‘Worship in Lockdown’

Analysis of Online Clergy Survey

1. Introduction
   1. On 4/5 May, an online survey was posted out to all stipendiary and self-supporting clergy in the Diocese of Carlisle (130 people).
   2. The following analysis is drawn from responses received by Monday 11 May, 2020.
   3. The seven-question survey explored what worship platforms were being used following the closure of churches for public worship on 23/24 March.
   4. In total 79 responses were received, covering 297 churches. **Thank you to all those who took part in the survey.**
   5. The following analysis provides an indicative snapshot of the various ways that churches across the Diocese of Carlisle are continuing to engage in worship during the COVID-19 lockdown.
2. Question Responses
   1. ***How are you continuing to worship during lockdown?***

The statistics as laid out in Table 1 below show a strong uptake in churches using digital platforms to provide worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the main findings include:

* 59% of respondents have use pre-recorded services, particularly for Sunday/weekday services, 70% have promoted other diocesan services, particularly around Sunday services.
* 44% of respondents have chosen to livestream particularly for Sunday/weekday services
* Just over 50% have offered up non-digital synchronised services
* 50% have engaged via video conferencing for services, mainly for services and small group work
* Less than 10% have used telephone conferencing technology, mainly for services
* Whilst 50% have engaged with video conferencing, mainly for small group/coffee mornings
* Video conferencing also represents the greatest engagement for PCC meetings

Table 1: Analysis of worship platforms

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sunday Service | Weekday Service | Small Groups | Coffee Mornings | PCC Meetings | Total Respondents |
| Pre-recorded service (filmed in advance and then broadcast on e.g. YouTube, Facebook Live, Vimeo) | 97.87%  46 | 38.30%  18 | 12.77%  6 | 6.38%  3 | 4.26%  2 | 47 |
| Promoting other diocesan service (signposting to other local church online services/resources) | 96.43%  54 | 30.36%  17 | 10.71%  6 | 3.57%  2 | 0.00%  0 | 56 |
| Promoting national CofE service (links to e.g. CofE YouTube, Facebook Live) | 98.18%  54 | 38.18%  21 | 10.91%  6 | 1.82%  1 | 0.00%  0 | 55 |
| Live streamed service (filmed and broadcast live on e.g. YouTube, Facebook Live, Vimeo) | 80.00%  28 | 57.14%  20 | 22.86%  8 | 5.71%  2 | 2.86%  1 | 35 |
| Simultaneous service (orders of service already distributed allowing people to worship in synchronicity but not digitally) | 85.71%  36 | 42.86%  18 | 7.14%  3 | 0.00%  0 | 0.00%  0 | 42 |
| Interactive service (led and broadcast live on e.g. Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, etc.) | 65.00%  26 | 37.50%  15 | 50.00%  20 | 12.50%  5 | 12.50%  5 | 40 |
| Live service by phone (using conference call system) | 71.43%  5 | 14.29%  1 | 42.86%  3 | 0.00%  0 | 0.00%  0 | 7 |
| Text chat alongside one of the above (e.g. Zoom, Facebook Live, Church Online) | 78.95%  15 | 26.32%  5 | 47.37%  9 | 0.00%  0 | 10.53%  2 | 19 |
| Video Meeting (group meeting - other than a service - using e.g. Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, etc.) | 13.73%  7 | 11.76%  6 | 80.39%  41 | 27.45%  14 | 27.45%  14 | 51 |

* 1. The following analysis combines two questions: ‘***Prior to COVID-19, what would be an average weekly attendance for your Sunday service(s)?***’ and ‘***How many people are currently joining your Sunday services during the lockdown?***’

An analysis of responses shows that:

* 37 (47%) report an increase in the number of people engaging in different style of worship –v- the figure for weekly attendance for a Sunday service
* 12 (15%) report an increase of more than double
* 18 (23%) report a fall in the number of people engaging through new forms of worship
* 8 (10%) report that congregation numbers have halved
* 7 (9%) of responses indicate parity between average weekly attendance and current attendance.
* 16 (20%) responses cannot be analysed due to a lack of data.

Please note that some respondents registered caution as to what constituted a ‘view’ on social media and subsequently what was the level of engagement.

* 1. ***Nationally, the church has reported an increase in new people exploring their faith. How are you looking to connect further with these people?***

Of the 79 surveys completed, responses to this question included:

* Don’t know – 20
* Facebook/Facebook Group – 18
* Continuing live streamed services – 16
* Email – 11
* Social media/A Church Near You – 10
* Courses – 9
* Face-to-face – 7
* Telephone – 5
* Website links – 5
* Newsletter/online newsletter – 4
* We will not connect – 3
* Leaflets/posters /mailing list– 3
* Mobile app – 1
* Daily podcast - 1
  1. ***Can you explain any plans you may have to continue to provide digital and online worship platforms in the future?***

From the completed survey the following responses are noted:

* Hope to engage/unsure/in discussions – 26
* Plan to broadcast online live streamed services (either r live or pre-rec) – 23
* No plans – 14
* Zoom prayer meetings/committee meetings – 5
* Occasional streaming of special events/services – 3
* Promotion through social media – 2
* Use of A Church Near You resources – 2
* More video production – 1
* Phone line – 1
* Emailed worship sheet – 1
* Vlogs – 1
* Daily Bible reflection – 1
* Zoom Coffee mornings – 1
* Website content – 1
* Facebook/Zoom Sunday schools – 1
* Podcast -1
* Online assemblies – 1