

How healthy is our church life?

What is the 8 Essential Qualities survey?

- a practical and proven way to assess church health used by over 70,000 churches in 86 countries, and supported by Coventry Diocese.

How does it work?

- the survey asks questions about people's experience of church including worship, any tasks or roles they do, relationships with other church members, small group life, etc.
- it then compares the results from our church with the average of all the other UK churches who have done the survey to let us see where we stand.

Who took part at St Peter's?

- around 35 people who worship regularly, have a task in the church and are part of a small group, and broadly represent our age and gender mix, and attend our different services.

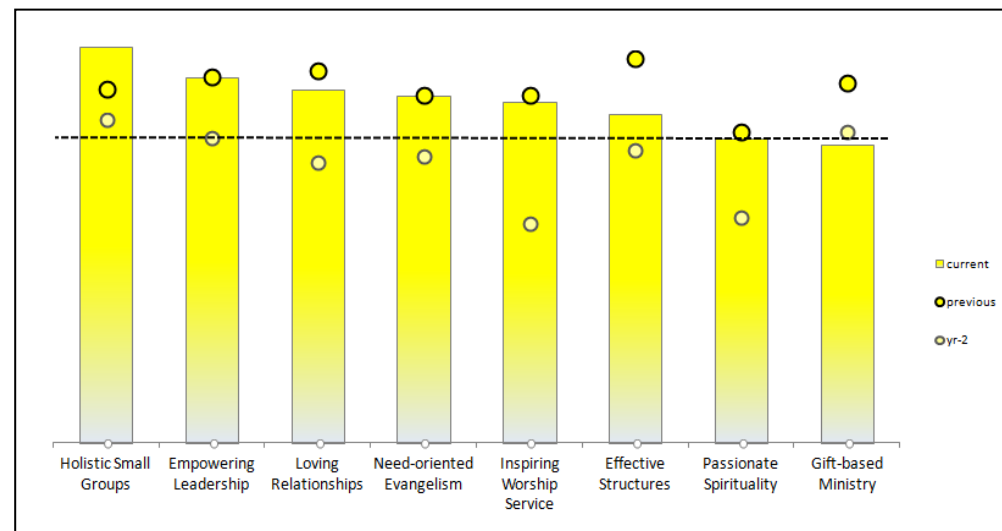
What does the survey measure?

- Its questions assess the way our church does 8 key things: do our small groups care for the whole person, does our leadership empower others, are our relationships loving, does our outreach serve the needs of our surrounding community, are our various worship services inspiring, are our structures effective, are we passionate about our faith, do the jobs and tasks we do in church fit our abilities and enthusiasms?

What are our results?

- The chart shows the results. The higher the bars the more *empowering* is our leadership, or *loving* are our relationships, etc. These qualities enable church growth. Churches are held back by their weakest quality.
- The chart shows this year's results as bars, with the big circles showing last year's, and the smaller circles the year before's. The dashed line shows the average result for UK churches who have done the survey.

From 2014 to 2015, we experienced a really positive step up in most of these qualities, especially our worship. From 2015 to 2016, the change is more mixed. Most things have kept that new, higher level, and the quality of our Small Groups has increased, but we failed in our goal to grow more passionate about our faith.



The results of April's survey show that we are less satisfied now than in 2014 or in 2015 about the fit between our skills, gifts & enthusiasms and the tasks & roles we do as part of church. This means our greatest opportunity for growth is Gift-based Ministry.

As agreed by the church council (PCC) our objectives for the coming year will therefore be:

- keep a focus on passionate spirituality, especially on Bible use, knowledge and enjoyment
- take action to improve the fit between the tasks we do and our gifts, skills and enthusiasms.

Look out for sermon series, small group materials and courses being offered through the year to address these weaknesses. We are a community of people being transformed by Jesus. We want his Spirit to grow our ability to love him and to serve him, as we love and serve the community around us.

If you'd like to know more about this, please talk to any member of the Strategy Team - Anita Scruby, Barry Coleman, Graham Day, Joan Prenton-Jones, Lucy Shuker, Lynn Darby, Kate Mier, Steve Hood.

Steve Hood, for the Strategy Team

inspired by Jesus, to forgive, encourage and serve