1. **Does the statement, “we are a community of people who are trying to help each other faithfully follow Jesus”, a good description for our church?**

Likes the statement

Definition of community? Not everyone lives in Stockethill. Community of church people.

All recognised the need for church growth and personal growth.

If we’re talking about community as a church 🡪 this feels insular.

There is both personal and corporate responsibility to help others.

Yes we are trying and yes it is a good description – it is who we are

Community involvement – wider group – not call it a community – family.

Community of people – times when we can and times when cannot

This table is not in the community but we are spread over the town

1. **How important to you is the size and style of our church, and why?**

Smaller size – more personal.

However, smaller size needs “replacements” as people move on.

Try to attract younger people.

“Style” is a broad term 🡪 some of our style is distinctive. Other bits not distinctive at all. Style, however, can be a ‘blind spot’.

70-80 people manageable 🡪 going to a church of 150 strong felt cold and lonely.

Basis of church is Bible.

Style is good – relaxed from other church experience

Here to worship God

Size – try to attract more people – younger. Don’t want it too big.

**Doing What We Do Better**

**Think about the following things we do on a Sunday Morning: Breakfast; worship; sharing time; prayer; sermon; communion; ‘alternative things we sometimes do’.**

**Do you think each of these is important and why?**

Important? Yes!

Breakfast not perfect but all important

Improve – mix more – encouraged to do that

Newcomer – where do I sit? Sitting at a table can be tricky and uncomfortable – more work

Some would be unwilling or shy.

Communion- our way we do it – excellent. More out of it

Worship – good to have others on the team

Sharing time can go too long

Same tables –but good to mix

Breakfast – good. Meal beforehand better.

Talking to more √√

Relaxed but structured

Informality √√

Change layout?

Sermon – people don’t walk out, go past 12 noon.

**Doing What We Do Better**

**Think about the following things we do on a Sunday morning; breakfast; worship; sharing time; prayer; sermon; communion; ‘alternative things we sometimes do’. What might people other than yourself find difficult or challenging about the way we do these things?**

We are informal – some people like formality

Some people might be a bit reserved so find it difficult to chat

Not a materialistic church

We are simplistic

Some people like to sit on their own

Not knowing what to expect

Not comfortable listening for a long time

Language barrier

Imagery can be confusing- river

Intimate in proximity – nowhere to hide

New people scared to sit in another person’s seat

Befriend new people to avoid them feeling uncomfortable and lonely

Intimidating – speaking out loud

**Growing as Christians**

**Think about what you might need to learn, change or develop in your life in order for you to become a more faithful follower of Jesus. What would help you to do that?**

Join a housegroup – discuss sermon, Bible study

Alpha course

Listen to sermons and other speakers

Christian Fellowship – encourage each other

Personal/Praise and Prayer

Read Bible/personal time with God

Early morning Sunday prayer

Education about Jesus – housegroup

Online forums on Facebook

Watch TV; listen to radio; online

Listen to Bible on tablet or kindle or CDs (David Suchet)

Reading Christian books

Going to Christian events, e.g. BSF, etc

Need to know how to navigate the Bible, ie find the books, ie which book is in order or New Testament

Means thoughtful worship

Front of church to speak up – re for folk with hearing problems

Prayer group in housegroups

**Growing as Christians**

**Thinking about your own growth as a Christian, what has been particularly helpful to you and why? (e.g. being part of a small group; sermons; books; CDs; courses; talking with other Christians; volunteering; etc).**

Study – personal and formal

Sermons – teaching about Bible – Making it relevant to life

Housegroups

Youth Alpha

Soul Survivor – meeting with people different to me

Meeting people who are like me.

Facebook daily – discussion amongst small group members

Friendships – Discussion. Sharing personal experience – closer bonds

Being made to take time out of home.

Prayer – Hearing others – having them pray for you – praying for others

Spiritual experiences

Life experience – tragedy – church support through this

Assurance of salvation class – first step in discipleship. – structured series of classes developing discipleship – membership classes – fruit of the Spirit classes

**Leadership**

**What do you think of when you hear the word ‘Leadership’? Where and when is good leadership important in the life of the church?**

Wisdom

Thinking ‘we’ not ‘I’.

Learn from mistakes

Mentoring – important for recipient, no-one else may know about it

Gifts can be focus of leadership

Looking after leaders

Flexible

Leaders – not me – thinking of up front – ministers, etc

Leaders teach others to lead

Servant leadership – humble not proud

Willing to make hard choices

Be responsible

The concept of leadership can be scary

Enabling others to be involved

Good listener

Leadership is through everything

Potential leaders could be overlooked, not given a chance to grow/exercise skills or talents in them

Sometimes those recognised as leaders need to say ‘no!’

Not always ‘up front’ – behind the scenes, ie finances, making breakfast, notice sheets

Important everywhere

Good leaderships adapts

Kirk Session – important decisions – essential in Church of Scotland set up.

**Mission 2**

**From your point of view, how can we better help each other love our neighbours?**

Praying/asking how we can help

Small groups meeting regularly (Community groups that currently meet)

Volunteering in the community

Doing practical things (DIY for people who can’t/gardening)

Relief work driving community bus for youth etc

Giving Sundays allow us to love our neighbours

Looking past difficulties neighbours can create and doing simple things for them

Understanding that all our cultures might be different

By doing small acts of kindness for each other

Making ourselves available fellowship (church)

God gave His unconditional love and it’s our duty to give it back to others

Listening to each other and offering opportunity of prayer

Helping people who need help when they ask/when you see the need.

isHis

**Mission**

**At the moment our Community Centre Congregation is approximately 65 people with an average attendance in the low 40s. If in the next 5 years we grew to 100 people how do you think that would affect our church and what might we do to prepare for that?**

Changes to the dynamic

To keep style and the close community we would have to have another way of doing things

Could be a multiplication of the congregations

Effect could be positive or negative

Growth process may be affected or may change

May require enabling and preparing people to facilitate

Preparing key

Keeping community

Trusting God.

1. **What are you burning to say?**

Alpha course every year.

Some practical lessons on:

How to speak to non-Christians to encourage them to come to church

How to read the Bible

Sausages for breakfast and stronger coffee!!

Something that the teens can access but isn’t exclusive to them.

Table mix-ups, e.g. half-way through an alternative service.

More creativity alternatively

Coffee meetings

Cross outside at Easter

Change layout of tables

Encourage people to move about

Perfect in my eyes – doesn’t need to change but porridge for breakfast please

Different words on Sunday sheets about offerings, “Make the offering a good thing. Your offering is important.”

Worship Group

Alcohol and drug group

More people having prayer at end of service- regularly

Feedback

**What do you think about today’s meeting?**

Excellent afternoon

Lots of feedback

Important to allow the wider congregation to participate in the consultation/process.

Discussion was a good setup. Nice group size and that groups change.

Interesting

Helpful

Time just right

Lunch was lovely

Learning process

Enjoyed moving tables and chatting to others

Healthy

Ownership

Four topics is a lot

Difficult to delve deep

Nice to air our opinions

More lunches