation and by using a questionnaire from which the opinions of members of the local community were obtained.

This report outlines the community audit process and what was discovered at each stage including analysis of the community survey findings. The information from the community consultation and the other exercises completed is reviewed and suggestions are offered for the next steps for the church's engagement with the community.

SECTION 1

The Community Audit Process

The Community Audit Group was formed at the end of October 2018 and started to research the subject and think about how it might take the process forward. The group found that help and support could be obtained from the diocese through Diane Watts, co-ordinator of Together in Sussex, and decided to follow the “Know Your Church Know Your neighbourhood” process under her guidance. KYCKYN is a facilitated process designed to help churches think about themselves in relation to the local community they seek to serve and make informed decisions about their mission in their communities. The group decided to change the name of the process to Know Your Church Know Your Community (KYCKYC) as it seemed more appropriate to the parish’s rural setting and adapted the process to meet its requirements. One Sunday in the month was set aside from May to July to focus on each stage of the process so that the whole congregation could be involved.

STAGE 1: A Vision for a Flourishing Community

The first stage was to develop a vision for our community by thinking about what a flourishing community looks like and how God might be seen in it. Several themes emerged from the reflections of the congregation and other groups associated with the church.

- Good amenities including a good primary school, shops, a pub, church, playground, village hall.
- Community spaces where people can meet together and feel that they belong.
- Inclusion- welcoming and respecting everyone, diverse, accessible, dementia friendly, all age groups present, young and old mix together.
- Connections – families and friends spend time together, shared activities and meals, playing and working together.
- Support – kind and caring people, helping each other, listening, looking out for the lonely, supporting carers, putting others first, sticking together.
- Environment -safe outdoor spaces where children can play, green spaces where people can enjoy peace and quiet and be close to nature, clean, no pollution, clean air, sustainable, green energy, reducing our carbon footprint, cycle paths.

Prayer Walking

Prayer walks around the parish were conducted by a group of church members who were looking out for people, places of activity, conditions of buildings, areas of open space, services, signs of change and signs of need. They recorded their observations.

- The A272 main road is extremely busy and noisy and divides the village.
- Few pedestrians about.
- Most properties look well looked after but there are a few untended gardens which might indicate a need for help.
- The Anchor Pond is very overgrown.
- A new development is being built near the pub and this will have an impact on the community.
- Roads off the A272 are quiet but people living there could feel isolated as there is not much through traffic.
- There are many bungalows in some parts of the village which may indicate an elderly community. Some of these residents might be lonely.
- The village is surrounded by beautiful countryside.
- People working and chatting at the allotments.
- The petrol station and shop are busy most of the time.

STAGE 2: Know your Church

Who are we together?

Information about all church activities was collected in order to build a church profile. Members of the congregation were invited to add comments about the aspects of the church which they think are important. Their responses were then collated. The church is regarded by its members as welcoming and friendly. There is a sense of belonging and people feel encouraged and nurtured. The church is a caring community, offering help and support to those who need it. People value the informal atmosphere and appreciate activities such as the Coffee Shop, the many special events and community links such as the choir which draw people in.

Who are we as individuals?

What gifts and skills, interests and passions do people have? Responses to this question were very wide-ranging. Many members of the congregation feel that their strengths lie in welcoming people, forming friendships, listening to and

encouraging others and helping and caring for each other. Some people have a love of music and singing and others enjoy different creative activities. Some are talented bakers, while others excel at gardening and sewing. There are people who are gifted in working with children and young people. Skills listed included computer skills, administrative abilities, problem solving and project management and first aid. The interests of church members vary from the environment, animal welfare and mental health to history, languages and sport. The interests of church members are often reflected in their participation in organisations outside of church and this creates links with the wider community. There is a strong desire among church members to use their wide-ranging skills and abilities to achieve more for the common good.

STAGE 3: Know your Community

This stage focused on learning more about the community in which the church is placed, finding out about its strengths and needs through a process of collecting data and listening to local people.

Neighbourhood Mapping

This exercise was designed to increase awareness for the congregation of what is happening beyond the church in the local area. Church members were invited to mark on the parish map the resources and assets already present in the community including places where people meet, services, businesses, types of housing, transport arrangements and places that attract people into Scaynes Hill.

Parish Statistics

Statistics for the parish of St Augustine's, Scaynes Hill, compiled by the Church Urban Fund, and a summary of the Parish Spotlight were displayed for members of the congregation to comment on what they had learned about the local community through studying the statistics and what surprised them.

The population of the parish is 1,269. It ranks 10,402 out of 12,508, where 1 is the most deprived parish. This means that the parish is among the wealthiest and least deprived in the country. The statistics show where the parish sits on various poverty-related indicators, relative to all other parishes. (see Appendix) Although this parish is one of the most affluent in the country two areas of deprivation were highlighted by church members – lack of social housing and levels of poverty in the community which, although relatively small, are significant.

Community Survey

At the outset the Community Audit Group had discussed the scope of the audit and decided that the focus would be not only on residents of the parish but also on the gathered community of Scaynes Hill. The church has good links with many of the organisations which draw people into Scaynes Hill such as the school, nursery and Lindfield Rural Parish Council and also with community groups such as the WI, Cubs and Beavers and Sustainability Group. It was decided therefore to concentrate on people living in the parish. Taking a sample of residents' views from various parts of the village would provide useful information and distributing and collecting the surveys door to door was likely to improve the rate of return and might result in valuable doorstep conversations. The survey was piloted in Church Road in the week beginning 14th July. A slightly amended questionnaire was then used for the main community survey from 14th -26th October which covered households in Church Road, Costells Edge, Ham Lane, Hillcrest Lane, Lewes Road and Woodcutters. Questionnaires were also included in the November parish magazine and made available on the Scaynes Hill village website. An analysis of the information collected can be found in Section 2 of this report.

Community Engagement Activities.

During the community audit process other ways of engaging with members of the community to seek their views were explored.

1. WI Christmas Market

The church stall at the WI Christmas Market in December 2018 at which people were asked for their views on current church activities and for suggestions about what the church might consider doing in future resulted in some very positive comments. The church's work with children and young people and special seasonal services and events which bring people together are seen as valuable. People appreciate having the church open every day and find the parish magazine useful. There were also some interesting suggestions including a food bank or collecting point at the church, an open day to showcase the different activities available and a tapestry event open to individuals rather than groups.

2. Tapestry Open Afternoon

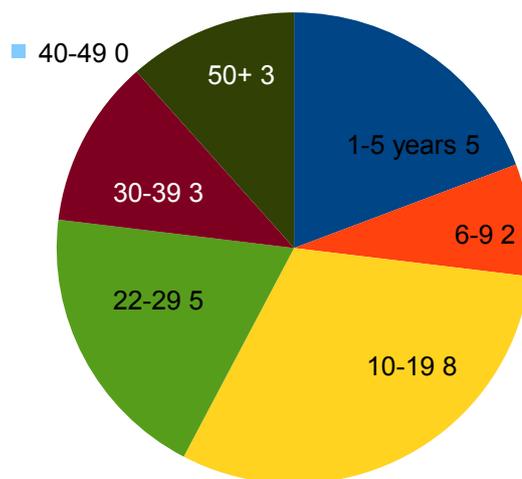
A special event was organised in July 2019 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the dedication of St Augustine's Church tapestry. It was seen as a celebration but also as an opportunity to find out the views of visitors. The Tapestry Open Afternoon was a very good community event but proved not to be the right occasion for asking people to engage with the community survey.

SECTION 2

Community Survey Findings

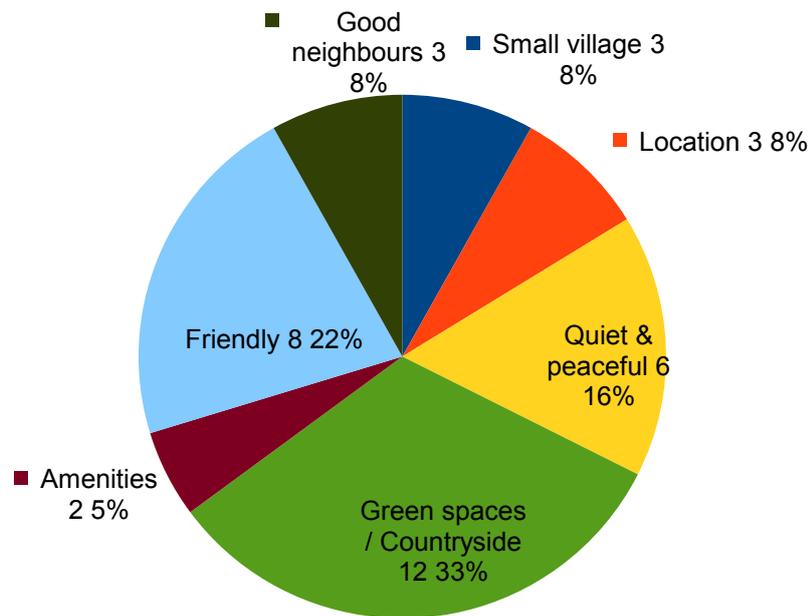
Of the 63 surveys distributed during the pilot and main community surveys, 25 completed questionnaires and 2 partially completed questionnaires were returned, nearly all of which were collected on the doorstep. The survey was advertised on the Scaynes Hill village website and distributed with the parish magazine but this did not result in any respondents. The questions on the survey related to the participants' views on living in Scaynes Hill and to their perception of St Augustine's Church together with their vision for the community. Here is a summary of the responses.

How long have you lived in Scaynes Hill?



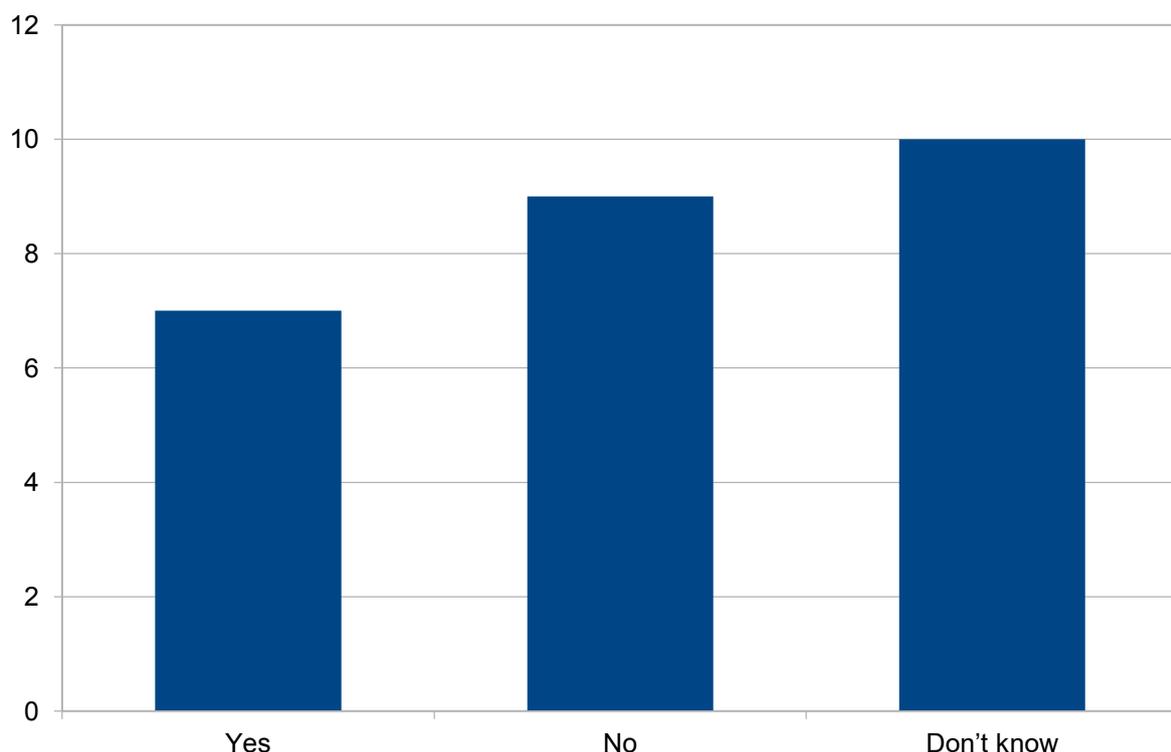
The length of time living in the village ranged from 2-60 years. The average time living in the village was 20 years.

What do you like about living in Scaynes Hill?



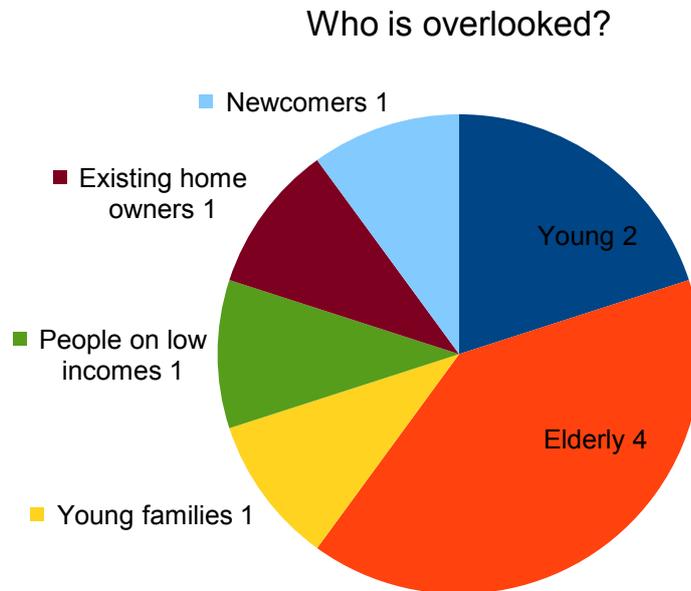
The rural setting with beautiful countryside is much appreciated. It is a quiet and peaceful place to live and yet within easy commuting distance. Many people spoke of its friendliness and sense of community.

Do you feel that there are sections of our community who get overlooked?



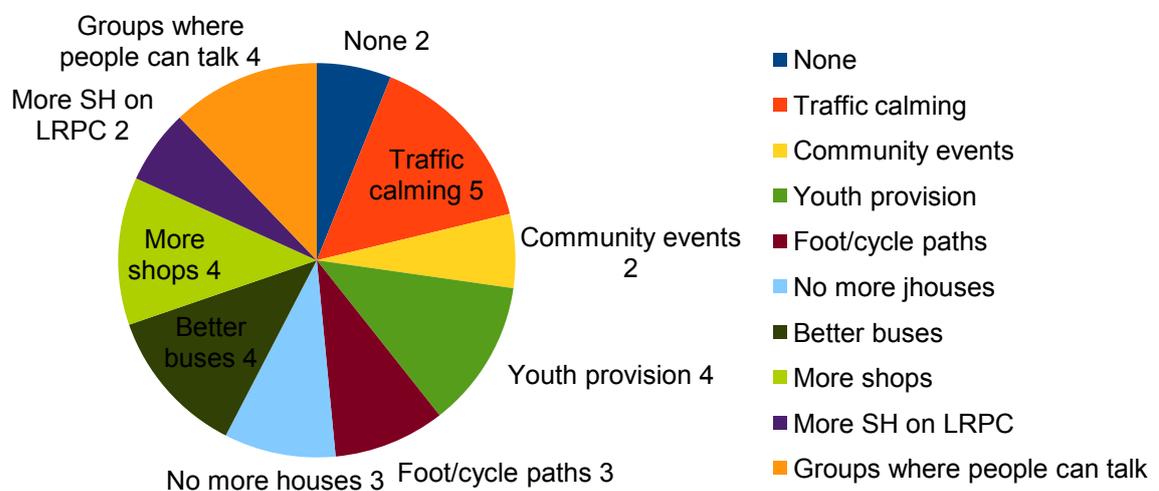
About two-thirds of respondents were unable to answer this question because they were not sufficiently involved in the community. The responses of the remainder were fairly evenly divided between “yes” and “no”.

If yes which groups of people?



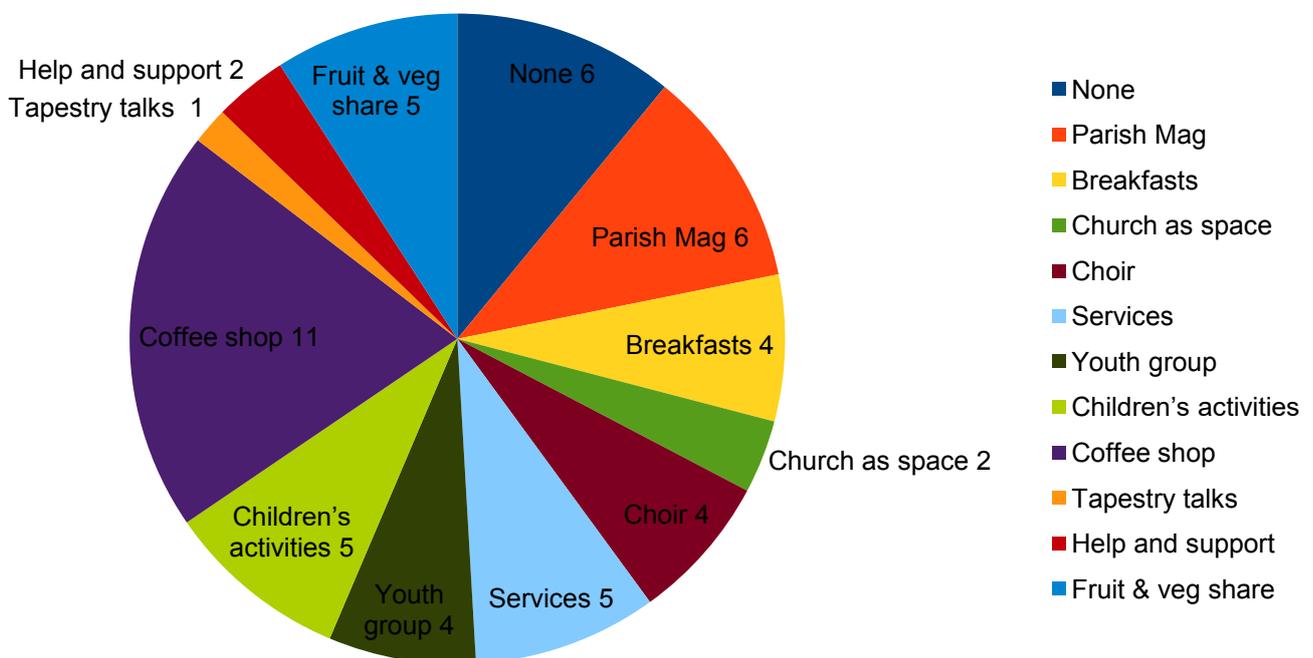
There was a wide variety of responses including, the elderly, young people, young families, people on low incomes, newcomers and existing home owners whose views are overlooked by developers and the council.

What changes would make life better in Scaynes Hill and how would you like to be involved with any changes?



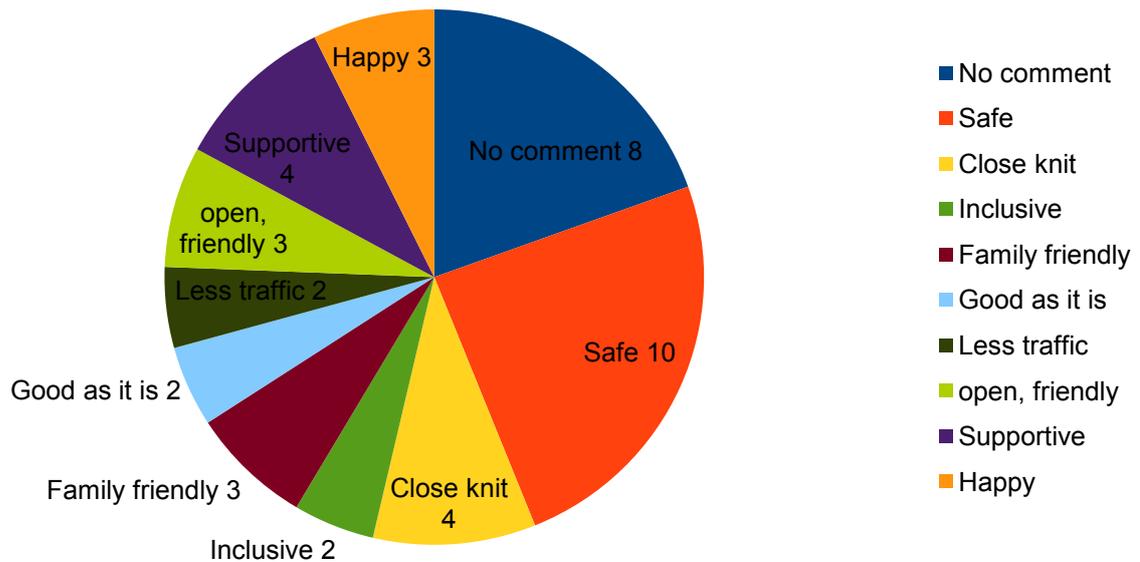
Traffic through the village is a great concern to many. Traffic calming measures and footpaths and cycle paths within the village and connecting Scaynes to Lindfield and Haywards Heath are needed. Public transport is also an issue - an improved local bus service would benefit the community. More shops would be welcome. A number of respondents expressed concern over new housing developments in the village. Scaynes Hill is currently under represented on Lindfield Rural Parish Council and some would like to see more members from Scaynes Hill. More community events that bring people together and better facilities for young people are considered desirable by some respondents. A number of people would like to see groups/activities where people can talk to each other.

What are you aware of that St Augustine's Church offers Scaynes Hill?



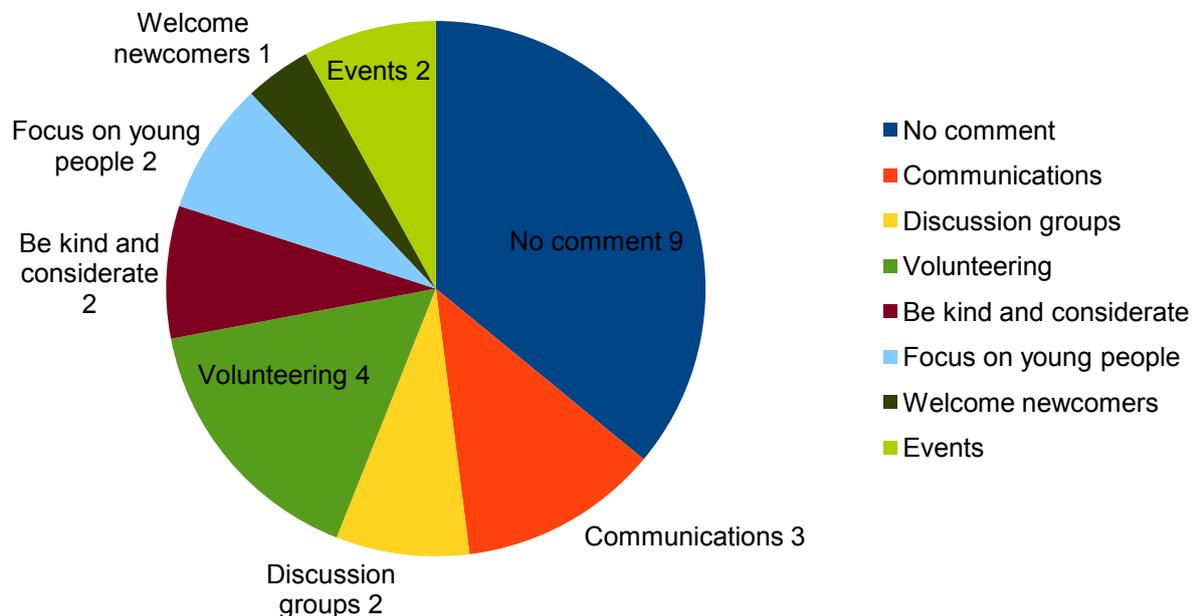
About one-quarter of respondents knew nothing about what the church has to offer. The majority of those who knew about the church are aware of the Coffee Shop and some know about ladies and men's breakfasts. Many know of the Youth Group and activities for children. The church itself was described as a beautiful building and a quiet space and people are aware of services particularly at special times like Christmas and Remembrance. Some are aware that the church offers help and support. The parish magazine is quite widely known, as are the Community Choir and the fruit and veg share (outside the church but run by the Sustainability Group).

What kind of community would you like the children of Scaynes Hill to grow up in?



About one-third of respondents did not comment on this question. The overwhelming response was a safe community. Other responses included close-knit, supportive, open and friendly, inclusive and good for families.

How do you think we can work together to achieve this?



Almost one-third of respondents made no comment on this question. There was a wide range of suggestions from respondents. Better communication was considered important along with getting involved with the community and opportunities to volunteer. Some people were interested in discussion groups to enable ideas to be shared. Events for different sections of the community, a focus on children and young people and welcoming newcomers were also suggested.

SECTION 3

Conclusion

STAGE 4: Vision Revisited and Action Planning

The final stage of the Know Your Church Know Your Community process is to reflect on all that has been learnt from the community survey and the other exercises undertaken and then begin to identify the next steps for the church's engagement with the community.

How is St Augustine's Church perceived by members of the community who took part in the survey or engaged in discussions?

The comments made were overwhelmingly positive and very affirming. The church is seen to be playing an important part at the centre of the community. It is described in terms of a "community focus", a "point of connection for people" and is "the heart of the village in both senses". It is regarded as "a focal point for voluntary activity and coordination". The church is perceived as "very inclusive ie. Tuesday coffee mornings" and as "trying to reach out to the community". Besides offering Youth Group and children's activities it also offers "kindness and helpfulness" to the community. The parish magazine is valued as an important source of village information. The variety of events and special services was commented on, for example the annual fireworks and the Pet Service, and people like the fact that the church is open and offers a quiet space.

How is St Augustine's Church contributing to a flourishing community in Scaynes Hill?

Regular activities like the Coffee Shop and Youth Group and special events and gatherings such as carol singing round the Christmas tree, the carol service and community lunches are an important contribution to the sense of place and contribute to social cohesion. As people "come and go" ever more frequently this is an increasingly important contribution to the flourishing of a community. The church building itself is a symbol of continuity in the life of the village. It's beautiful interior, cared for through many generations, offers a special space which enables people to reflect quietly and express their spirituality. Regular contacts with the wider community through links with St Augustine's School, and church involvement with groups such as Sustainability and the Women's Institute and other networks and groupings is evidence of the commitment of the church to supporting the life of the community.

What needs within the community have been highlighted by the community audit process?

Many of the respondents are not involved at all or are minimally involved with the community and are perfectly content. Others however, expressed a desire for more opportunities within the community for people to engage with one another on a social level and to discuss topics of general concern thereby fostering a greater sense of community. Some respondents question whether there is enough support for the elderly while others think that provision for children and young people could be improved. Although the village is considered to be a friendly place it can be difficult for newcomers to get to know people. Several respondents would like to become more involved in community life through volunteering but were not sure how this could be done. It is difficult for commuters to make regular time commitments. Informal mentoring and befriending were suggested as ways to address loneliness and isolation. Supporting a foodbank was also suggested as a way of contributing to the local community.

What are the next steps for the church's engagement with the community?

St Augustine's is a friendly and welcoming church and there is a widespread appreciation for what it offers and how the church aims to reach out into the community. Ways in which St Augustine's church can sustain and develop a flourishing community in Scaynes Hill could include:

- Maintaining and developing the Anchor Coffee Shop as a place of hospitality, welcome and care.
- Continuing and celebrating the church's commitment to children and young people through the Youth Group, Open the Book project, Sunday Club and Family Fun.
- Increasing the circulation of the parish magazine enabling village information to be shared and raising the profile of the church.
- Creating and distributing welcome packs for the new houses in the village.
- Providing opportunities for the wider community to contribute to local charities such as FSW and the Foodbank.
- Providing information about volunteering opportunities.
- Introducing the occasional "hot topic" evening where issues of life and faith can be explored.
- Building on the church's links with the wider community by inviting in community groups and members as we celebrate 90 years as a parish in 2020.
- Making a distinctive contribution to a flourishing community in Scaynes Hill by being generous, joyful and hopeful in all that we do.

Through the Know Your Church Know Your Community process, the Community Audit has enabled us to learn more about ourselves as a church and to develop a greater understanding of our local community. What we have discovered will help to inform our Mission Action Plan and form the basis of the church's mission and outreach in the year to come.

With grateful thanks to all those who participated in the community survey, the members of the Community Audit Group, The Mission Project Team from St Augustine's College of Theology and particularly to Diane Watts of Together in Sussex for her invaluable help and support during the Community Audit project.

**St Augustine's Church
November 2019**

APPENDIX I

Percentages and ranks	Least in Country	Least in Diocese	This parish	Most in Diocese	Most in Country
<u>Child Poverty</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>2%</u>	4% Ranked 11,374/12,508 (1=most deprived)	<u>44%</u>	<u>64%</u>
<u>Working age poverty</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>2%</u>	5% Ranked 10,450/12,508	<u>35%</u>	<u>50%</u>
<u>Pensioner Poverty</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>4%</u>	4% Ranked 12,343/12,508	<u>36%</u>	<u>71%</u>
Years	Highest in Country	Highest in Diocese	This parish	Lowest in Diocese	Lowest in Country
<u>Life expectancy (boys)</u>	<u>93 yrs</u>	<u>86 yrs</u>	82 yrs	<u>73 yrs</u>	<u>68 yrs</u>
<u>Life expectancy (girls)</u>	<u>95 yrs</u>	<u>92 yrs</u>	86 yrs	<u>79 yrs</u>	<u>75 yrs</u>

Percentages	Least in Country	Least in Diocese	This parish	Most in Diocese	Most in Country
<u>No qualifications</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>5%</u>	14%	<u>0%</u>	<u>63%</u>
<u>Social housing</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>0%</u>	5%	<u>38%</u>	<u>86%</u>
<u>Lone parenthood</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>3%</u>	10%	<u>49%</u>	<u>59%</u>
<u>People living on their own</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>8%</u>	11%	<u>43%</u>	<u>74%</u>
<u>Older population</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>3%</u>	18%	<u>59%</u>	<u>59%</u>
<u>Ethnic diversity</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>2%</u>	7%	<u>37%</u>	<u>97%</u>

APPENDIX II

SCAYNES HILL: ST AUGUSTINE

The population of this parish is 1,269. It ranks 10,462 out of 12,508, where 1 is the most deprived parish.

This means that the parish is among the wealthiest in the country.

Below you can see where your parish sits on various poverty-related indicators, relative to all other parishes in the country.

You can explore the data in different ways: if you would like to see it in a table, click the 'view data' button below; if you would like to see the range in your diocese, click the 'show diocese data' button. You can also click on the indicator names to find out how each one is defined and where the data comes from.

WHAT NEXT?

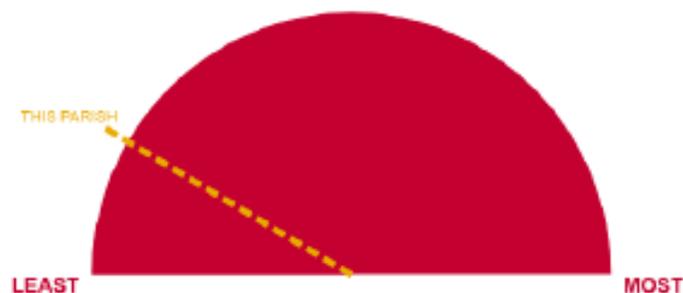
Why not take a look at our [poverty map](#), to see IMD data visualised across the country, and our [diocesan briefings](#) to see data for your whole diocese. If you would like to take action in response to this information, you can take a look at our [get started in your parish page](#), our [publications](#), or you can support the work of others by [making a donation here](#).

View data

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OVERALL DEPRIVATION



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CHILD POVERTY



WORKING-AGE POVERTY



PENSIONER POVERTY



LIFE EXPECTANCY (BOYS)



LIFE EXPECTANCY (GIRLS)



NO QUALIFICATIONS



SOCIAL HOUSING



LONE PARENTHOOD



PEOPLE LIVING ON THEIR OWN



OLDER POPULATION



ETHNIC DIVERSITY



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