

## CONSOLIDATED QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES CONGREGATIONAL CONSULTATION MAY AND JUNE 2019

Nb. These responses are recorded as they were written  
and are a compilation of all the replies received  
consolidated into one document.

### **St Mary's**

In thinking about the church building please consider the following questions:

What are the features that inspire you most?

- All of it
- The Norman columns [visitor comment]
- Keep the pews – too many churches have removed them and ruined the interior [visitor comment]
- Traditional layout with Underley chapel reserved for private prayer
- The atmosphere – the history of all who have worshipped here
- The book of remembrance
- The peace in the Lady Chapel
- A calming place to it
- Its always open
- The historical feeling when entering and the position within the town [visitor comment]
- Architecture, stained glass, font, organ, altar area
- The atmosphere – peace and stillness
- Lighting
- Also the feeling that the church is part of the community and is 'lived in'
- Its age, the space, the windows
- Beautiful setting and gardens
- The fact that it has been a beautiful place of worship for over 900 years
- Beautiful architecture, beautiful setting.
- A serious place in a serious earth!
- The building itself is beautiful outside and inside and to think it has been there so long
- The church as a whole – outside and in. Many features in the church including: chancel windows, the 'heart' of the church within the screening and the screening, the Lady Chapel. The sound of the organ.
- Its traditional appearance – space, emotional impact. It is not an 'ordinary' building
- Space, tranquillity, seasonal floral colour
- All the old features inside the church are spiritually inspiring. Keep it as it is. Getting rid of pews and installing chairs etc ruins the atmosphere of the building. They are not compatible with the old features of the church. Rows of identical chairs are not what visitors want to see
- The unique setting of the building in the centre of the town and historical background and influence within the life and growth of the community.
- The beautiful arches, pillars and stained glass windows
- The size
- The Reserve Sacrament in the Lady Chapel (if it were to be there)
- Entering to find a peaceful atmosphere, a well kept building -the windows

- The architectural features, the windows and the space
- Stained glass windows
- The setting/location and grounds
- The pillars, organ, flowers
- Its history
- The banners
- It's a beautiful building almost cathedralesque- a proper church
- The fact that Christian worship has been held on the premises for hundreds of years
- The beauty of the building's architecture and windows
- The sense of space and atmosphere
- The organ
- The setting and the altar
- Beauty of stained glass windows especially when sun shines through them
- Church is open during the day
- Serenity
- Timelessness
- Sense of history and thought of the people who built it
- Beautiful stained glass windows and metalwork
- Stunning architecture in a stunning setting with many unique features. A quiet spiritual space. Underley Chapel. Wonderful space in Nave (without pews).
- The sheer size and beauty
- Its size and quality of build
- The stone work
- Its history
- The stainless glass
- The new café area
- It is a landmark and focal point for town and visitors
- Architectural 'presence' of God
- Size, scale, majesty, history, craftsmanship
- It's a central icon for KL, beautiful surroundings
- The fact it is still going and open every day
- The fact that it was built for God in the first place. The sheer hard work and dedication of all involved in building it.
- The beauty of the edifice – The House of God. Its size and facilities would allow for ALL local Christian churches to practice their faith under one roof.
- I find the inspiration and beauty comes from the history of this church. I love seeing, through the architecture, the different times this church has been adapted and added too. The structure of how this Church has been built, I guess is what appeals and inspires me. I don't foresee the core structure (ie the shell) changing with whatever is done to this building in the future. That beauty and sense of heritage I hope will remain. I wonder though if this though could be made more a feature of for visitors who may not naturally see this beauty. Thinking of young people, is there more we could do to help them engage with this. I know there is a leaflet but I am wondering if a quiz, an area for brass rubbing/stamping of patterns that can be found in this building (e.g. one echoing the pillars).
- Simply put it is the heritage that inspires me. I think it feels like a sacred space as soon as you enter this building; you can feel the wealth of prayer that has been held in this space. That is linked closely to the age of this building for me. Prayers across the ages. It has the same sense and peace as Iona Abbey, for me, because of this. As we used to say on Iona 'if walls could talk...'
- Sorry I can't be more specific on features. I am aware this isn't fully answering the question.

What is less attractive?
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- Endemic overflow of equipment and apparatus
- Left side of the altar is a jumble together with either side of organ unit (cupboards), childrens area in wrong place [visitor comment]
- Décor - the walls are grubby – plaster and whitewash need attention – this would at once make the church smarter, cleaner, lighter and more ‘cared for’
- The corners - by the organ and vestry - they have the appearance of a storage area and detract from the beauty of the building’s architecture
- The cage around the choir, storage in the Middleton Chapel area, lack of catering facilities
- The clutter
- Ceiling top-lights (intended to be the regular daytime lighting) have been dud for years. Replace with LED bulbs
- Some of the internal clutter should be removed or rehoused to enable the space to be better used
- The Middleton Chapel seems less a chapel and more a ‘where should we put it’ space
- Untidy corners
- Sometimes litter
- The far side of the interior doesn’t appear ‘friendly’
- Tables and chairs near the kitchen. That area just looks messy. Can we please have the Middleton chapel cleared out so that it can be used again. It is a beautiful old chantry chapel and should be used as such. It is appalling to use it as a store room. If stuff needs to be stored, find somewhere else.
- The severity of so many ‘straight lines’ of pews.
- The decreased visibility due to wide pillars and narrow nave.
- The restricted space around the kitchen
- The sanctity of the building. Its position in its space (surrounded by churchyard).
- Clutter in the Middleton Chancery Chapel
- The unfortunate necessity for the ugly Gift Aid envelopes
- Lack of hidden storage for equipment
- Storage
- The way some ‘stuff’ is stored in different places in the church
- The placing of the pillars make it difficult to see all of the pulpit, lectern, altar, piano etc from the same place
- The cage around the chancel and the pews/choir within
- Running costs
- The cost of upkeep
- The blocking of view by the pillars
- The disjointedness and messiness of the different spaces within the building
- The need for some TLC to parts of the building
- The pews, the cage, general lack of storage
- A large space, some of it ill defined
- Most of what is on the walls is more a museum of social and church history than ‘spiritual’ – monuments to the wealthy patrons rather than reflecting Christian values. They probably need to stay for historians but I would not miss them. Similar with much of the ‘furniture’.
- Gloomy and dark
- Pews – get chairs
- The pews
- The ‘cage’ round the choir stalls

- Cold in winter
- Very dark.
- Sightline restrictions due to pillars – can make you feel quite isolated / excluded from what is happening.
- Currently 'defined' areas of space – pews / chairs in 'children's area/ side chapel – feels very 'itty bitty' – needs fluidity of space, needs to flow to enhance usage possibilities.
- Poor sound system / AV possibilities
- Pews, coldness, impractical, pulpit etc
- The services
- Lack of equipment, - facilities eg screen, kitchen etc
- It provides peace and quiet but does it shout 'Jesus'?
- This building will soon need major transfusions of financial capital – from where? The graveyard space is disproportionate to C of E needs. Radical re-think and reform before a modern Henry VIII descends upon us!
- I find the black metal around the inner sanctuary area unattractive and unwelcoming. It creates the feeling of us versus, of whoever is in that space against those who are not. I think it is rather an outdated concept and one that doesn't reflect the openness we wish to have with the local community.
- I think the various areas of St. Mary's that have become storage areas are less attractive. It does lack storage space and this is something I think we could work on. The sense of clutter can appear dangerous to families with small people who tend to be drawn instinctively to these exciting areas which are cornered off. This though may give us insight into a need for a creative space, that is unstructured, for children in St. Mary's. We just don't want that area to be made from stacks of chairs etc or piles of forgotten things.

Thinking about the occasions when the building is used for worship, how could the interior be improved eg seating, layout?

What extra facilities would make the church more comfortable and useful for worship?

- The layout is fine – the inward facing pews are unusual – preserve them [visitor comment]
- Chairs not pews
- Better storage for non regular use items
- Less pews, but more comfy seats that can easily be moved to create other areas. The plain white walls either side of the altar should be painted to match stone colour of altar, making impression of a more commanding altar [visitor comment]
- I like the pews, although they would be more comfortable with some cushions
- Use of Lady chapel and/or choir stalls is appropriate when the congregation is very small but overall chairs offer less 'personal space' and the opportunity for private prayer
- The cage and choir pews could be removed and this would create a reasonable sized platform/raised area to be used for small groups in worship, drama, concerts etc (they are fairly recent additions!)
- Possibly seating cushions and ridge on shelf so book and papers do not fall all over the place
- That excellent war biographies book lacks an index. So enquirers cannot access known names. (responder has twice offered to do this if given the disc...)
- Why not re-locate the church office above the vestry? Plenty of precedent for two tiers in the past. Would greatly assist security.
- We prefer to see the majority of the seating to be pews and not random chairs so we feel the existing system works fine except that the mobility of the pews could be improved for when they are not required during other events
- The variable layout as at present works well – including the pews which in themselves add to the whole ambience and spiritual feel going through history and into the present
- Cathedrals use chairs so there is a case for chairs
- Why is Lady Chapel not used for small/ different services?
- I'm not sure if the church should be 'more comfortable' and I'm not sure what's meant by 'Useful for Worship'. Useful to me means being open and available
- I like the pews in rows as they are!!
- No more chairs please - modern churches, chairs ok- old buildings certainly not. Being comfortable is not a priority. We go to church for many things but being comfortable is not one of them. The church is a lot warmer now which is excellent. A larger, better equipped kitchen would be most useful..
- With substantial reduction of pews, different areas of the church could be used more flexibly and layout of seating more experimental depending on what type of worship.
- Would love to see flexible seating (rather than pews). Would also like to see the sanctuary (the bit enclosed) reduced in size so that there was more room available in the nave.
- The church is perfectly 'useful' for worship. From a congregation of some 300 (big church festivals, funerals, weddings etc) the seating is available. The question of individual seating v pews could be addressed – which would be more easy to rearrange? And least labour intensive?
- Possibly take sides off the 'cage' at 90 degrees – fronting the Lady chapel and organ space
- Seating – an easier way of varying the seating layout when necessary (rather than pushing/lifting big heavy pews)

- Entrance – create an inner porch so cold draughts etc are minimised
- Replace pews with chairs to give seating flexibility
- Proper wc facilities
- Sufficient warmth.
- Maybe ditch some or all of the pews – few cathedrals now have any, if at all
- There are ways to combine good modern features with a traditional church, Bourton in the Water for example (I have photos)
- Also consider a modern glass structure within the building like the Royal Exchange in Manchester. This would be easier to keep warm but a bit radical maybe!
- Those pillars! - causes disconnect with those leading worship and make it difficult to hear sometimes
- Some planning could be given to the different areas of the church to make them more attractive and user friendly and fit together more i.e.furniture all the same. Chairs would give more continuity and flexibility
- Good av system with overhead screens etc
- Definitely seating
- Flexible layout is a great advantage
- Better lighting
- 'zoning' the worship space more than at present
- Chairs instead of pews which are very heavy to move
- A small refrigerator in the kitchen so visitors can be offered refreshment at services other than at main services
- It depends on the occasion and the nature of the event. Carols by candlelight, Remembrance Day, funerals etc seem to go well enough with the layout as it is and are enhanced by its austerity but v difficult to have intimate, flexible events where the pillars interfere badly with participation and eye contact. Much more flexible seating with good av and several monitors so that everyone would see would be a big help. Clear need for modern washrooms and somewhere to put coats etc plus better facilities for simple refreshments. No disabled toilets.
- Replace all pews with chairs or banks of chairs. Consider same chairs as KLMC for future flexibility. Have new modern altar at top of nave for regular use. Use Underley chapel more – if necessary add extra chairs. Need extra kitchen facilities and better toilets. Totally replace kitchen/ vestry/ toilets. Creche area could be moved and made more attractive, possibly in a refurbished Middleton Chapel. Creative use of architectural glass to define 'spaces'
- It would be more flexible space if pews were sold and chairs used
- A secure area for children would make me feel safer bringing my family
- Chairs
- Enclose it more, bring everyone more together
- Getting rid of all pews, so that the layout can be changed and it is more contemporary, especially for different services and concerts
- Chairs instead of pews but that might spoil the ambience
- Flexible seating – chairs not pews. Moving pews is huge H&S issue anyway.
- Sightlines from seats – need to consciously think about view from congregation / audience perspective.
- Invest in a professional sound and AV system – absolutely essential.
- Chairs. Not sure that changing seating/ layout is going to make more people come. If the services were modern etc I'd be there in a flash regardless of what I had to sit on!!
- Chairs definitely – it works so well in other buildings of this nature.
- Parts of it seem unaccessible (sic) eg the altar etc. Could it all be incorporated? Pillars block view – could it be arranged so that isn't as much of a problem
- As we have discovered at KLMC, replacing the pews with chairs allows for greater flexibility in the use of the church. St Mary's already has a supply of folding chairs

and these may be suitable. It should always be remembered that the seating capacity of the church will decrease if the pews are removed.

- The Church of God should be made to serve and glorify God. What did Jesus do to the traders in the Temple?
- Comfort! A roof that does NOT leak and an appropriate heating system and beautiful pews where congregations can pray in a “respectful position on bended knees”.
- I think the pews could be removed to make way for more a creative opportunity when it comes to layout and seating. If not all pews, then the majority. Pews are really difficult to sit on for a long time and don't make coming to church always feel worship filled if you spent the entire time being aware that you ache due to not finding that comfy spot, or that your child is enjoying making the whole pew judder by bouncing on it.
- Personally, I think a combination of individual chairs that can be moved to enable different shapes of seating plus some really comfortable sofas which are so much better for breast-feeding Mums would be a welcome improvement.
- An area could also be created for young children to be in the space safely during the service, without their parents or guardians having to constantly worry about their child wondering off, mid-service. An idea I have seen in other churches is an area with a glass window, so you can still see the service, where the sermon comes into the space via a speaker, but the area is secure and safe with padding on the ground, toys and books etc. This area could even be sound proofed. The children are still in the service but not disturbing others, something I have no problem with, but I know some parents spend the entire time worrying about this, so cannot relax. Personally, a child's “disruption” can be the moment I most see or sense God in Church but I know that for parents this is very hard to perceive or believe from another.

Thinking about the occasions when the building is used for community events, how could the interior be made more flexible?

- Flexible seating
- Loose comfy seats to create areas - could be arranged to make a 'theatre in the round' using the centre seating area [visitor comment]
- The obvious comment would seem to be remove some of the pews, but the present arrangement for the storage for chairs to replace them is not ideal
- Obvious storage areas within the church are not attractive
- See before re chair area and catering facilities
- Screening sections not used on far side
- For all events (particularly community events) we must have auto-emergency lighting. A winter blackout could be catastrophic. Must always have responsible person on site.
- Make the pews more mobile
- A comprehensive lighting and audio system review could be used to indicate how best to improve these areas
- I think it already is flexible for particular occasions and services. Even more flexibility risks losing its specialness
- Improved/ adaptable lighting
- Areas with chairs rather than pews
- Perhaps using chairs
- I think we are back to chairs again – no, no, NO! We do need a larger and better equipped kitchen (fridge, dishwasher etc). The interior of the church is fine as it is for events. Events are secondary, services come first.
- Most definitely more mobile seating and reduction of pews.
- Pews that are easier to move
- Address the question of seating
- Collapsible pews
- Seating
- Toilets – only 2 (as at present) are not enough when the church is full for concerts, services etc
- Replace pews with stackable chairs
- Removal of choir screen and choir stalls would open up this central area to more use
- Chairs
- Good av system
- Take pews out
- Improve kitchen and toilet facilities
- Consider new kitchen and toilet spaces
- Chairs instead of pews
- Extra facilities eg fridge in kitchen
- Be able to 'collapse'/stack seating to increase floor space. Better av system and TV monitors to let everyone see whats happening
- Dismantleable coat racks for big events
- Partitions to be available
- Easily reconfigured seating. Have a (glazed) closed off area eg Underley Chapel or chancel which could be sound proof and used for personal reflection/ worship while rest of building open for visitor/ community use.
- Chairs
- By having chairs so the layout can be changed
- Larger kitchen
- Av system

- Space is currently very restricted due to pews.
- Need to open up the space to increase the flexibility.
- Is there a way of screening (glass panelling) of main sanctuary – so that area is kept sacrosanct?
- Chairs
- Less places for children to get lost in!
- AV system – screens (probably would need 3)
- Pews out. Could screens be used give a more intimate space – depends how much is going on at once and different activities
- Replacing the pews with chairs would help with this aspect too, because the pews are heavy to move and this acts as a disincentive for some groups who might otherwise want to organise their activities differently (sometimes on short notice)
- Community events should ideally be held in Community Halls however some events which involve Christian communities can be considered if appropriate and standard church seating is not disturbed.
- As mentioned earlier removing the pews would be one quick and simple step. I think another step would be altering the kitchen, perhaps extending it somehow. This would perhaps also limit the interior potentially, but I think anything we do in this building can only be aided by good kitchen facilities- to me it adds an element of flexibility as a consequence.
- I think creating divided spaces in areas that would harmonise with the layout of the building, for example the left chapel by the organ, perhaps using a door/wall style that could be movable, would make the building a more flexible space. It could then be used as one big area or lots of separate areas.

What extra facilities would make the church more useful to the community?
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- Full kitchen/catering facility
- Better kitchen facilities
- Advertise as a 'round entertainment area', create a proper café at rear, perhaps run by volunteers to create revenue: such areas can be found in city churches, bringing people into church! [visitor comment]
- A new kitchen area, possibly extended to include some of the area where coffee is now served. But Methodist Hall has excellent kitchen facilities and there is no need to have anything on this scale in St Mary's
- Relaxed area for chatting/conversations
- Wireless [wifi?]
- Improved lighting system
- Dishwasher
- Tea/coffee and snacks
- cake mornings
- monthly afternoon teas
- We have plenty of good performance lights but organising them should be a lay (youth?) responsibility.
- Consider fitting glass doors to the main porch for security and heat retention reason
- Keeping it open all day is a great community resource
- I cannot be specific but do we try to replicate facilities available elsewhere. The church should not compete but offer something unique to attract community involvement
- Chairs and tables
- Better and larger kitchen
- Variety of spaces with comfortable seating, improved kitchen facilities and loos, improved lighting
- A room that could be used for meeting.
- Dishwasher?! (kitchen was made too small)
- Apparently discussions are continuing re a new look to the Lunesdale Hall. The church has a right, currently in use, to the room now an office. Has the idea of relinquishing/exchanging this room and bringing it in some way into the church 'area' been discussed?
- Better kitchen
- Developing the kitchen in a more modern efficient way?
- Ask the community!
- Better toilets
- Toilets and kitchen but the Methodists have those
- Pews are heavy - chairs take a while to put out and set up room
- Upgrading toilets and kitchen
- More creative use of unused areas and tidying them up and redecorating them
- Maybe some partitioning to enable more than one event at once
- Full set of lighting/ AV for 'theatre style' events and also for worship. Better kitchen facilities with dedicated area for café style seating. Better toilets.
- Bigger kitchen
- Av system
- Better toilets especially for disabled
- Current kitchen is adequate for serving tea/coffees – so may need to be upgraded?
- Professional sound and AV system – essential.
- Christian Bookshop! Or free literature from Our Daily Bread or something
- A better kitchen (and bigger)

- More on the walls about our message – 10000 people come through every year – let's give them something to think about!
- PA system, better kitchen space
- Refurbishing the kitchen and toilets would help bring the facilities up to date, but it is debateable whether it would be appropriate to scale up the kitchen for larger numbers/ events. It would be worth considering operating a simple café service to help with out-reach to visitors. Also some updating of the bookstall and interpretation should be considered
- The re-establishment of the Church as the basis for the practice and celebration of the sacraments and hopefully redress the current trend of a descent into a neutral material society.
- As mentioned earlier: bigger and better equipped kitchen.
- Flexibly separated spaces as described above.
- Area for children to play/explore that is safe and well equipped- with appropriate protected flooring down and perhaps a boundary around it so that they cannot simply roam. A lot of parents I speak to worry about this when they come into St. Mary's. They love the space but feel on edge whilst their child is roaming. Keeping the rocking horse is a must though- so loved by parents and children here.
- An area for prams to park that is a designated area- it isn't clear where to put them, so it makes the space feel unwelcoming and may spark anxiety in a stressed out parent.

What do you think about the current balance between church use and community use?
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- Greater community use possible – concerts, exhibitions, social events, providing regular worship and private prayer options not downgraded
- It is good that its used by the community for recitals, concerts etc
- Seems no connection between church school and church. Lack of young people is apparent -could you restrict/pressure entrance to school on condition of church attendance? Why not encourage Beavers etc [visitor comment]
- Greater community use should be encouraged. The church is an excellent venue for concerts and this and the organ (famous for recitals) should be encouraged.
- New heating extends the possibilities for use by groups both secular and religious
- Needs to be used more by all
- $\frac{3}{4}$  church  $\frac{1}{4}$  community
- We think there is a reasonable amount of balance but it can always be improved with more concerts, plays, and other events
- Does the town have any youth groups who would be able to benefit from access to the building
- About right at the moment
- The balance is good as the church appears to attract increasing usage
- Fairly good
- The current balance is fine
- Pretty good and improving.
- It has little community use. It could easily accommodate more.
- Fair balance. Would not like to reduce the atmosphere of a place of worship
- About right, considering other venues available in town
- Good
- Good – there seems to be a wide range of community, schools and church use
- It is a focus for schools
- Not able to comment really but doubt there is enough community use
- More concerts and recitals
- Don't know
- Don't know what the balance is
- Ok but could be used more by both church and community
- Possibly ok at present but could be very much developed if people thought of 'church' differently
- More community use could easily be accommodated
- I don't know of much happening in St Mary's barring the annual ceilidh
- There is scope for a lot more community use. This happens a lot more now with concerts and exhibitions. There is a need for people to feel that the church really belongs to the community
- Seems a fair balance at present – but not aware of all that currently goes on.
- Not sure what else St Mary's is used for but I imagine with current facilities it's not that attractive to outside community groups?
- The community can ask if they want to use it. They have to pay for hire which is fine but a better arrangement may encourage more use
- Given its current inflexible setup the balance is good. I have visited the church for harvest supper (including dancing), school carol concerts, Passover, art exhibitions and unwrapping advent
- Each have a different but complementary role and should be kept like that. People need independence and freedom but Christian society needs constant resources and guidance

- Currently, I think the church is used most by visitors. After visitors I think it is used by church community a lot more than the wider Kirkby Lonsdale Community. This is a shame but something I think this project can easily change.

Thinking about the visitors who come to the town, what extra facilities would make the church more useful and/or interesting to them?

- I'm a visitor, love churches, love the history. Don't be too quick to change the interior
- Visitors may value historic role: place for quiet, reflection, commemoration and celebration
- Maybe when the coaches are booked in someone could be on hand to talk about the church building and what goes on in it and the other churches working together
- Prime – café needed - with outside seating area. More signs on main road to church - gates by pub should remain in open position. Church door in porch is too heavy and hard to open [visitor comment]
- Events such as Flower Festival, Art Exhibition
- Printed and audio guides to interior of church and its surroundings
- Tea and coffee making facility and the provision of cake/biscuits (ref Swarthmoor Hall)
- Open toilets
- Colouring/reading and simple games or craft activities for children
- Bookstore/shop as at Cartmel
- Card payment facilities
- Map or details of Ruskin's View/Church history/Radical Steps
- Many use the candle/ prayer stall but not all know where to put their money (box is not clear). I inadvertently left my cup there for a few minutes – got back and it had £3 in it!!
- Perhaps offer teas and snacks in the manner of many refectories in larger churches/ cathedrals.
- A constantly running professionally produced audio visual history dedicated to the church would be interesting for everyone
- Provide a decent self service coffee machine
- Nothing comes to mind. I think most people like me come into the church for a peaceful space to just be, think, pray and see the special features in the church
- An audio visual presentation about church, town and area
- Someone in the church to welcome and answer questions
- Visitors like the church as it is. They don't want to see changes which spoil the interior. This is counter productive. Comments in the visitors book make this plain. Happy visitors will enjoy the church.
- I think visitors are always very appreciative that the church is open, warm and interesting.
- Obviously a guide or provision of coffee would be beneficial but difficult to implement.
- Some facilities for practical things. There should also be consideration of a café. Somehow it would be good to make it an attractive wet weather venue through the activities available.
- Notice boards could be more interesting .eg information re overseas missions - USPG, climate change etc
- Difficult to think of things that would not require more work by VOLUNTEERS (eg coffee shop with appropriate goods) or paying people to assist
- Developing the information available about the church eg. A guided tour leaflet
- Developing the bookstall
- Boards and information developed more professionally
- Guided braille and/or information about church and grounds
- More historical information – maybe on boards
- Informative guides

- Separate quiet area for prayer – someone to talk to if they need help
- Drinks/refreshments
- If people (ecumenical) would be willing to take a turn in staying in the church to stay round, chat, offer refreshment and if wished pray with them
- Toilets/washroom with disability access
- More lively displays of practical Christian goodness and activities, showing visitors what Christians can do
- Maybe copies of modern publications eg Woman Alive and charity events. Big lively posters. Religious cartoons and jokes
- Modern hymn books – the set by the entrance look depressingly ancient even though they contain excellent hymns
- Interactive AV with history of church and town. Café (possibly franchised to local business to obviate competition issues).
- Clear toilets – they are hard to find
- Clear info boards re the church's history
- Café (cheap)
- Audio history and description of the windows and other historic features in the church. Maybe stewards especially at weekends drawn from the community and not just churches.
- Tourist information
- Christian Bookshop/ free literature.
- Nice free public toilets
- Our message on the walls – not just an A4 piece of paper but something eye-catching and different! Video playing all the time?
- Honesty box coffee machine
- Tea, coffee vending machine so doesn't have to be manned all the time
- Screen with meaningful video running – bible verses with nice views etc
- As above, refresh interpretation and consider a simple café offer
- As architectural attractions or places of worship? It depends on what society wants or needs!
- Having a wet play area for kids with paints, lego toys etc. Visitors and even some local families tell me how little there is so to do around here in wet weather.
- A café space that has proper room for prams! So many of the local café's don't.
- Vegan food and drink at the café. It is rare around here and there is a growing market for this. People seek out these cafés and will travel out of their way for them because they are still rare.
- Anything unusual- so on holiday recently I visited a convent that had an area for visually impaired visitors- to feel and touch artefacts/ crosses. Obviously, this kinaesthetic area appealed to a lot more than those simply with vision loss. It was also a place visited by the local schools where as part of their trip they learnt about visual impairment as well as the local convent history. It was an impressive way of conveying some of the Christian message whilst being almost aided by the distraction of the focus on kinaesthetic learning and attempting to get a glimpse into another person's world experience. Really clever and memorable. So anything unusual that won't be found in other local churches. Something visitors will go home, reflect on and tell others about.

Could some of the space be repurposed on a more permanent basis and if so for what?

- Enclose outer north aisle (?glass screen) from organ to vestry to tower. Or more ambitiously, take in baptistry also. For : improved kitchen, social, childrens, meeting and library area, storage
- A bigger book stall - but this may need someone there. Maybe if a party of visitors booked for a tour of the church a book stall could be available
- A café would encourage visitors – even sale of mementos could be a good income (Ruskin's View etc). Rent 'round entertainment area' to local organisations – it could become the hub of Kirkby [visitor comment]
- The corner near the organ could be made into a comfortable seating area with sofa and coffee table and books to provide a private, comfortable area for people to 'be' – or to hold the sofa talks
- Tea/coffee – useful on far side of church -small area for church related gifts
- Why not a welcoming A/V using the kit you already have?
- On the historic side our 2 DVDs could be repackaged into 3 minute bites if someone could set this up. These could be set up interactively eg for each century or for each window. (commission John Hamlett?)
- Yes, the clutter areas could be better organised for displays (as mentioned above) and could also be used for small group meetings
- It could but I think that risks losing the tranquillity and for some the privacy/ anonymity afforded at present
- Providing space for creative arts activities
- Doubtful. Sounds as if it would be likely to spoil the interior. We are lucky to have such a beautiful old building to look after in our town. Lets appreciate that fully.
- Better arranged space for library giving chairs and table and light
- Coffee served for, say, one hour AM, one hour PM
- There are one or 2 maps of the grounds with trees marked – could possibly be enhanced to give more info. I will see if I can get a copy of the leaflet made by Cumbria (KL) Wildlife Trust Group (KL)
- See Parish Church at Burton in Lonsdale where one side aisle has been separated by a very effective half glass wall, for a café. BUT St Mary's does still sometimes need all present seating
- Do we need office space?
- An enclosed separate area built within the building for Sunday school/family use or meetings at other times. Enclosed to allow noise but see through glass to allow visibility to parents etc
- Shop to generate income (would have to be manned and staffed – quite a lot of work)
- Refreshment area
- Yes it could – no ideas presently as I think this will be difficult to get past congregation so that is the first major hurdle
- The Lady chapel could be made into a quiet area for prayer and quiet thought. Perhaps labelled as such with leaflets and booklets about prayer available. The stand for lighting candles could be part of this with a clear notice saying that the prayers in the book are read and prayed each Tuesday.
- Maybe the opposite - keep it flexible and adaptable while the new purposes are emerging.
- Create smaller spaces via partitions and keep them modern and lively to show that the church is not just about tradition and history eg a lively childrens corner, current striking Christian activities
- Café area – see above. Use glass to compartmentalise space in nave. Rethink use of choir/chancel eg use glazing to create a separate small 'traditional' worship space.
- Could space be sectioned off into various 'rooms'?

- Yes, possibly a glass/wooden screen across the back of the church (where the pews start) which could be used for meetings, a weekday café/refreshments and to include a larger kitchen. Hopefully it could be retracted for larger services e.g. Remembrance
- Cultural displays ie. artworks etc
- St Mary's is a vast space (which could be seen as part of its majesty, etc.) which the majority of the time seems to be underutilised.
- Create a series of meeting rooms – organ side of church – with glass walls facing out into church.
- Prayer room? Sofa etc – used by all churches/ visitors, drop in type place
- Christian bookshop area. I like it in other churches and it can be an evangelistic tool.
- Something so different it gets noticed but not a museum.
- If the pews are removed and the current chairs are put to use, there may be scope to repurpose some of the space behind the organ
- The main potential I see is in creating a community café, which I guess will have to be around the same area as the current kitchen. This could become a sustaining hub and a simple way to endorse other activities/projects undertaken by the church community.
- Every other purpose in this space I can see only benefitting from a café. If it became a venue from drama/music or wet play, a café all aids this.

**KLMC**

What are the features that inspire you most?

- Hall and access
- Catering facilities are good
- Warmth and community room
- You always feel welcome
- Not really qualified to comment
- Very little in the church itself
- The proximity and usefulness of the hall are good
- Its quiet simplicity
- The easy link between church and hall and that versatility of different rooms and spaces.
- Great for a small concert setting. Good acoustics.
- Nice spaces
- Music
- People working together
- Simplicity, and flexibility of use in Church and Hall
- Garden for use in summer
- Garden
- Bright, light and airy rooms
- Warm and user friendly
- Warm welcoming peaceful atmosphere
- Intimacy, relaxed atmosphere, warmth of worshippers
- Facilities ie hall, garden and their potential
- The hall is light and warm and the garden useful in summer. The worship space is roomy and can be used for many types of worship. The kitchen facilities make catering an extra facility to offer
- The people and their friendliness, not particularly the building
- Particular events that take place that bring happiness – See and Know, Meet to Eat, yoga classes, Brownies, Mews Choir – all enabled by a practical good building and underfloor heating in the hall. No real aesthetic features other than the lightness of foyer and the hall – regular users find it pleasant to hols groups in
- Having a garden for beauty and enjoyment and safe play
- Bright/ modern/ flexible worship space.
- Excellent hall, kitchen and toilet facilities
- The chapel is beautiful when in use
- The Methodist church is a lovely, safe, family space
- Bright, relaxed and cheerful
- The layout – modern, chilled, welcoming
- The new chairs in the church giving a more flexible worship space
- The facilities in the hall, kitchen and small room
- The large welcoming vestibule and toilet facilities
- Feels cosy and comfortable
- Love the layout and facilities available in the hall
- Light, bright, simplicity of chapel.
- Welcoming – said as a ‘seasoned’ church person.
- A building fit for purpose. Flexible worship area.
- Excellent catering facilities with large hall and lovely aspect into garden.
- The people

- The hall, schoolroom, church, AV system
- The people
- The back room and garden and kitchen are very good spaces and have a very good atmosphere. Church space is better now
- Its hidden location and apparently vibrant, active community
- I find the hall most inspiring- the simplicity of the space holds vast potential. Plus the access to the beautiful garden which I think also holds potential and is underused particularly when you consider how many families in KL won't have a garden so are reliant on the park as a play area

What is less attractive?
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- No character in church
- No directions into chapel
- I find it lacks the feeling of a church – seems more a special meeting place which could be in an hotel
- The upper seating area feels separate and it is difficult to see from it
- The parking
- The poor visibility of the premises from the road
- The main porch of church and unsightly doors (that whole aspect could do with rethinking - if it ever became a high priority)
- Poor storage space – balcony cluttered up
- Poor soundproofing between kitchen and Hall/schoolroom
- Difficulty of access and lack of parking close by
- Front doors/porch make it cold in winter (a new porch would improve this)
- Approach
- Worship space unfinished
- The entrance gate. People are always surprised at what lies beyond. It doesn't look as if KLMC is very welcoming or if much goes on there
- Rather miserable schoolroom, practical but always chilly and a bit depressing when not in use
- Poor entrance way from road. Entrance porch unattractive. Good use of existing building but inevitably constrained by original design including balcony and high ceiling. Arguably creates a compromised space perhaps emphasised by recent forced use of hall for worship which has a quite different feel. Will be interesting to reflect on what people think when we return
- The entrance gates and long passage.
- The rather intimidating Victorian façade of the chapel
- Difficult for people to know about the Hall beyond (round the corner)
- Set back from road so unseen.
- Front door / porch not very welcoming – need to open this up with glass doors and glass porch so the interior is on view – would draw people in . A hidden gem.
- Car parking
- The fact that it's not that obvious when you walk past.
- No car park
- The heating system
- Car parking facilities can be problematic
- This is a very small, minor thing but I think the area before the double glazed area - the entrance lacks greenery. Very small detail. But I think greenery is inviting and that area could be made into a beautiful potted reflective garden whilst still remaining a fire exit gathering place.
- I also struggle with the balcony in church. I think that is a space that could be used better-perhaps as a prayer space? I am aware it will mean only those fit to climb up there could benefit but currently it seems a bit of a forgotten area.

What do you think about the current balance between church use and community use?
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- The hall is well used by the community but the church is not open
- Both could use facilities more
- 50%
- Meet-to Eat (Ecumenical?) is fine but why does St Mary's note regularly feature it on their pew-sheet?
- We find that the interior is light and pleasant and very functional and comfortable
- Balance would be improved if functions could be licensed. Covenant is too restrictive especially as many of the congregation enjoy licensed events elsewhere.
- Pretty good
- Fine. The Methodist Church has the good fortune to have had space for a separate and large room for secular functions and refurbished it splendidly. This cannot be compared with what is possible at the other 2 churches
- Good
- Must recognise the church relies on letting income
- Balance about right for the hall and rooms – the church can use church itself
- Could make more use of church for community use – concerts, talks etc
- Excellent
- I think it's a flexible building – would be good to use the worship room more
- About right
- Church could be used more for performances
- Good but church could be used more
- It is a good mix and brings in an income. It is good for funeral teas and childrens parties as well as regular bookings
- Always glad to see more community use - showing our kindness to people outside church – but now running out of timetable slots. We definitely should not expect to be able to cancel meetings of our regular church users to suit our convenience without their happy consent
- Church too reliant on hall letting income. Could be used for more church (ecumenical) events and as hall for all churches. Possibly move to shared cost model with other churches to offset loss of rental income.
- Good balance
- Aware of a lot of community use of the hall – really usable space
- Not enough but lots of good stuff happening
- It is good as there is good community use of the hall. Maybe there is a need for the worship space to be more accessible on days other than Sunday
- We should strive for maximum use by the community but this requires the 'need'
- Hall – probably just about right.
- Worship space – could be used a lot more.
- Good – again because we have so many people coming in from the community let's put our message on the walls – in the foyer etc.
- Seems quite good. The things that the church hosts eg See and Know, Meet to Eat, help to bring its facilities to the public notice
- Good. Scope for more musical events in the church
- The old question of the mixed function as for the others. Can they survive on their own with all the concomitant costs and issues of administration that could be dealt with under one roof?
- I am aware the halls are used by the community a lot but I am unsure how much cross engagement there is between KL wider community and church community. I suspect more than I am aware of. It is a known venue though in our community- I think it is probably 50/50 balance.

This question was for KLMC only:

If we were to use rooms and gardens for conferences and other events what would your view be of changing the current no-alcohol policy?

- Not sure about changing current policy
- Needs a serious look at the Methodist guidance in CPD and Conferences
- If everyone were guaranteed to drink only in moderation, it would be much easier to consider this question
- Probably leave it unamended
- I do not want to change the no-alcohol policy. Please keep the premises dry. St Mary's allows alcohol
- A risk it could change the character of our user groups, create more noise and disturb our neighbours. It would create more mess and make it a lot more hard work for those who try and keep the building in good order and clean and tidy
- Should be discussed
- I think we should keep our no alcohol policy as having alcohol could lead to problems with unsupervised events. Also it is a statement of who we are- a Christian group
- No problems for me with changing the policy – it has little practical benefit and just makes us look odd and in a timewarp
- Would strongly support for church organised events but may be more problematic for external lettings. If we are to share with St Mary's and St Joseph's must recognise their alcohol policy.
- Keep it with no alcohol – shouldn't up be for discussion
- Change it – move with the times
- Who is going to 'police' this?
- KLMC is within a residential area – need to think of the neighbours.
- Tricky one from a Circuit perspective if we were allowed to change the current policy would we be setting a precedent? May be attractive financially but.....
- Hmm! I personally don't have a problem with alcohol but we wouldn't want drunkenness in our church? If we compromise on this what else might we start compromising on – we need to stick to what we believe! So in conclusion I don't think we should change no alcohol policy.
- Think it's a stigma thing – need to change the thinking that we think alcohol is so wrong. It's not that. We have just found a better way to live and don't need it to be a feature in our lives. Would it do any harm?
- It is part of our Church philosophy and tradition and I would prefer that we did not change the policy. I have attended many social events at church and did not feel that the absence of alcohol affected the experience. We should be proud of this point and accept that some business might be lost to other venues

**St Joseph's**

What are the features that inspire you most?

- The peaceful atmosphere
- It is always open
- The information on what they do in Africa
- Use of space
- Layout of church
- Good meeting room
- Have not been inside
- The plain, almost spartanness of St Joseph's is attractive if surprising for a RC church
- The stations of the cross on the walls around the seating area 'enclosing' anyone in the church
- Its simplicity
- It fits in with its surroundings
- Its compactness. Nice sized church, adequate meeting room and accommodation
- The atmosphere and peace of the church interior
- Peace and calm
- Simple form internally – very beautiful
- How hidden it is!
- Simplicity and small cozy size
- Lovely atmosphere
- Simplicity
- It is always open – during the day the door is ajar
- It seems a pleasant homely facility but not remarkable
- Simple quiet worship space.
- Never been in – good parking!
- It is a welcoming church. The small meeting room/vestry is easy for small meetings/worship
- Simplicity, light
- I don't know enough to comment
- Father Luigi (sic)
- Another little gem hidden amongst the alleyways of K/L currently led by a very charismatic and influential man. Barely used except Sundays and poor parking facilities. Could be re-located and combined with St. M.
- The chapel is beautiful. Has a sense of peace on entering it.

What is less attractive?
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- Catering facilities
- Parking
- The pews perhaps
- Unfortunately the small entrance area is rather small for the amount of literature displayed and has a crowded feature to the displays. It could be kept a little tidier
- Pews
- Not sure how flexible the space is.
- The sanctuary is always a sanctuary- not appropriate to use it in other ways
- Less facilities – toilets etc, small meeting area, pews
- Parish room limitations
- Entrance porch. Uncomfortable pews.
- The small entrance hall. Lack of good toilet facilities. Lack of kitchen other than a corner of the vestry/meeting space
- Pews very uncomfortable. Attached kneelers are a trip hazard!
- Side room and kitchen area need updating
- Overall appearance is 'boring' not exciting, spacious or bright
- Bit off the beaten track. Bad access, not in view of the community
- Its size and location
- Hard to say with this- I haven't spent enough time there to really comment.

What do you think about the current balance between church use and community use?
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- They are limited in space but good use for ecumenical meetings e.g. Lent groups, Quaker meetings
- No knowledge or experience on which to base comment
- Not so good
- It is not Catholic tradition to use the church itself for secular purposes, but to keep it as a holy place. The smaller Sacristy is used for Quaker and Julian group meetings and occasionally for refreshments after mixed services.
- We do not know enough about this to make a fair comment
- I've no idea what the current balance is, so no comment!
- Don't know
- Don't know what goes on
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Not aware of significant community use.
- It is not used much for the community
- I didn't know St Joseph's was used for anything other than church
- Not sure – is the worship space able to be used for anything else? The other space in St Joseph's looks a bit drab
- I do not have enough experience of visiting ST Joseph's to comment
- It is used solely as a Church
- I know Guides and Rangers use this space so I suspect it is used by the community quite a lot but not as much as KLMC. Hard to call exactly the balance. Again, I don't feel I have spent enough time at St. Joseph's to fully comment.

## Sharing

Thinking about KLMC, St Mary's and St Joseph's together:

Have you any ideas for how we might use and share our different buildings more effectively?

- Inside venue for locals and visitors for wet days is required
- Merge!
- We are totally in favour of sharing St Mary's with all residents and visitors but different faiths often prefer their own traditional places of worship
- St Mary's has the space to accommodate many people
- One day, perhaps, one venue (church) will provide a home for all denominations. The largest church has most potential for this.
- Because of the spatial restrictions St Joseph's is not very suitable for sharing. For a large wedding or funeral it occasionally uses St Mary's.
- Generally we think they are used quite effectively now eg. Big 'church' events in St Marys; when a hall or meeting rooms are needed use KLMC etc
- The more important question for me is recognising the attributes and using them appropriately for all the buildings. St Mary's – large and traditionally laid out with no hall. KLMC – medium size, modern internally, modern hall, catering size kitchen, flexible, St Joseph's - small, very simple form, pews
- Seems unnecessary to have 3 churches to pay for the upkeep of
- I think they are used by people of all the churches, depending on what event it is. Not overjoyed at prospect of all trying to use one sanctuary to worship in. Leads to less flexibility in timing and what happens to fellowship time after?
- Improve communication between the churches so more creative use of the buildings which are very different in size and character. We should match event to suitability of venue
- More united services and events
- I think they have different strengths eg. St Mary's is open and welcoming. People like to go to look round and pray. KLMC has practical uses for community events eg. See and Know and Meet to Eat. The people of the 3 churches should help each other more and show a united Christian witness in the town. We should recognise our different strengths and work together
- Would depend on the needs identified. No point in duplicating facilities without good reason. If all buildings are available to the whole community in principle the group leaders would probably make their own choices. Natural choices would emerge eg St Mary's for very large group numbers, Methodists for catering and yoga and the safe garden
- Would strongly support rationalisation of worship spaces across all three churches. Move to time division model of shared worship space. Aware of some church buildings shared by up to three denominations with their own services! Frees up limited resources for mission. Could free up KLMC church and St Joseph's for other uses. St Joseph's for Fresh Expression? KLMC demolish and build new Rectory? Think out of the box!! We do not need three 'traditional' church buildings.
- St Mary's could be a great community space but would take building work and money
- St Joseph's come to KLMC or St Mary's and use St Joes's as a potential youth area, or something more outreach. Make it very modern.
- New ways of 'doing' church to appeal to younger families and continue our growth in ecumenism. Having events across all our churches together for the community. Helping to raise money for St Mary's roof.
- I think a lot of this is happening already.

- Not really any views – something that makes the Christian Community stand out not just blend in. Something that can speak to all ages not just an older generation. Something which makes Christianity attractive not just a tourist attraction. Seek God's view too. He gave quite specific instructions in old Testament etc
- Continue/ expand shared services
- Make use of KLMC community facilities/ kitchen for more events/ occasions
- In view of the overprovision of Churches and the under-utilisation of facilities, this question deserves serious examination. We have one beautiful centrally located establishment which could absorb an agreed, organised amalgamation of communities and therefore make a major financial combination towards the running of a re-furbished St Mary's through the disposal of the aforementioned redundant buildings. Getting the three Churches to agree to such a proposal may require Divine assistance.
- I think we could almost do with a joint booking system, where each time we consider which space will work best for this event or club. I suppose an improvement of the local awareness of our togetherness will also be required for this action to even be considered. Something about looking at each space and seeing each time what would work best where for our community appeals to me but may be impossible.

## The Rectory

Thinking about the Rectory and its gardens, please consider the following questions:

In its present form there are serious questions about its suitability and long term future. Would you prefer it be sold and the proceeds used towards the cost of a new rectory or, if possible, the Rectory be retained by the church and reconfigured or repurposed in some other way?

- Keep it -valuable asset
- Retain by the church as community asset
- Should be retained by church – a good asset [visitor comment]
- I would prefer the rectory to be retained by the church
- Either way but not fit for purpose at present. Prob best sold and money used
- I do not think it should be sold
- It would be wrong to sell the rectory.
- The rectory is a lovely visual building and should not be sold to outside interests. It could be converted into superb apartments and the Rector rehoused into adjacent property
- Prefer it not to be sold. There should be a self-contained part for the rector's private accommodation. The remainder used for parish or rental to others
- It should be retained, reconfigured /repurposed. See supplementary paper
- It could be used to promote in the broadest sense mental health, providing space for workshops – artistic and creative – overcoming loneliness and teaching new skills. A small charge and Lottery funding for the educational elements
- The rectory should definitely not be sold but retained by the church.
- In reality I feel the Rectory may have to be sold. If I was a millionaire, I would remove the top floor, reconfigure the first floor into a flat for rent and reconfigure the ground floor for church office and meeting room
- It would be good if the Rectory could be retained by the church in some way – may be dual use – a Rectory and something else.
- Retain/reconfigure as better home and a meeting place
- This is the hardest question of all. Years ago Mick and Monty Eglyn lived in the flat above/at the top floor of the Rectory. Surely a skilful architect could redesign such an apartment
- Keep the Rectory. Split vertically between house/parish office and meeting rooms
- Retained by the church and reconfigured
- Retain as church property
- Revise internally to provide accommodation for Minister and family and rooms for meetings etc
- Move church office to rectory
- Building should be repurposed not sold
- Prefer it to be retained by the church but used more effectively
- Not sold but improved, reconfigured and/or repurposed
- If possible retained by church and repurposed in another way
- Retain for now and experiment with different purposes – can be sold later if no good use emerges. Possibly some form of retreat/conference centre let out to different users for spiritual purposes
- Would strongly prefer retention for church purposes.
- I would suggest sell the rectory and use the Vicarage and St Mary's Cottage as vicarages for local clergy

- It would be good if it could be retained by the church, but maybe turned into apartments. However, it would be sad if it was sold and greatly changed.
- To be sold
- Needs to be retained as an important part of KL and its history and character.
- Needs to be retained as an important part of KL and its history and character.
- A rehab centre or similar is a great idea but who would run it?? Home for women or shelter
- I don't have enough information to take a view on this critically important question. Need information on value, running costs, essential and desirable improvements, space requirements for use by Rector (separate from home use) layout and existing uses
- Should be sold on open market. K/L currently has suitable property to enable ministers and admin staff facilities to be located elsewhere and funds used to refurbish St Mary's.
- Ideally retained and reconfigured/repurposed.

If you think it should be sold, what suggestions do you have for its use?
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- After loads of money being spent on it, it could be flats, hotel, museum/Centre for Dales NP
- Retain
- Do not sell this building and continue the process the C of E has been following since the 1960s
- Only sell if St Mary's will benefit on an ongoing basis.
- I think the limited access and limited parking would immediately restrict its future use
- Whether it is sold or not, at all costs there must be accommodation for the rector to live there and act as host to small church events
- Do not sell – get architects ideas
- If it were sold, would the church have any control over its use? Or the desires of the new occupants? (large houses are not selling so well at the moment)
- Kept for Christian work in the town
- Retreat centre?
- Holiday – respite
- Conference
- Low cost flats/hostel
- Small scale business premises
- If necessary to sell then must place strong covenants on future use and external changes to preserve uniqueness of setting. HQ for a charity? Local HQ for YDNPA?
- Does it matter? Ideally a home – possibly conversion into flats – most likely a B and B. Would YHA be interested? It is in a good place for a hostel.
- Lose control
- Apartments of even better – nursing home , very badly needed with the growing elderly population – how about Methodist Homes for the Aged (probably not feasible!)
- Housing needs if practicable
- Retreat centre, hostel type place
- Rehab would be good but wouldn't bring money in and already one locally in Littledale
- Hotel, profit-making business for someone. Café on bottom floor – flats above
- A beautiful classic could have many uses OR it could become the central administration centre for K/L's churches

Do you have any views on the future siting of the rectory in the town?
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- Install large kitchen. ALL rooms made into 1 bed living. Rent to locals as communal house. Fire doors on each room. Bathrooms communal. Rota for cleaning kitchen. Each cupboard allocated to a bedroom. Large fridges. Can generate excellent income. Do not sell. This is a big earner for the church and helps locals who need somewhere to live. £50 per week per room. Ssy 10 rooms = £500 per week = £2000 per month = £24k a year. Simple.
- Central and near to church so that people can find the Rector when needed
- Needs to have parking for 3 cars minimum and be within walking distance of church
- Near the church
- Stay where it is
- A sad idea – what's the point!
- Upgrade one of the adjacent properties to provide modern economical accommodation
- Rectory should remain in present building
- See supplementary paper
- Any new rectory must be near the church, certainly that end of town. People want to feel able to go to the rectory easily and quite possibly privately i.e. not on a housing estate
- Rector and family still need comfortable home -top floor needs care -should not be damp if gutters etc are cared for
- I am absolutely of the view that the Rectory is an integral part of the central religious space of Kirkby Lonsdale; conveniently near to the church for the incumbent and attractively sited for any future incumbents. This is my hope. To answer the question, the Rectory should be as near to the church as possible
- keep it where it is, but reconfigured so the Rector and family live in part of it and the other part/s are rented out in some way
- No
- I think it would be good to have the Rectory in the town, and have clergy able to live in the community
- Near the church
- Do we need a "Rectory"? The Rector and family need a nice home but no reason why it has to be on church grounds particularly if another cleric (Wendy) is living in the annexe. We have the church buildings to meet in – what purpose would a Rectory serve?
- Ideally close to church. Could resite vicarage if necessary.
- Good idea
- Difficult to think of a site to build new. Rectory near enough for the Rector to get to services easily. Is there scope to build in the 'stables' – extending the cottage?
- If a new rectory had to be found it would be preferable to be within vicinity of church but in this location houses are prohibitively expensive – so may not be any cheaper than modifying the existing rectory to make it fit for purpose. 'Fit for purpose' rectory would require specific features which aren't easy to find in modern properties so there may be the need to convert, etc.
- No
- It's just a home for a vicar – it could be anywhere!
- No. Aside from it being warm and affordable.

If you think it should be retained, do you think there are uses that might generate income? What suggestions do you have?
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- Do not sell. This is a big earner for the church and helps locals
- Test market for renewable let to sympathetic occupant
- Suggest it converted to tourist accommodation e.g. hostel use for tourists- income to church. Let it to organisation e.g. YHA to receive an annual rent [visitor comment]
- Summer schools for art, music, crafts, writing, local history and use accommodation within town
- Venue for childrens holiday club/after school provision
- Evening classes
- Use gardens – open gardens managed commercially
- Retreat centre
- YHA accommodation
- Office space
- Any uses would require a massive amount of money to make it a good venue for anything
- Holiday lets or part lets/part rectory
- Youth hostel
- Church office – as in past
- Sunday School – as in past
- Keep as the home of the Rector and simply use it more – activities etc even an occasional refuge for clergy!
- The rectory could be used for more local meetings, gatherings etc – with the permission of the Rector of course!
- Perhaps occasional accommodation for clergy. Look at Rydal Hall a great success. Perhaps learn form them – on a smaller scale of course
- The ground floor could be used to house the parish office and also provide a decent sized meeting room for hire by community groups. The upstairs would make very nice apartments
- Possible use of part of Rectory for provision of short holidays for disadvantaged families, young/older people
- Maybe rent out the top floor. Ground floor could be used as space to hire for events, clubs
- See supplementary paper
- If it is not going to stay as the rectory, it should be used by the whole town – young, middle aged, old, whatever. Different activities for different age groups
- Retain. Could part be rented out for ‘occasions’?? (problem – separate kitchen)
- 1. Conversion of top storey as a flat or offices for the church, meetings etc. 2 Some years ago the Parish of Egton-cum-Newland (Lancs) removed the top storey of the church to ease costs. As the top storey here was a late addition, and it seems the roof needs work anyway, this might be a possibility. This would not generate income but would decrease running costs. 3. **TURN INTO AN ECUMENICAL RETREAT CENTRE, RESIDENTIAL. ONCE LOST TO THE CHURCH, IT WOULD BE LOST FOREVER. WITH VARIOUS (SCRIPTURE) COURSES, WALKS, APPROPRIATE FILMS, SPECIFIC COURSES EG FOR PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH TERMINALLY ILL, FAITH AND THE ARTS, VISIT TO QUAKER TAPESTRY, FURNESS ABBEY ETC. WOULDS PROVDE DOMESTIC JOBS, JOB FOR MANAGER, VISITING LECTURERS, BUT ALSO GENERATE GOOD INCOME AND RETAIN RELIGIOUS CONNECTION** *[the capital letters are reproduced here as written]*
- Meeting rooms could be let to other organisations
- As holiday lets/apartments
- As rented homes(s)
- Auditing what needs to be done to make the building much more energy efficient
- My suggestion would be to have 1 or 2 floors for use by the Church/community- probably not a single large room, so for meetings etc. Needs a lot more investigation to give more details. Have seen this work at a church I attended previously

- Could it be upgraded so part of building still used as the Rectory but other part as meeting rooms/small business premises or small scale accommodation. Could part of the building be used for Sunday School facilities for St Mary's?
- Could it be used for museum/historical information on KL area?
- Flat for caretaker for both churches. Multiuse of many rooms eg. counselling service, branch of Citizens Advice, baby clinic facilities, conference rooms for church and community, youth work facilities
- First choice a retreat/spiritual refreshment centre
- Conference/ retreat centre – would need to solve parking. Respite centre. Holiday home/ sabbatical centre for clergy? HQ for a charity? Move Tourist Info? Local HQ for YDNPA?
- The church could convert it into affordable flats to rent out or potentially run a hostel in it
- Make use of everything in there – split it off – have B&B and employ someone to run it
- Apartments, B&B – rental income for the church
- Reconfigure the building so part of it can be turned into fit for purpose, affordable accommodation for the minister - a self-contained flat with private access, etc. Refurbish the ground floor rooms so they can be used as meeting rooms, a large function room (the bay window room) (far more attractive and preferable to any the Lunesdale Hall can offer) and a catering kitchen. Convert top floor into small offices for start-up businesses – would need separate access/entrance, etc. Disabled access would be an issue though.
- Make it into flats – rent out but the cost of doing it would be immense – get a TV programme to redesign it!!!
- My instinct says this would be the better option, subject to knowing more about the values and costs of upkeep. However, unless there is a proposal to, say, divide the property up into letting holiday or other rental accommodation, the Rectory will not generate income. As long as it is required/ used as a Rectory by a Rector, the better question is how might we reduce costs.
- PS Additional thought: does the layout of the Rectory allow for the top floor to be partitioned and let out or used as office space?
- I think it has a lot of potential. It could become a space where each room holds different classes for upskilling people e.g. pottery, woodwork, cookery. Would be good to link this with any activities or changes to St. Mary's church. Also be good to have some classes you pay for and some you don't; could be a place where certain skills are taught to enable people to enhance their cv, if they are struggling, for whatever reason, to find work.
- Could become a place where some rooms have different activities for people and families on rainy days- a bit like Wray castle has done where you pay to visit and explore the place.
- Could make one room a sensory play room- I know sensory play is hard to find locally and this would be a huge hit with local families and visitors.

Do you have any other comments?
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- As clergy personnel change, might adjacent property be suitable for Rector?
- If possible make parking area for hostel or church use – property value should increase in Kirkby – hold onto it! [visitor comment]

- Could the use of the church as a wedding venue be more widely advertised and the rules for its use as such be reviewed?
- Employ a proactive marketing person to approach and capitalise on the church's assets -history – Ruskin et al – organ for recitals – bells
- Recalling that it was once the National Base for a Women's Organisation maybe some current charitable cause (ex-London?) might welcome it.
- IT SHOULD NOT BE SOLD
- The Rectory building is all part of what makes St Mary's and the churchyard such a welcome and attractive place
- The top floor should be removed, which would reduce the long term costs of maintenance. The grade 2 listing would not be affected, since the building would thereby be restored to its original 18<sup>th</sup> c structure
- Need the views of an architect
- If considering selling and if offering more rooms for meetings etc impact of traffic is a serious consideration.
- Would a sale also involve selling the Vicarage and other rented property?
- Does Rectory have preservation order on it? Is it of any historical value? That would attract money from any 'Historic England' organisations
- I think it should be upgraded to provide a warm and comfortable home with rooms on the ground floor being repurposed for public use eg offices, meeting rooms, small events but with a separate, discreet entrance perhaps at the side of the building
- The exterior seems to suit the church/churchyard complex well as it is. Don't know enough about internal layout but presumably upgrades could be made to enable a purpose
- Could build new Rectory in garden or Glebe field? More radically move to KLMC site?
- Can we have a tour around the Rectory so we can have a real thought and insight into what its like and its style
- Is the rectory listed?
- Plenty of creative, 'out of the box' thinking needed on this one.
- No car parking is an issue again and access, but positionally very good
- As a listed building there is limited scope for major re-modelling of the Rectory. This Rectory building has such a strong association with the church and with the sense of place in K.L. If we focus on improving the costs, we might investigate scope for investing in a ground or air source heat pump to keep it warm for example
- All of the above depends on how we see the future – dwindling congregations, falling numbers of vocations to the priesthood, abolition of faith schools, cultural broadening of our society, plus world political/ social situations don't make for easy/ positive future

## The Churchyard

The churchyard is a very special setting and it is much appreciated by those who write comments in the visitors' book.

Have you any suggestions as to how we might further enhance it?

- More hardstanding and benches, perhaps picnic areas to encourage visitors – more waste bins [visitor comment]
- Some more seating areas
- Beautiful as it is
- It is fine as now, esp. now that we also have the ashes part.
- Wonderful flowers and wild life
- A wonderful space. Celebrated by Wordsworth, Turner, and Ruskin. Lovingly maintained by volunteers. No change please!
- We have a considerable number of fallen headstones in the graveyard. We should try to show due respect and find a way to get these headstones 'resurrected'.
- It is excellent and it is extremely well maintained and well used and appreciated by locals and visitors
- I am glad to hear that the wild flower areas are important. Lets keep on trying to improve them. Well done to all the gardeners, mowers etc
- Its perfect as it is.
- The churchyard is in a fine condition and apart from general tidying is demanding enough as it is
- Increase the number of benches
- Develop an 'in memory' path, similar to those of Rydal and Grasmere. This would potentially also be a good fundraiser
- I like it as it is. Maybe develop the wildlife aspect more
- Planting more trees
- Have areas of seating benches available
- By making a ramp into the churchyard from the entrance near the Sun Hotel. It is dangerous to walk around on the road to the other gate with a wheelchair, or a pushchair and small children
- Maybe have the lawn area in front of the Rectory set out with benches and an official invitation for people to use it for sunbathing, picnics etc. What a lovely relaxed setting. Ideally resite the gravestones in that area.
- Although grassed area is well maintained the planted areas are less so including the garden of remembrance.
- Have more wild flowers and a water fountain
- Planting up the bed from the Fairbank entrance to the church. When Dorothy Sargeant was alive she maintained it and it looked beautiful
- More seating
- Picnic benches?
- The little round gate house (unsure of it's name) could be used as a place for reflection, or small taize services, or as a space for people to come and paint the view in front of them. It is small, but currently it is just locked away, I think because there has been graffiti. To me this little place looks like a sanctuary in the making.

Space for burials in the churchyard extension is going to be an issue in the near future. Do you have any suggestions, e.g. reopening the churchyard around St Mary's for burials if possible or looking for a new area for burials?

- Might Underley Estate release more land?
- New burial area preferred, tidy up existing graves and highlight historical ones [visitor comment]
- Either of these options
- Look for new area
- Either
- Do not reopen the churchyard for burials
- Far side of the Motte?
- The current area being used for burials needs to be extended into the Glebe Field as this is the logical and practical solution as well as offering an attractive vista
- Some space around church could be reopened and/ or part of Glebe Field and Cockpit Hill
- People would possibly be more comfortable if the churchyard could be reopened
- Do not reopen the area around the church – it would of necessity mean moving all the old grave stones. The Glebe field would be a possibility or even better to acquire a piece of land next to the new burial ground if possible
- I wouldn't like to see a mix of new headstones around St Mary's. A new area would be better.
- KL branch of Cumbria Wildlife have a leaflet on the plants and animals to see (it needs to be reprinted. I will pursue that. KL Wildlife Trust might have fresh ideas. How is the marquee – we used to have barbeques, Songs of Praise and snacks on summer evenings
- Reopen the church yard. More immediately, many graves need cleaning and the wording redone
- Possibly reopen the church yard for burials – prefer to use the Glebe Field
- Either of these would be needed
- I don't know what the rules governing this are
- Do we have to have burials? In this day and age?
- Look for new area
- No comment, too many issues
- Reopening the churchyard would change the feel and attractiveness of the present old churchyard by introducing modern regimented gravestones. Would look for more land adjacent to new graveyard or possibly part of Glebe Field.
- Both. There is space for further burials
- Look for a new area for burials
- Asking Underley Estates to donate some more land adjacent in Underley Park. It would be a pity to use the old churchyard as so many visitors use this area as a 'park'/sitting area
- Whatever is appropriate and legally possible to do. No strong views on this
- I think reopening the churchyard around St Mary's would be OK
- The obvious place for an extension would be to use part of the adjoining Glebe Field
- Burial practices are changing rapidly. Times newspaper recently featured a process whereby human remains can be returned to recyclable material in 30days – yes in America! Land is becoming scarcer and its availability is not finite (sic). We live for 70 or so years – do we need tombstones that last for much longer and are possibly less influential?
- Sorry, this isn't my field of knowledge.

## Glebe Field

Are you aware of its existence?

22 people answered Yes

2 people answered No

The glebe field has stunning views over the Lune Valley towards Casterton and Barbon. What ideas do you have for how it could be better used?

- Church and approved social group events/services
- Perhaps as grave area
- Open air services – a covered area would need to be provided
- Community BBQ
- Conservation area -managed by CWT/schools...?
- Park with picnic tables, seating and possibly pond for ducks etc
- Put up a kick about goal post so kids can have informal fun in there. Have gates open for set times daily.
- Needs some maintenance. Used to be covered in daffodils in Spring. Too many sycamores have been allowed to seed themselves.
- The top half of the Glebe Field is the natural extension of the graveyard and the bottom area could be set out as a picnic spot
- Space, as now, between the graves and (busy) Brow. Use part to extend graveyard
- See supplementary paper
- We used to have services there in the summer with a marquee. The gate recently acquired a notice saying 'private' – not very welcoming
- It would make a nice picnic area but we must be mindful of the Rectory etc and churchyard.
- Needs care to avoid rabbit holes but has been used for childrens games etc
- None, except that it could be used for people to sit and enjoy a peaceful haven. KL is in danger of too many busy attractions
- Use Glebe Field for burials when current graveyard is full
- It could be used as an outdoor area for open air events – but that needs people to organise them
- The greatest challenge is access, especially vehicular access if developing it or eg a wedding venue – food, tables, crockery, cutlery
- If we sell the rectory do we still have access to the Glebe?
- If using Rectory for respite, conference, holiday accommodation the Glebe is an added benefit
- Could the gardens be developed? Have it opened for public use – weddings functions etc?
- More inviting access and attractive planting as it is very dismal presently
- Messy church picnics
- Open air services of celebration eg Easter, Pentecost
- Certainly use it for something much more often, a glorious piece of land hardly used. Could make it available to people on Ruskin's View under certain circumstances
- Open/ hire for open air church/ community events. Possible site for new rectory? Possible site for graveyard extension?
- A lot of events are held at the Rugby Club – could any be held at Glebe? Could space be rented for camping during events?
- Opening up to public with seats and a good path and signing about its history. It would however need good maintaining – difficult

- No vehicular access restricts use for setting up for functions, etc.
- No vehicular access restricts use for setting up for functions, etc.
- More awareness that it exists. Community Events? Kirkby Sports Day?
- Again open and welcoming – children's play?
- Some for a graveyard extension, some for allotments, some retained for existing uses
- Who does it belong to? Is it an asset of a local body/ individual – benefactor?
- Yes. It would be great to have this space more often open for the wider community. A place to perhaps try forest church, have a permanent tepee, to provide that outdoor but sheltered experience.

## Cockpit Hill

Thinking of Cockpit Hill please consider the following questions?  
Were you aware of its existence?

14 people answered Yes

6 people answered No

Do you think it has any potential as a tourist attraction?

- No, but occasional visitors might value a directional beacon showing places of interest
- Not sure where it is
- Could its history be explored and retold?
- Conservation area?
- Yes – make most of view in Middle Ages – could tie up with museum of history of Lune Valley/Dales - in Rectory? There are lots of Roman sites around too. Charge £5/donations?
- Don't know
- Discuss with Civic Society for an info panel on the top
- Discuss with Town Council for safe stepped access to top
- Maybe reconstruct the original Saxon Palisade?
- Yes but low-key please. Access perhaps on special days. Perhaps even limited and selective camping facilities as in many Youth hostels.
- We don't know enough about it to make comment but if it is an ancient monument it could be linked to Ruskin's view in some way to make a point of interest for visitors. The motte is quite a big area and will take a lot of work to clear and maintain
- No, not a tourist attraction. Open space around the churchyard is special and a buffer between the graves and the bustling Brow. The churchyard could extend into that area
- I wouldn't think Cockpit Hill itself would be a tourist attraction but a board telling people its history and all about it similar to the board near the Fairbank gates would be good.
- If we could ever get it cleared it would be a great addition to the picnic area.....kids can run up and down enacting allsorts!
- For a start it would be good if it were properly grassed and there was obvious access from the river side path.
- Do you mean where there was said to be a Roman fort? To open up for public use makes the Rectory rather vulnerable
- Cockpit Hill is included as a preserved feature on a numbered card in the archive of the Lancaster University Rescue Unit or its successor. It cannot be changed without permission.
- Not really. Only as viewpoint
- Clearing the undergrowth
- Not sure of its appeal as a tourist attraction
- If historical information board could be developed
- It must be a well kept secret

- Would Historic England or National Trust be interested in developing it? Does its history make it a potential tourist attraction? Could it be opened to the public from time to time?
- Signage and plaque would raise profile similar to Ruskin's View
- Yes if linked into the Glebe Field with easy access- again a magnificent spot currently hidden away, what a pity
- Yes but needs careful thought. Needs better signposting and possibly clearing. Could be handed to English Heritage to maintain?
- Definitely!!! I wish I had known about it! I have a lot of friends who would be interested in the history
- A reflection point
- A cross with a posting hole for private prayers etc
- Yes if the history of it was made clear and it was sympathetically cleared of overgrowth and fenced so children couldn't damage it. It is part of KL heritage and we should be proud of this 'mott and bailey' castle
- Possibly if history information boards were put up, etc.
- Maybe children's play?
- No. It might be interesting and could be made greater use of (with interpretation) but it will not make any money.
- No- I cannot think where this is.

### **THE USE OF THE RECTORY, VICARAGE, & COTTAGE**

There are three 'church' buildings. They back onto the Glebe Field and the Motte. The site is one of the most attractive in the Lune Valley and should not be disposed of lightly.

The Rectory is an 18th Century Grade II listed building and stands three storeys high. The Vicarage is 19th Century. Between them lies a 17th Century cottage, St Mary's Cottage.

This debate about how we move forward on a number of fronts presents us with exciting, totally new opportunities. The easy way out, perhaps, is to dispose of what we consider too expensive, antiquated, or past its best. The challenge is how to better utilise what are still worthwhile assets.

Put out of your mind what these three properties are currently used for. Visualise them simply as structures offering great potential for development which would benefit all three denominations in the town, the wider community, as well as visitors and tourists.

This area of church-owned property and land is extremely valuable not only in cash terms but also in environmental and historical terms.

What is considered necessary?

1. A home for the Rector and his/her family, if any. So, adaptable space with bedrooms which could double as studies.
2. A property which might be let or leased, providing income.
3. An ecumenical church office, serving all denominations in the Rainbow Parish.
4. Storage space for documents, books, chairs, technical equipment (AV for example).

What else is possible?

1. A historical/cultural/heritage exhibition area; to include items from our churches and, perhaps, some of the treasures currently in Carlisle. This could be pay-to-enter.
2. A church gift shop - I emphasise church. Guide books, church mugs, church tea towels, fridge magnets, book marks, other religious literature and artefacts. The range could be wider than the Rainbow Parish..
3. A tea room offering light refreshments.
4. A small heritage trail which would take people round the Glebe Field and Motte. How important are they? What are they? Why are they here? (The field and motte, not the people!)
5. Use the Glebe Field seasonally for performances, entertainment, celebrations. Perhaps encourage an annual 'Ruskin's View Painting Competition.' Or a photographic competition?

There are clearly practical difficulties. These include disabled access. But there is room for a disabled lift in the present Rectory (see Mansergh Farm shop this side of Kendal).

If any or all of this was embraced, it would further develop co-operative working with a wide variety of groups in the community, some of them perhaps surprising and previously not considered - the Chamber of Trade, accommodation providers, our own Blue Badge qualified Visitor Guide, the Town Council and the Community Interest Company, for instance.

Lastly, if any or all of this merited further investigation, consider an architectural competition. We have several companies operating within the Rainbow Parish. This would be further community involvement.