

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL REVEALED

6 July 2016

Thanks to all those who completed the **Congregational Survey** on 26 June – 80 completed forms were returned. Taken along with the visitor survey of the previous two weeks, and a couple of others this is a really helpful ‘snapshot’ both of who we currently are, and what we think about some of the ideas for development, and will help inform our funding bid to HLF – which is due to be submitted by early August.

What did you say?

A full report will be produced for Chapter, and will then be available on request but for now here are some of the more interesting highlights!

Who we are

- Those responding were divided very evenly between male and female
- 4 out of 5 come regularly – with over half coming at least once a week. On the other hand 1 person in 10 was with us for the first time.
- Nearly half were aged over 65, with just under 1 in 5 aged 40 or under
- About 4 in 10 lived in the city and 5 in 10 in the county with 1 in 10 coming from further afield.
- Just under half were in employment and the bulk of others were retired
- Slightly under 1 in 5 have some form of long-term illness, disability or infirmity.
- 7 out of 10 travelled to the cathedral by car. Of the rest half came by bike, a third by public transport, and one in six walked.

What we think

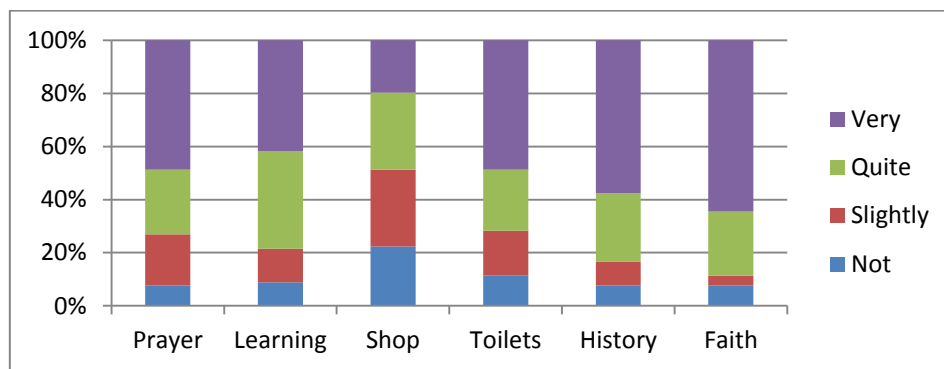
- There was a very high degree of overall satisfaction with their experience of cathedral worship – with 7 out of 10 finding it generally ‘very rewarding’ and the rest ‘somewhat rewarding’
- Asked about our strategic plan strapline (“a beating heart for city and county”) 9 out of 10 agreed this was a good way to describe the cathedral.
- On the policy of inviting donations from general visitors (as opposed either to charging for entrance, or saying nothing) the response was even stronger with more than 9 out of 10 supporting that policy
- 9 out of 10 also believed the suggested figure of £3/adult was ‘about right’.
- 8 out of 10 found the Richard III interpretation panels either ‘very’ or ‘quite’ interesting.

Possible changes

We asked how important change in six specific areas would be, on a scale from 'very important to me' to 'not important'. The possible area of change were:

- A] *A separate place for quiet prayer inside the cathedral*
- B] *A separate learning centre for schools and other groups*
- C] *A permanent shop/sales point inside the building (there is a shop next door in SMH)*
- D] *Publicly accessible toilets inside the building (there are some next door in SMH)*
- E] *Information about the history of the building and its place in Leicester*
- F] *Information about the Christian faith*

The chart below shows how the answers broke down.



Lots of food for thought in there. As ever, if you have any queries, do take the chance to ask me anything, or offer your thoughts. They're always very welcome!

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