

# St Stephens Church: Your Say

Survey Results

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# Canvassed 81 local people on their thoughts on the future of St Stephens Church

- Asked people to rate from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree if the Church should be kept open for just worship, community events or both
- Asked people to rate different ideas as well as present their own ideas in a free text box
- Survey distributed to St Stephens Residents Association, Christmas Bazaar, Wedding Fayre, Carol Concert, local schools and during weekly church services



## St Stephens Church: Your Say

### Did you know?

→ There has been a church on the site since Saxon times!

→ There may have been giants living in the parish!...

→ Existing building is about 800 years old!

→ The original bell tower was destroyed in the 12th Century by the Earl of Cornwall!

We at St Stephens Church would like to know what you think about the future of the church. You do not have to be religious or come to church to take part!

Please rate each statement, by ticking the option closest to your opinion:

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree

The future for St Stephens Church	1	2	3	4	5
Keep it open only as a place of worship					
Keep it open for community activities only					
Keep it open as a place of worship and community activities					
Close it as a place of worship					
Close it down and make redundant					

Your views on community activities at St Stephens Church	1	2	3	4	5
Use it as a venue for weddings, funerals, community events					
Use it as a specialised venue for Arts, Drama, Music					
Use it as a venue for talks and meetings					
Use it as a Community Social Centre for young people					
Use it as a Community Social Centre for older people					
Use it as a community venue for all types of events					

Please add any further ideas, suggestions or comments below

Please get in touch with Peter Broad (pjb.ssc@gmail.com, 07766 864836) if you have any other comments/suggestions or want to get involved with any future developments at St Stephens Church.

You can hand this in at St Stephens Church or send to Peter Broad, Lower Dutson Farm, Dutson, PL15 9SP.

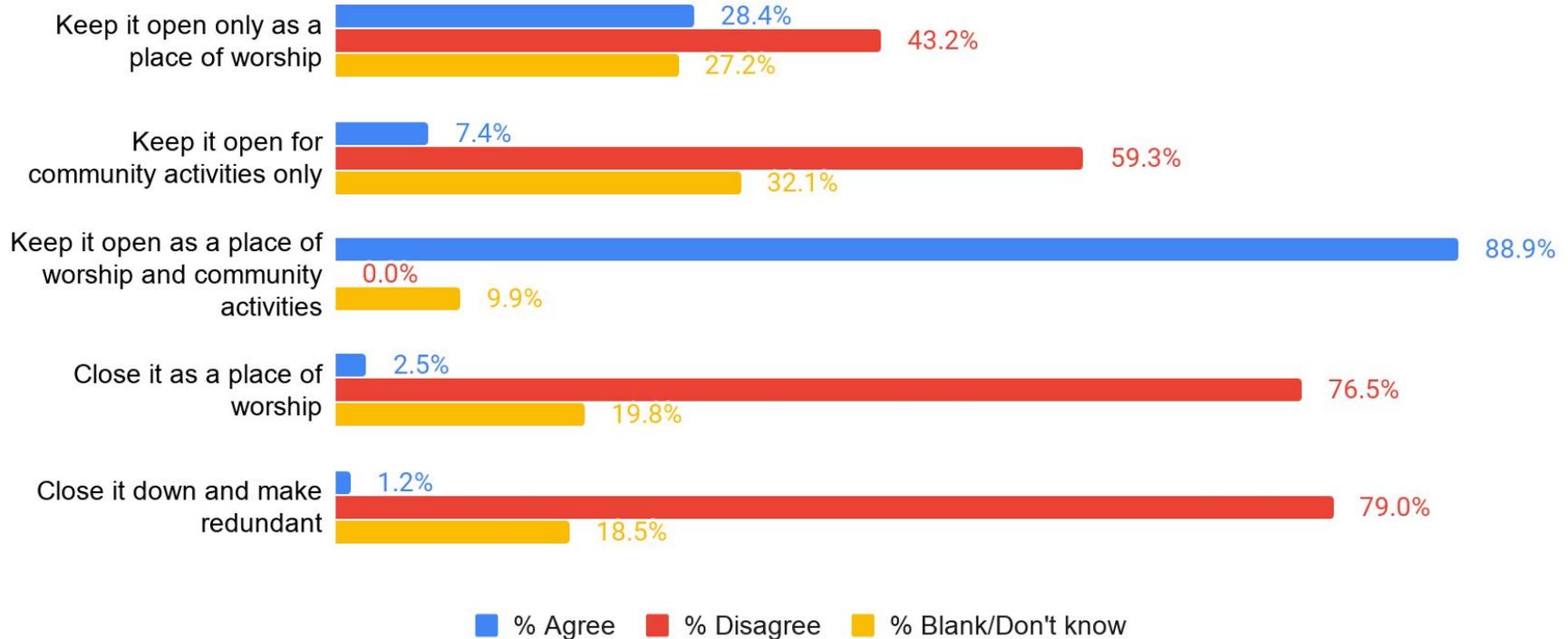
<sup>1</sup>Saxon Minster foundations from 10th century found in 1970s

<sup>2</sup>9 foot coffins underneath the choir where the Maddy family of Dutson are buried

<sup>3</sup>Church was rebuilt in 13th century

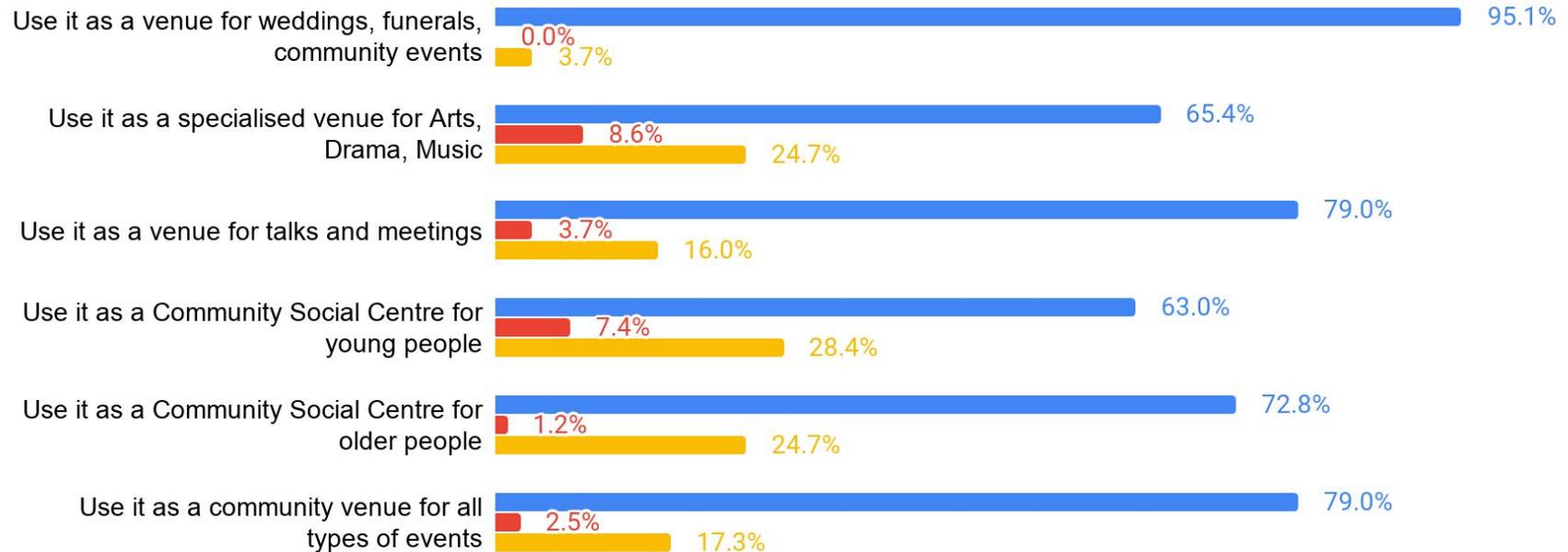
<sup>4</sup>The tower was being used as a currency store following disputes between landowning barons and King Stephen

# The Future for St Stephens Church



Agree: Combined 'Strongly Agree' with 'Agree' Disagree: Combined 'Strongly Disagree' with 'Disagree'  
Blank/Don't know: Combined 'Don't Know' with blanks/missing responses

# Views on community activities at St Stephens Church



■ % Agree ■ % Disagree ■ % Blank/Don't know

Agree: Combined 'Strongly Agree' with 'Agree' Disagree: Combined 'Strongly Disagree' with 'Disagree'

Blank/Don't know: Combined 'Don't Know' with blanks/missing responses



# Permanent Heritage display inside the church

- Historic building - (existing building 800 years old), but one on site for over 1,000 years with Saxon carving
- Build permanent displays to include story of the roof repairs as well as the history of the building and surrounding area
- The church has great links with the two nearby schools (independent and academy)
  - Conduct "Collective Worship" at St Stephens Community Academy every Thursday
  - Use the links with the schools to help create the displays, for example art work, poems etc



Carving at back of church, thought to be Saxon



Example of heritage area in St Michael and All Angels, Bampton, Devon

# Venue for historic talks and events

- As St Stephens church establishes the heritage display, we can build on existing links with local historians to create an event space.
- Talk in March on Harriet Maynard (black female painter) buried in churchyard: Tue 3rd March 2020, 7pm
- Potential for roof tours with views of Launceston during and after roof repairs.
- Build on links with the Lawrence House Museum in Launceston for artifacts to create exhibits in the church.



Ruins from Launceston priory  
down the hill



Painting by Harriet Maynard

# Venue for music recitals and concerts

- The church has great acoustics and we have held a number of successful choirs and concerts
- There are many local choirs with modern venues, but not many traditional venues
- Only other venue in St Stephens is the hall, which is booked about 80% of the time



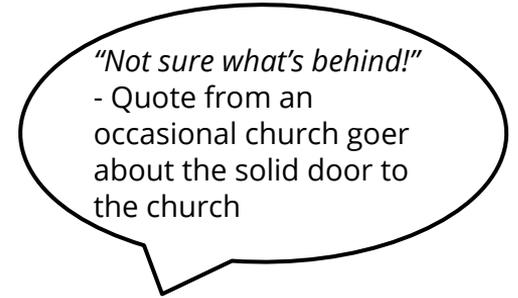
Local singer at wedding in St Stephens



St Stephens organ, currently getting dripped on by the roof!

# General upgrade of facilities

- New glass door to make it more welcoming, accessible and draught proof
- Accessible Toilets
- Kitchen for refreshments after events
- More efficient heating to cope with the new use of the church
- Provision for solar panels in the roof for the future



# Longer term: Community pop up shop/Post Office

- No post office/facilities in St Stephens
- Active residents association who are keen to be involved
  - Trialling some stalls in monthly coffee morning
  - Works well in other parish churches, e.g. Altarnun
- A need identified through research
- Can trial the need for this with the residents association, as this may be more suitable in the longer term



# Appendix 1: Full Survey Results

Total surveys returned	81
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	Keep it open only as a place of worship	Keep it open for community activities only	Keep it open as a place of worship and community activities	Close it as a place of worship	Close it down and make redundant	Use it as a venue for weddings, funerals, community events	Use it as a specialised venue for Arts, Drama, Music	Use it as a venue for talks and meetings	Use it as a Community Social Centre for young people	Use it as a Community Social Centre for older people	Use it as a community venue for all types of events
1 - Strongly Disagree	14	30	0	58	62	0	1	2	2	1	0
2 - Disagree	21	18	0	4	2	0	6	1	4	0	2
3 - Don't Know	10	10	6	2	1	0	10	3	16	13	10
4 - Agree	7	3	14	0	0	22	27	38	28	34	28
5 - Strongly Agree	16	3	58	2	1	55	26	26	23	25	36
Blank	12	16	2	14	14	3	10	10	7	7	4
<b>Average</b>	2.9	1.9	4.7	1.2	1.1	4.7	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.3
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>% Agree</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>95.1%</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>79.0%</b>	<b>63.0%</b>	<b>72.8%</b>	<b>79.0%</b>
<b>% Disagree</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>79.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>% Blank/Don't know</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>

# Appendix 2: Free text responses (Part 1)

Toilet facilities, shop inside church

Regret I cannot attend communion owing to use of incense, made more difficult than previously by COPD in the last few years

Toilet, shop

use it for lunches, get togethers, have a garden project for growing herbs and salads (quick return to interest younger people). Arrange outings, all social community events as well

Good luck. I am not sure there is as an answer as many churches face the same problem

The church would be a beautiful venue for teaching and learning for both adults and young people, especially around traditional, local and expressive subjects. An outreach post-office would also be very welcome - perhaps for a few hours per week?

This church is first and foremost a house of God and should be utilised with this always in mind

Toilet + kitchen facilities are needed. Invite / encourage various services / events local community + school e.g. coffee mornings, Pets Service

Perhaps advertise more the events taking place so that the local community know what is going on

I would like to see the church open during the week for people to pop in and just be quiet for a few moments

I believe a church is a place for everyone

I don't know if it is viable to keep it open as a place of worship

It's a beautiful place. Keep it open and used.

# Appendix 3: Free text responses (Part 2)

Please keep it open and use it

Art and craft exhibition or craft fair

Post-office. Shop local produce - eggs, milk, meats, vegetables, cookery classes, U3A events, training courses, mental health coordinated learning, schools together to showcase, join choirs, counsellors sessions, xmas tree specials, local charity / environmental companies to use as meeting space / training space / show space. Open to the public to go site when need quiet space. I've been twice, but locked

People aren't good at coming to meetings. Too cold in winter

It is not broke. Do not fix it

St Stephens Church is central and an integral part of this community and needs to be retained and used more

If Truro are considering closing the church then tell them no. And to make savings at head office

Need discernment to events compatible with the Christian faith

As much as I would like to "just worship", the time has come to diversify - encourage a good mixture of ages - God is for all!

Everything needs bringing up to date, we need to attract more people and if it means stopping incense and a few other things, so be it

All our buildings should be used by the community as much as can be accommodated, as well as for worship. (I realise this needs effort for someone in charge of booking). The building should remain unlocked every day, even when not in use for people to come in.

# Appendix 4: Free text responses (Part 3)

Have it open for activities and bring the community together Maybe keep part of it open at night for homeless people to come seek help and have somewhere to warm to stay

St Stephens church is an important centre of the area North of the town It needs to be kept as an historical building, preferably still as a place of worship but including community use - much as it is at present

Anything that keeps the church a living community is a good thing

I lived in St Stephens vicarage with my grandfather (Fr Gendale?) in the 50s. I do hope it won't close down. The church where I live has a very small congregation but survives by holding many community activities as there is no church hall.