



#### **4. Where are we now?**

There were lots of positive responses regarding the relevance of the church, with people feeling that the 'Church works to bring people together with community events and is the 'hub of village life'. For some the 'church is a large part of my life' and 'worship' and 'fellowship' are important. For others it was important 'knowing that the church is always there / a place for reflection', that friends/family are buried in the churchyard – comforting to be close', and that 'the church is there if I need it'. Comments also included that the church was an opportunity for 'generations to meet and mix' and that 'Sunday Club and family service involves the younger generations'. Others highlighted it's historical and spiritual importance; 'it provides a spiritual base that we would not want to lose' and 'the church is a place of history and strength and wonderful peace'. A number of people also commented that whilst the church isn't so important to them personally, they can see how important it is to others.

#### **5. What could we do better?**

Responses were varied, and some issues are potentially beyond the remit of the church. Transport was frequently mentioned, with many commenting on the lack of regular and affordable public transport for those unable to drive. A safe cycle route to the local town was also mentioned. Traffic through the village was also a common theme, with views ranging from those who thought that the village was very peaceful with little through traffic to many others who commented on the increase in traffic in recent years and the speed it passes through the village.

The needs of younger people were also highlighted, including lack of public transport thus reducing independence, the affordability of housing for young people, and the lack of activities for children / teenagers.

1 person also mentioned that they missed the mobile library which used to visit the village a few years ago.

More directly relevant to the church, 1 person commented that the 'church is not really relevant to modern life'.

#### **6. Where would we like to be?**

Again there was lots of feedback and suggestions. One theme that emerged was how we can help people to feel part of the church even if they do not attend or contribute. Others asked how we could include people of other faiths or denominations, and also to make provision for those on the fringes of the village. There was 1 request for the Alpha course. People would like to see bigger congregations and having a vicar/curate whose presence is obvious in the community. 1 person wanted lifts to services due to poor mobility. Another would welcome the bell-ringing again! It was also suggested that the 4 parishes of the benefice could work together more.

Other suggestions included running coffee mornings to help combat loneliness, fundraising for local causes, a village fete, events that aren't connected with religion, joint events with other village groups, and a presence in any local social activities. Influencing local environmental improvements and activities for youngsters – especially outdoor study, were also suggested.

It was also suggested that the church should be there to help and support anyone in need.