



# St Lawrence Church

LECHLADE-ON-THAMES



*God bless you all and many thanks<sup>1</sup>*

January 2022

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<sup>1</sup> One of the comments received

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## Summary

This is the largest consultation carried out by St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) and for all those who took the time to visit the presentation, read the information provided and complete the questionnaire, we sincerely thank you.

### Background

The initial consultation for the restoration and reordering of St Lawrence Church, Lechlade, carried out in October 2018, resulted in 119 completed questionnaires providing overwhelming support for the project objectives – restore the building for the next 120 years, support worship and wellbeing of the church, enable flexible use of the building for all services and events, create access for all abilities and provide enhanced facilities including toilets, enhanced kitchen and an improved audio-visual system. This initial consultation was carried out over four weeks.

To achieve these objectives, the Project Inspire team together with its conservation architects, and with support from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), has developed a design which encapsulates all the objectives within the existing church.

### Objective

The 2021 consultation was carried out to seek views from the church community and the wider population on whether the presentation of the design met the above objectives supported in the 2018 consultation.

We received a range of suggestions and professional advice which were used in the development of the proposals. The presentation in the church represented the outcome of this process which has the support of the PCC and the DAC.

### Consultation process

We informed the community in advance of the presentation in the church through communications delivered across the town, using the church website, a display in the library window and posters on noticeboards and in shops. We invited visitors in small groups to view a specially prepared video, to see the presentation on various boards around the church and to test a sample of church chairs.

This report summarises the results of the responses to the questionnaire, focusing on the six main outcomes and 15 specific questions. Our analysis presents results from the whole community, from those who regularly attend church services in Lechlade and others who either do not attend church or did not provide this data. We also report on chair selection where there was much interest and significant support for one particular design.

### The 2021 consultation

This presentation, including a video, display boards and sample chairs was widely advertised within the church and across the town. It was open for all to view over the period 14<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> October.

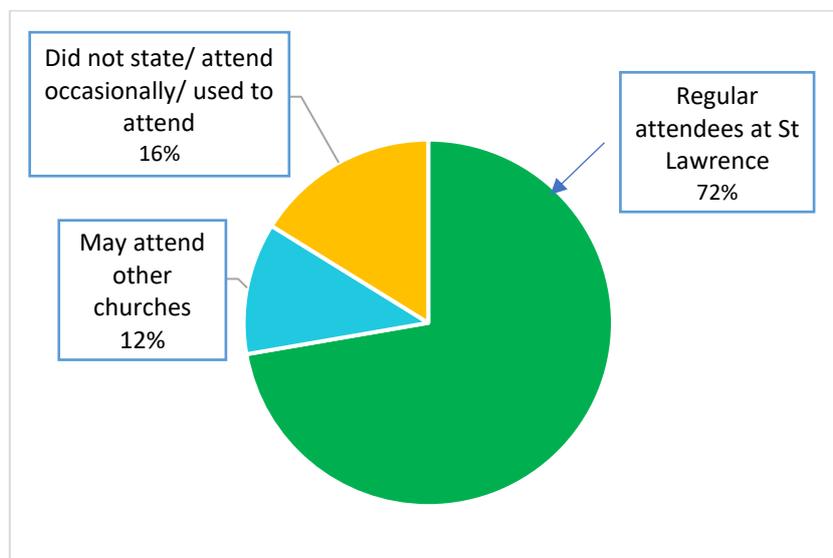
### Questionnaires submitted

We received 155 responses, half from on-line responses and the other half from paper submissions. The number of questionnaires returned represents 7.1% of the Lechlade population over 18; the population over 18 in Lechlade was 2176 in 2020.<sup>2</sup> For those who regularly attend St Lawrence church, the response represents 74% of those on the electoral roll.

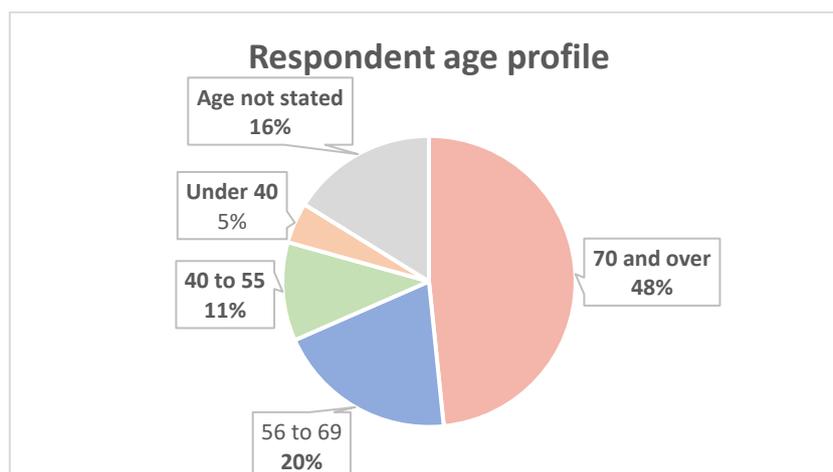
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<sup>2</sup> Office of National Statistics

**Figure S1 - Distribution of responses by regular church attendance**



**Figure S2 - Distribution of responses by age group**



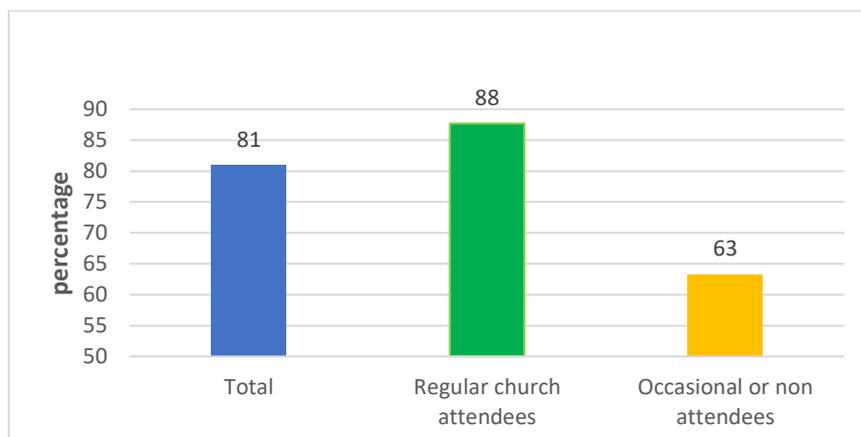
### Overall findings

From an aggregation of responses to the 15 individual questions:

- (i) 81% of respondents supported the proposals with a range of 79% to 86.5%;
- (ii) 88% of respondents who attend church regularly supported the proposals with a range of 75% to 92%;
- (iii) 63% of respondents who attend church regularly supported the proposals with a range of 58% to 72%.

Figure S3 shows the **average** level of agreement from all respondees, regular church attendees and occasional or non-attendees for all 15 questions about the project components.

**Figure S3 - Aggregate support for the proposals (%)**



**Findings by outcomes**

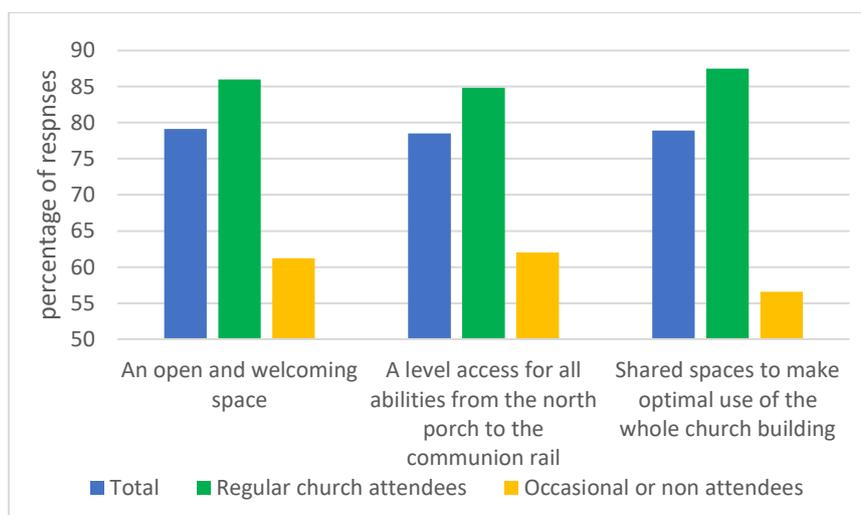
[An open and welcoming space](#) included a lighter floor finish in Purbeck limestone, new chairs to replace the existing heavy pews and relocation of the choir screen to the west gallery. This outcome was supported by 79% of all respondents and 86% of regular church attendees.

[Level access to all from the north porch to the communion rail](#) included opening the north porch a raised floor to provide level access and accessible toilets under the proposed gallery. This outcome was supported by 79% of all respondents and 85% of regular church attendees.

[Shared space to make optimal use of the whole church building](#) included the chancel, the ringing chamber, multi-use areas at the west end and combined vestry and parish office. This outcome was supported by 79% of all respondents and 88% of regular church attendees.

The response from all respondees, regular church attendees and occasional or non-attendees to these three outcomes is shown in Figure S4.

**Figure S4 - Support for specific outcomes (%)**



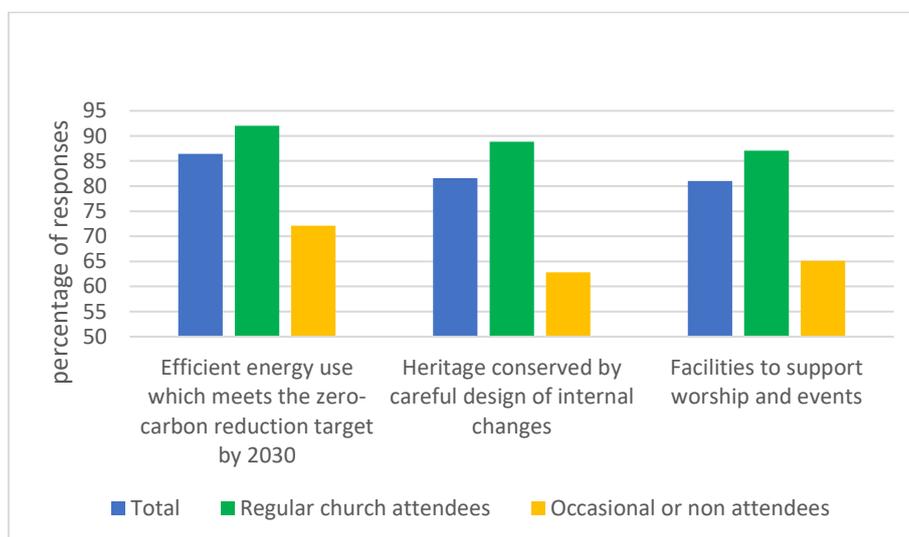
[Efficient energy use which meets the carbon reduction target](#) included an air source heat pump, underfloor heating and new and improved lighting. This outcome was supported by 86% of all respondents and 92% of regular church attendees.

[Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes](#) included reinstatement of the west balcony, reordering of the south chapel area and restoring the south door. This outcome was supported by 82% of all respondents and 89% of regular church attendees.

[Facilities to support worship and events](#) included provision of enhanced audio-visual systems and a larger kitchen for light meals. This outcome was supported by 81% of all respondents and 87% of regular church attendees.

The response from all respondents, regular church attendees and occasional or non-attendees to these three outcomes is shown in Figure S5.

**Figure S5 - Support for specific outcomes (%)**



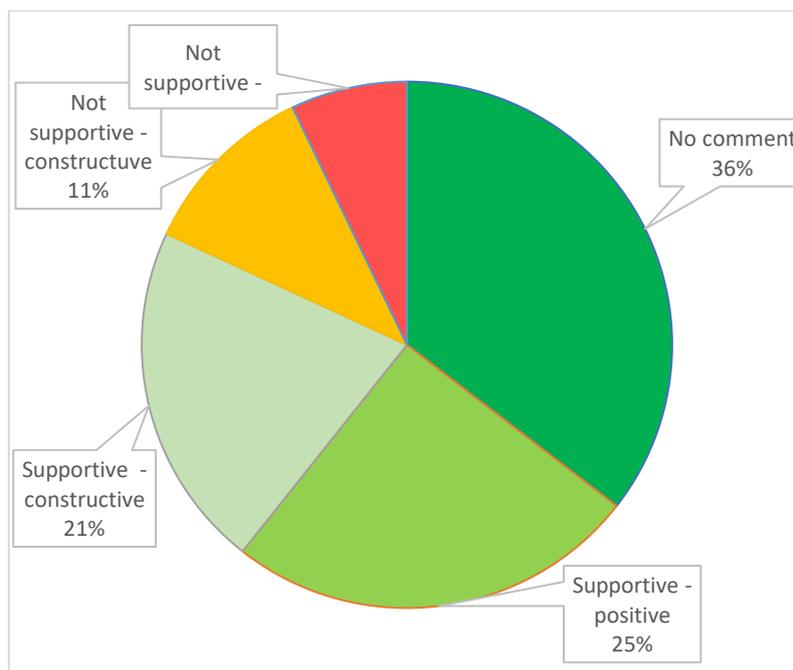
### Comments

We received 100 written comments in the on-line and paper questionnaires. Figure S6 below shows the analysis of these comments by content:

- (i) Supportive - positive;
- (ii) Supportive - constructive;
- (iii) Not supportive - constructive;
- (iv) Not supportive - negative.

The extent of 'no comment' responses, predominantly positive, is also included in the analysis.

**Figure S6 - Distribution of comments by category**



We tested the relationship between the classification of comments and the response to the summary comments. While we noted some inconsistencies, the outcome showed support for the proposals is broadly in line with the 80% from the average individual scores.

There were further written submissions outside the questionnaires. We have taken these comments into account in our review of submissions, but these are not included in the questionnaire analysis.

There was no one topic which was significant in relation to the total responses to the survey.

Some of the comments related to more than one topic. These ranged from chairs and pews, the north porch, screens, audio visual, heating, gallery, meeting rooms, access and the side chapel, use of the Church Cottage and costs. We have noted all comment on each of these topics. These will be taken into account as the project develops.

### **Next steps**

The result of the consultation shows significant support to the reordering proposals which we shall report to the DAC. A minority of responses did raise some questions which we shall consider as we refine these proposals.

### **Chairs**

A sample of six chairs was made available from suppliers during the presentation period. There was overwhelming support for the Theo chair, shown right.

