Christians in Practice

St Peter’s Saltley Trust
Simon Foster
St Peter’s Saltley Trust
Regional grant-giving charitable trust
• RE in schools
• Spiritual development and faith provision in FE
• Christian learning and discipleship

Saltley Research and Evaluation
• Nationwide commissions
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Survey of 33 Congregations

‘We grow in faith by putting it into practice’
‘A practical and relational faith’
‘Discipleship is everywhere and at all times’
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Congregational Questionnaire

Stratified random sample:
Urban and rural
Church size
32 churches target: c. 1000 responses
1-1 Interviews

--- Diocese of Lichfield + C of E Birmingham ---
Six participating churches
Four members of congregation plus incumbent
Early Findings
30% male, 66% female
82% white, 7% black
28% degree
23% long term disability/health condition
12% caring role
Faith and Churchgoing

65% Christian more than 25 years
55% attended the same church more than 10 yrs
70% live within 2 miles of their church
42% listed an active role in their church
In what ways have you helped others in the community?
Helping a neighbour with a practical need
Supporting someone who is having a hard time
Charity fundraising
Running or helping out at a church event for the...
Running or helping out at a festival, fete, gala or...
Volunteering at a school, care home, or other...
Working with a church project for the community (e.g....
Taking part in activity to improve my neighbourhood...
Campaigning to change something for the better
Organising youth activities (sports, Guides, Scouts, etc)
Volunteering for a charity that supports vulnerable...
Taking part in a vigil or demonstration
School governor, charity trustee or similar
A residents’/tenants’ association or community action...
Working in a charity shop
Working with people at an advice, counselling or...
Christian outreach service (e.g. Street Pastors,...
Something else (please say what):
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The connections between community activity and faith.
How far do you agree with the following (for activities done away from church)?

- I try/ tried to represent Christ through my actions, when I am doing these activities
- I have heard teaching in my church that helps me to connect my faith to these activities
- I began doing these things as a way of putting my faith into practice
- These activities are a good fit with what I think God is calling me to be and do
- I prayed about these activities at least every couple of weeks
- I feel/ felt supported and resourced by my church to do these activities
- I look/ looked for opportunities to tell others about my faith when doing these activities
How has helping others affected your faith?
Helping others in the community has...

- Helped me grow as a Christian
- Increased my love for other people
- Increased my love for God
- Helped me to understand my faith better
- Led me to pray more for the community
- Opened up new avenues of community activity...
- Raised challenging questions for my faith
- Prevented me growing as a Christian

Agree | Tend to Agree
---|---

0% | 10% | 20% | 30% | 40% | 50% | 60% | 70% | 80% | 90%
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
How could your church help deepen the relationship between your Christian faith and your involvement in the community?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help me to work out what God might be calling me to do.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide organised church activities which engage with the community</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praying about community activity during worship or small group meetings</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help me find other people at church who want to serve the community in the same way</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make space for people to speak about how they have understood God’s call in their lives</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help me to see how my activity in the community fits with my faith</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a Bible study course/resources on Christian faith and loving our neighbour/transforming...</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organise church-community activities to take place at a time that works for me</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide sermons or teaching about the relationship between faith and community activity</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Thursday 19th October ....

Christians in Practice launch event

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