

Consultation Survey 2019



Instructions

Thank you for completing this survey. Please take your time, use the summer to prayerfully consider your response. Please return it to us by the end of August in one of the following ways:

- If you have completed the survey electronically, please email it to: office@thevinesheffield.org.uk
- If you have completed the paper version, you can:
 - Return it to the church office
 - Put it in the collection bag on Sunday
 - Pass it to one of the church wardens (Steve or Paul), to Will, or to Andy Wier

Name (optional): _____
(Responses will be treated discretely by the Building Project Subcommittee and anonymised when used in a wider context)

About you

1. Do you consider The Vine to be 'your' church?

- Yes No

2. In what way do you regularly participate in and share in what we do?
Please tick

	Every week	Most weeks	Sometimes	Never
Church on Sundays				
@7 Breakfast				
Wednesday Community and Meal at St. Bart's (Foodcycle)				
Thursday Community Café				
Small Group				
Other (please specify)				

3. Please estimate how many years you have been part of The Vine (and before that St Stephen's or St Bart's)

- _____ years Less than 1 year Prefer not to say

4. Which of these best describes your situation before joining The Vine?
Please tick

Had never been part of a church before	
Was part of a church once, but not in the previous two years	
Moved into the area having attended a different church before moving	
Attending a different church in the local area (within previous 2 yrs) Which church?_____	
Attending another church as well as The Vine Which church?_____	
Other (please specify)	

5. What age are you? _____ Prefer not to say

6. Are you? (Please tick)

Male Female Prefer not to say Prefer to use other descriptions

7. Which of the following best describes your current marital status? (please tick)
 Prefer not to say

Single (never married)	
Living with a partner	
Married / Civil partnership	
Divorced / separated	
Widowed	

8. If you are married / partnered, does your spouse/partner consider themselves to be part of The Vine?
 Yes No Prefer not to say

If not, does your spouse/partner consider themselves to be part of a different church?

Yes No Prefer not to say

9. Which of these best describes your living arrangements? (please tick all that apply)
 Prefer not to say

Living with parent(s) or similar	
Living with and responsible for dependent child(ren)	
Living alone	
Sharing with other adults	
Living with spouse or partner	
Living in a communal environment e.g. halls of residence	

10. Please tick the box which best describes your ethnic background

Prefer not to say

White	English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	
	Irish	
	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	
	Any other White background	
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	White and Black Caribbean	
	White and Black African	
	White and Asian	
	Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background	
Asian/Asian British	Indian	
	Pakistani	
	Bangladeshi	
	Chinese	
	Any other Asian background	
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	African	
	Caribbean	
	Any other Black/African/Caribbean background	
Other ethnic group	Arab	
	Any other ethnic group	

11. Where do you live? (Please tick)

Netherthorpe	
Upperthorpe	
Langsett estate	
Shalesmoor / Kelham Island	
Crookesmoor	
Hillsborough	
Walkley	
Crookes	
Crosspool	
Broomhill	
Other (please specify)	

12. How long does it take you to travel to participate in church activities (e.g. on a Sunday)?

_____ minutes

13. What form of transport do you normally use?

Walk	
Bike	
Public transport	
Car	
Other	

The Vine Sheffield: Who are we?

14. Please try to complete each of the following sentences in your own words

What I most appreciate about
our church is...

The one thing we've all got in
common at The Vine is...

Other Christians sometimes say this about The Vine...

Even if we had no

we'd still be The Vine

The one thing we can't do
without (and still be The
Vine) is...

15. Please reflect on the extent to which you agree with the following remarks about The Vine’s current purpose statement (below):

As an open and prayerful community, it is our desire to know and encounter God’s love in deeper ways and to grow in our response to that love. Challenging each other to become more like Christ and through living out the values of the Kingdom of God we will look to create and develop a network of loving relationships where people can be transformed by encountering Jesus. And we will seek to serve our neighbour, prayerfully expecting God to be at work by following God’s lead.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
This statement sums up pretty well who we are as The Vine					
This statement inspires and motivates me as a member of The Vine					
The Vine is an “open and prayerful community.”					
As a church, we are “growing in our knowledge and experience of God’s love.”					
The Vine is a church where “we challenge each other to become more like Christ.”					
The Vine is and has “a network of loving relationships.”					
We see people “transformed by encountering Jesus” at The Vine.					
The Vine is a church where we “learn to love and serve our neighbour.”					
At The Vine, we “expect God to be at work” and we are following his lead.					

16. Please write any further comments you would like to make about our purpose statement in the space below. It would be useful to hear if and how you have personally connected with our purpose statement. e.g. “A part of my story that illustrates ‘learning to love and serve our neighbour’ at The Vine is...”

17. Please tell us about your hopes, ideas, frustrations, and fears, for The Vine moving forward.

When I think about the Good News of Jesus, and what that means for my life, our church, and our world, what I long for the most is...

When I think about what we might look like in five years time, I imagine...

The thing that most excites me about The Vine is...

The thing that frustrates me most about The Vine is...

What should we do with our buildings? Four possibilities

We currently have two church buildings in our Parish - St. Stephen's, Netherthorpe, and St. Bartholomew's, Primrose Hill.

It is a simple fact that currently these buildings are significantly under-used. The question of what we do with our buildings is a real one. It makes us think about a number of different issues: about who we are, what we want to do, and how we want to do it. This is what we are exploring here.

We want to put before you four possibilities. These are hypotheticals, not proposals. They are presented only in order to stimulate thought and vision. They are:

POSSIBILITY 1 - "DO SOMETHING TOTALLY NEW"

In this scenario, we can imagine disposing of both our current buildings, and investing in a new "family home" for The Vine. This might be through building something new, renovating a derelict building in the area, or leasing premises.

POSSIBILITY 2 - "KEEP ONE OF THE BUILDINGS, DISPOSE OF THE OTHER"

In this scenario, we can imagine consolidating all our activities into one of our existing buildings (either St. Stephen's or St. Bart's) and disposing of the other to another party (such as a property developer).

POSSIBILITY 3 - "KEEP BOTH, USE ONE AND MAKE THE OTHER AVAILABLE"

In this scenario, we imagine consolidating all our activities into one of our existing buildings (either St. Stephen's or St. Bart's) and inviting another organisation (perhaps even another church) to take over the other building. We would retain ownership of the building we leave, and maybe partner with the other organisation, but as a church our activities would be focussed in one place.

POSSIBILITY 4 - "KEEP BOTH, GROW INTO BOTH"

In this scenario, we make a deliberate choice to retain both of our existing buildings, and develop a strategy to develop our own community so that we make full use of them. This growth might come through partnership. It may involve beginning a new congregation or Christian community in one or other place.

Over the next few pages, we invite you to tell us what you think and feel about each possibility.

POSSIBILITY 1 - “DO SOMETHING TOTALLY NEW”

18. Please tell us your thoughts and feelings about this possibility in the boxes below

How does this possibility make you feel?
(e.g. excited, upset, fearful, undecided)

What do you see as the main advantages / benefits of this option?

What concerns or reservations do you have about this possibility?

19. How seriously should this possibility be considered? Please tick the statement you agree with most

This is my preferred option at the moment	
I'm open to exploring this but have some reservations	
I don't think we should do this	

20. Please write any further comments about this possibility in the space below.

POSSIBILITY 2 - "KEEP ONE, DISPOSE OF THE OTHER"

21. Please tell us your thoughts and feelings about this possibility in the boxes below

How does this possibility make you feel?
(e.g. excited, upset, fearful, undecided)

What do you see as the main advantages / benefits of this option?

What concerns or reservations do you have about this possibility?

22. How seriously should this possibility be considered? Please tick the statement you agree with most

This is my preferred option at the moment	
I'm open to exploring this but have some reservations	
I don't think we should do this	

23. If we pursued this possibility, which building would you prefer us to retain?

St Bart's	
St Stephen's	
Not sure	

24. Please write any further comments about this possibility in the space below:

POSSIBILITY 3 - “KEEP BOTH, USE ONE AND OUTSOURCE THE OTHER”

25. Please tell us your thoughts and feelings about this possibility in the boxes below

How does this possibility make you feel?
(e.g. excited, upset, fearful, undecided)

What do you see as the main advantages / benefits of this option?

What concerns or reservations do you have about this possibility?

26. How seriously should this possibility be considered? Please tick the statement you agree with most

This is my preferred option at the moment	
I'm open to exploring this but have some reservations	
I don't think we should do this	

27. If we pursued this possibility, which building should be our main place?

St Bart's	
St Stephen's	
Not sure	

28. Please write any further comments about this possibility in the space below:

POSSIBILITY 4 - “KEEP BOTH, GROW INTO BOTH”

29. Please tell us your thoughts and feelings about this possibility in the boxes below

How does this possibility make you feel?
(e.g. excited, upset, fearful, undecided)

What do you see as the main advantages / benefits of this option?

What concerns or reservations do you have about this possibility?

30. How seriously should this possibility be considered? Please tick the statement you agree with most

This is my preferred option at the moment	
I'm open to exploring this but have some reservations	
I don't think we should do this	

31. Please write any further comments about this possibility in the space below.

And finally...

We want to understand how you arrived at your answers to the previous questions.

32. As you were considering the four possibilities for our buildings, how important was it to you to consider...

	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Important	Very important
The financial implications of each scenario					
Our history and legacy as a church					
Mission opportunities					
The impact on the wider church and diocese					

33. What else did you think about in trying to weigh up each possibility?

What happens next?

The Vine is a church family.

Families are a place of stability, welcome, and growth, but they are not static; they grow and change and bear fruit.

Can you imagine a family discussion around a dinner table, motivated by a change in circumstances? Perhaps a new stage of life has been reached, and the family home feels different. Perhaps there has been a change in circumstance and there needs to be a discussion about how the family operates, and how things might change.

In the end, such family discussions come down to questions of identity, and value. Who are we? What do we want from life? What do we want to seize in the moment? What do we want to pass on to the next generation?

As The Vine, we need a family discussion. It's partly motivated by our buildings, and by changes in the wider church around us. In the end, however, it is about who we are, and how God is calling us to be. Let us have the family discussion, and seek to come to a common mind.

The head of our church family is Jesus. How is he leading us? How do we offer him our selves? How can we best worship him, honour him, glorify him, and serve him? How do we respond to him as family?

Soon after the summer, we plan to set aside a Sunday for a family conversation about these sorts of things. Your answers in this questionnaire will help us to prepare for that time, and provide us with food for thought.

Please be prayerfully considering these things over the summer. If, at any point, you would like to talk things through, please feel free to get in touch with Will, or Steve, or Paul.

Perhaps you might pray with us the prayer we've placed on the next page.

With thanks,

The Building Subcommittee
Steve, Becca, Ben, Andy, Will & Gill

A prayer

Loving Father,

We thank you for how you have brought The Vine together to be a people who follow you, in the name of your Son, Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this season of discernment, Heavenly Father, speak to us.

Encourage us when we walk by your Spirit.

Convict us when we stray into fear and selfishness.

Remind us of our dependence upon you.

Above all, glorify yourself through us, in this city in which you have placed us. Draw us to know your gospel deeper still, and release us into an eternal life that starts right here, in the here and now.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.