

# St Mark's Congregational Music Survey

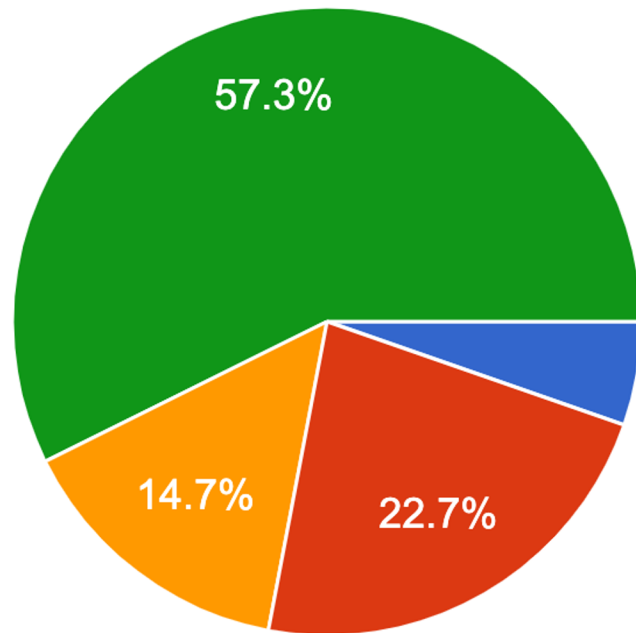
SUMMER 2023

# Overview

- ▶ In April a survey was presented to the 10am congregation at St Mark's, in order to gather feedback to influence decisions concerning the music used during the liturgy and worship more generally.
- ▶ We are now presenting the responses back to the congregation verbatim, along with a brief analysis and any considerations which the music group will try and implement, in light of the data we have collected.
- ▶ We received a total of 77 responses (76 online via the Google Form and one paper submission).
- ▶ Based on the demographical information we gathered, we believe the respondents are broadly representative of the makeup of the regular 10am congregation.

I have been coming to St Mark's for:

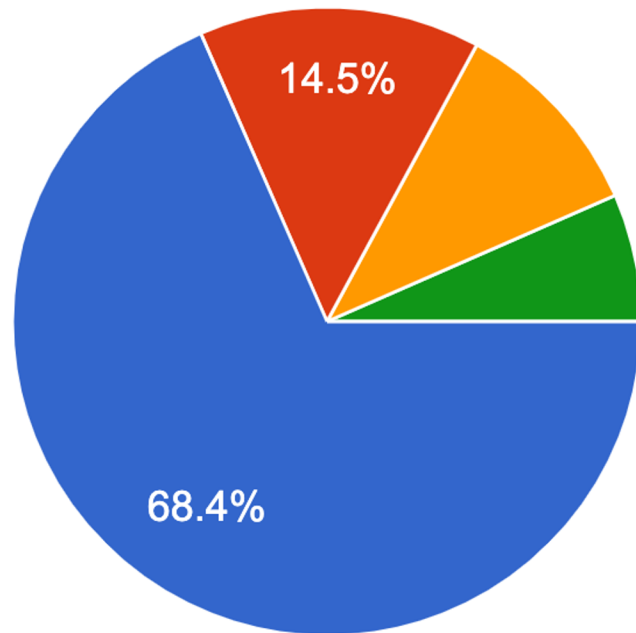
75 responses



- Less than a year
- Between one and five years
- Between five and ten years
- More than ten years

## I usually sit:

76 responses



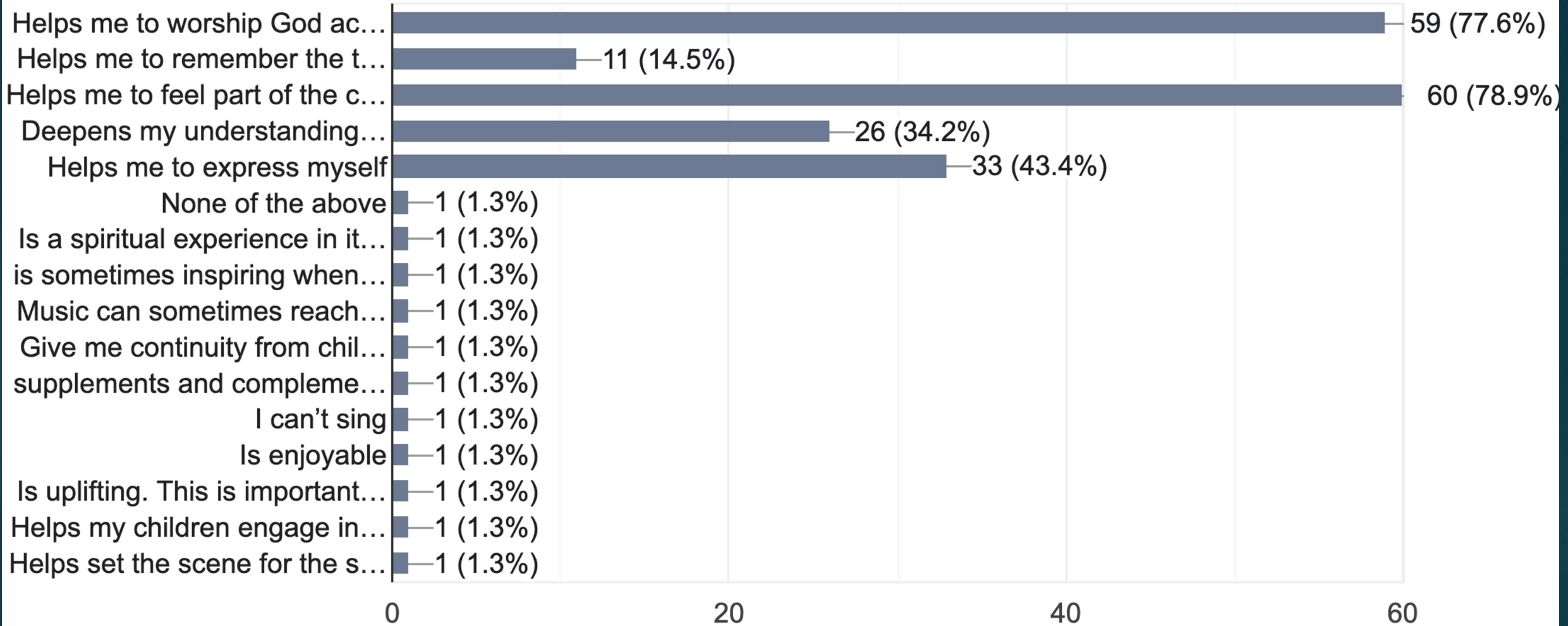
- In the congregation
- In the choir
- Somewhere else in church
- I attend via Zoom

# The role of music in the liturgy

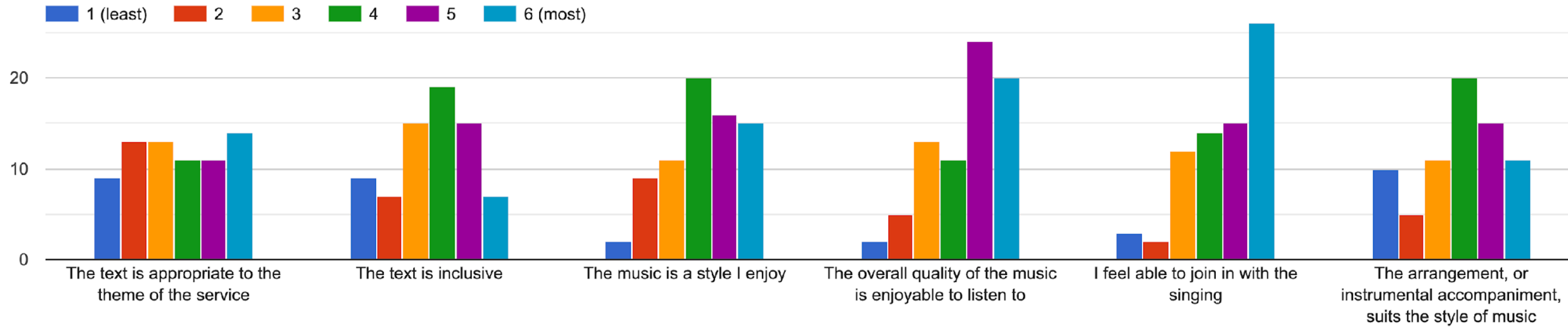
- ▶ The first questions focused on the significance respondents placed on various aspects of the music we use to enhance the 10am liturgy.
- ▶ The most common responses were the congregational music in the liturgy “Helps me to worship God actively and meaningfully” and “Helps me to feel part of the church community”.
- ▶ We found that for many people, the most important thing was that they felt able to join in with the singing, with the overall quality of the music most people’s second highest priority.
- ▶ Notably, these two aspects were rated more significant than the music being of a style the individual particularly enjoyed, or the nature of accompaniment – though it could be argued that these both contribute to the perceived “quality” of the end result.
- ▶ For most people, the text being inclusive was a lower priority, though it was noted that this is an important thing for us to maintain because of the deep significance this consideration has for a minority of the congregation.

# I find taking part in singing congregational music:

76 responses



The most important aspects of congregational music for me are:



# Preferred styles of music

- ▶ Participants were asked to identify all the styles of music they enjoyed being part of the liturgy, and then in separate questions to specify which styles they felt we should do more of, and which we should do less of.
- ▶ Overall, we found that most of the respondents (83%) were pleased that we included traditional hymns, and around the same (82%) were happy about using more contemporary music. Taizé chants were also almost universally appreciated (82% in favour).
- ▶ Setting contemporary words to traditional hymn tunes was less popular (66%), and “songs from around the world” seem to be the least preferred style which we currently do, with only 51% approval.
- ▶ Musical settings of the liturgical texts (Gloria, Alleluia, Lamb of God, etc) were less clear cut, with moderate support for classical settings and slightly less for cantored or folk alternatives.

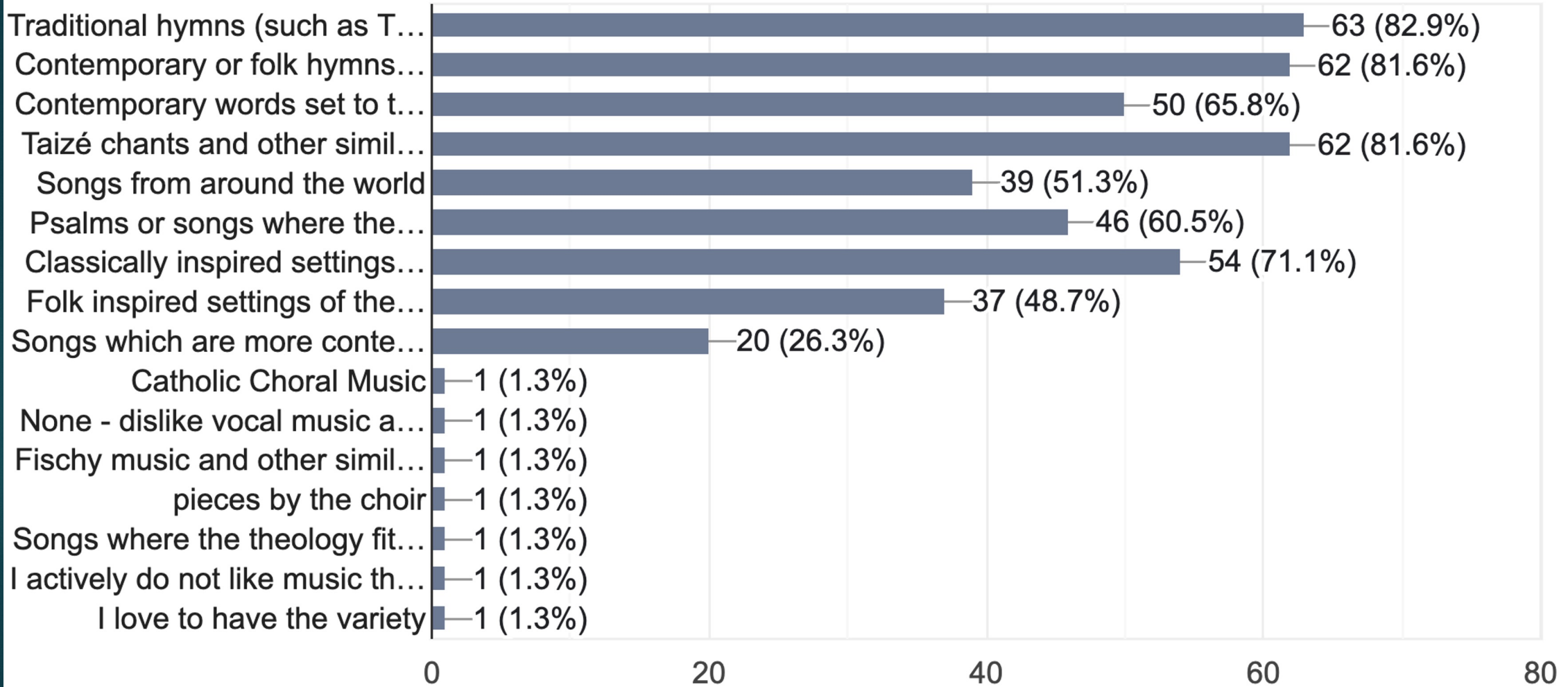


# Preferred styles of music

- ▶ The comments from the free text fields of specific styles respondents would like more/less of have been separated roughly into categories of traditional / contemporary / other. A summary is as follows:
  - ▶ More traditional: 17
  - ▶ More contemporary / folk: 23
  - ▶ More other: 12
  - ▶ Less traditional: 9
  - ▶ Less contemporary / folk: 21
  - ▶ Less other: 12
- ▶ While it was clear that people have strong (and conflicting) opinions on almost every type of music, it was notable that “world music”, at least in the way that we do it, was consistently derided as inaccessible or inauthentic.

# I like singing / listening to:

76 responses



# Preferred styles of music: More traditional

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing more of...', filtered by those which were broadly related to more traditional styles.*

- ▶ Traditional hymns
- ▶ Catholic Choral Music; pieces like Ola Gjeilo, Ubi Caritas (unaccompanied). Love this kind of music.
- ▶ Perhaps a bit more of the traditional hymns but I really think the music is great overall so wouldn't want to change it too much - good to have a mix.
- ▶ Classically inspired
- ▶ Traditional hymns with contemporary words and Taize chants
- ▶ Classical
- ▶ Traditional music - eg be still for the presence of the lord, Taize,
- ▶ Classical music, good quality traditional hymns, good quality contemporary texts
- ▶ Contemporary quality [classical] music. e.g. James MacMillan, Arvo Part
- ▶ I love the music generally but I do miss singing the really traditional hymns which we don't use that much at St Marks - slightly more of these would be great.
- ▶ More well known traditional hymns and some more modern music.
- ▶ Traditional
- ▶ Traditional hymns
- ▶ I would like their to be a balance of more high church styles. It feels as if this has been reduced and new styles and new music are almost a weekly thing, which detracts from fully entering the worship.
- ▶ Traditional
- ▶ Traditional hymns/or at least traditional or well known music.

## Preferred styles of music:

## More contemporary or folk

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing more of...', filtered by those which were broadly related to more contemporary or folk styles.*

- ▶ Taize
- ▶ Folk music
- ▶ Contemporary; joyful; energetic; inclusive; worshipful; organic. Including new styles requires more than doing modern hymns in the same way - consideration needs to be given to appropriate accompaniment, arrangements and potentially involving a different group of people to lead them.
- ▶ World music / contemporary music which is inclusive
- ▶ All of the ticked above, especially taize, gloria and congregational response
- ▶ Traditional hymns with contemporary words and Taize chants
- ▶ Contemporary or folk
- ▶ contemporary styles
- ▶ Traditional music - eg be still for the presence of the lord, Taize,
- ▶ I'd be happy with some more contemporary music which comes from a liberal/radical post evangelical perspective
- ▶ More well known traditional hymns and some more modern music.
- ▶ Contemporary words and hymns
- ▶ Charismatic modern hymns
- ▶ Contemporary Catholic like Bernadette Farrell

## Preferred styles of music:

## More contemporary or folk

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing more of...', filtered by those which were broadly related to more contemporary or folk styles.*

- ▶ A bit more of contemporary songs please. As long as in keeping with theological emphases at St Marks.
- ▶ Celtic; call and response
- ▶ Songs from around the world, with appropriate accompaniment, with may often mean unaccompanied singing.
- ▶ occasional 'children's hymns' perhaps following or during communion while children are in church
- ▶ Contemporary style
- ▶ Contemporary loud music with a band! Also love music like amazing grace and how great thou art in an upbeat loud style, maybe with a bodrum!!
- ▶ More modern worship songs, i.e. those written in the last 30 years
- ▶ Wild Goose/Iona/John Bell/Bernadette Farrell/Taize (but not when it's like a hymn with the choir/organ, something more acoustic). I would also more of the modern charismatic evangelical music, with caveats about inclusive language.
- ▶ I forgot to add about fischy music, the lovely action songs Hannah does and simple pieces the kids can join in more easily with. I also really love getting out a giant pile of musical instruments for kids (& whoever) to grab, but would not enjoy that every week as it often takes a lot of time. Changing the words to simple kids songs also works well in my opinion.

# Preferred styles of music:

## Other

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing more of...', filtered by those which didn't fit into 'more traditional' or 'more contemporary' categories.*

- ▶ I like the current balance
- ▶ Catholic Choral Music; pieces like Ola Gjeilo, Ubi Caritas (unaccompanied). Love this kind of music.
- ▶ Perhaps a bit more of the traditional hymns but I really think the music is great overall so wouldn't want to change it too much - good to have a mix.
- ▶ instrumental
- ▶ willing to try different styles as long as words and music have integrity
- ▶ I am happy with the current mix
- ▶ very happy with the range and variety that we have now.
- ▶ As you can see, I'm pretty eclectic in my appreciation of our music.
- ▶ More sacred music
- ▶ A good cross section of the abovementioned
- ▶ NA - the music is diverse and the settings and arrangements excellent. I love the music at St Marks. Please don't change it. If anything, the only criticism is that we don't display the music on the screen to help those of us that don't know the melody. A good proportion of the congregation can read music - as shown last Sunday when the canton-reply (which was quite difficult) was sung superbly.
- ▶ I enjoy the balance as it is. I tend not to know the traditional songs but enjoy singing the songs I know and listening when I don't.

# Preferred styles of music: less traditional

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing less of...', filtered by those which were broadly related to less traditional styles.*

- ▶ Obscure traditional hymns; polished performance-quality pieces which are inaccessible to everyone else; folk songs played on the organ(!)
- ▶ Traditional music which seems less relevant today
- ▶ organ
- ▶ A few less Obscure hymns with hard to follow tunes. (Also less organ)
- ▶ I find it really uncomfortable when we have the organ accompanying eg. Scottish folk tunes, or songs from other parts of the world. At best, it doesn't sound good, at worst, it can feel like cultural appropriation
- ▶ Sometimes it feels like the organ is used too often - particularly for the less traditional music.
- ▶ Traditional music I've never heard of before in a slow style
- ▶ Chants, choir pieces
- ▶ Full choir with organ as it's often harder to join in with

Preferred styles of  
music:

Less contemporary  
or folk

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing less of...', filtered by those which were broadly related to more contemporary or folk styles.*

- ▶ Pop/evangelical style rock/pop, clapping stuff.
- ▶ Contemporary hymns
- ▶ Maybe slightly less of the less well-known more modern hymns but still keep a mix.
- ▶ John Bell! Way too much of him
- ▶ Folk and pop
- ▶ Contemporary
- ▶ choruses from the 70's
- ▶ I am happy with the current mix but am not sure that songs sung in a different language (particularly an African language) work very well
- ▶ Happy Hymns ( if you know what I mean, jolly ones)
- ▶ More corny type songs - eg "give me oil" or "alle Alle Alle uia" - I find that type of music grating



## Preferred styles of music:

## Less contemporary or folk

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing less of...', filtered by those which were broadly related to more contemporary or folk styles.*

- ▶ Poor contemporary words, sentimental texts
- ▶ Banal happy-clappy stuff
- ▶ Please, no worship bands!
- ▶ lona
- ▶ Mindless ditties, with much repetition
- ▶ Less evangelical songs
- ▶ Less evangelical styles / songs with new words. Often the congregation finds these words difficult to fit the tune and the sense of congregational singing is lost.
- ▶ African. John Bell.
- ▶ worship songs
- ▶ Not that we have any, but worship bands!
- ▶ Unknown (foreign) words without a guide to pronunciation

## Preferred styles of music:

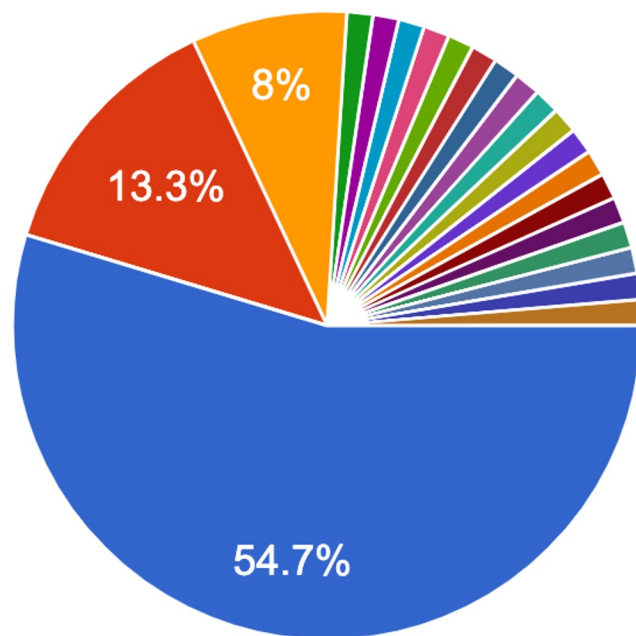
## Other

*The following were given as 'free text' answers to the question 'I would like to sing less of...', filtered by those which didn't fit into 'more traditional' or 'more contemporary' categories.*

- ▶ I think that those choosing the music try hard to cater for a variety of tastes.
- ▶ I feel the balance at the moment is appropriate
- ▶ Hymns in which the tunes seem to wander and lack focus, and are difficult to pick up for the congregation and sometimes for the choir too!
- ▶ I like the current balance
- ▶ Things that are slow and hard to sing
- ▶ I've broad tastes so isn't anything I've particularly disliked
- ▶ Songs with soloists
- ▶ unison songs which tend to be too high
- ▶ Unfamiliar settings during Communion
- ▶ I feel there is already a good balance.
- ▶ Hymns/psalms which are mostly cantor
- ▶ Sometimes the hymns have too many verses.

## During the administration of communion:

75 responses



- I prefer singing Taizé chants, or other...
- I prefer to listen to some other music
- I prefer to sit in silence
- Catholic, sacramental choral music in...
- I am happy with any of the above
- I don't have a preference about this
- I enjoy to listen to the music during co...
- I'd like a balanced mix of all the above.

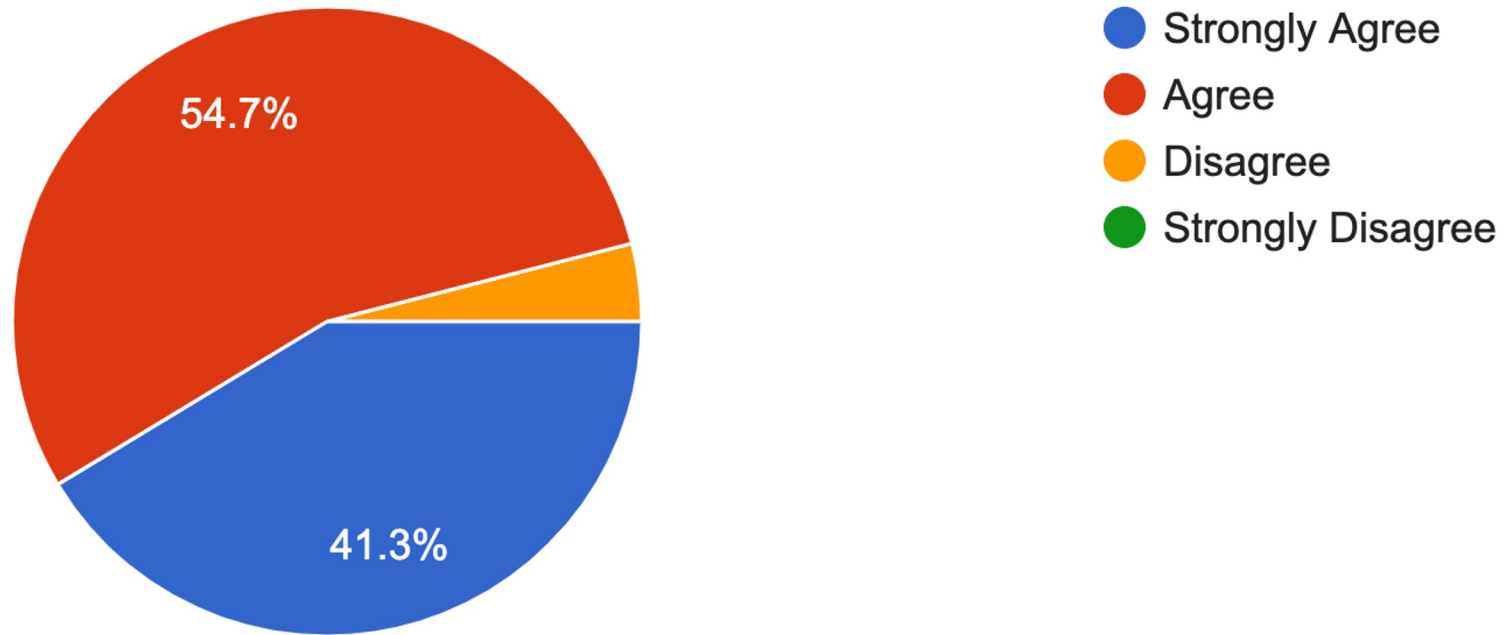
# New music

- ▶ Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of introducing new music, at least occasionally.
- ▶ The tune being too high or too difficult were cited as the most common reasons putting people off singing
- ▶ There were a number of other reasons given though (using the 'Other' answer), which echoed themes noted elsewhere in the survey. These include:
  - ▶ The accompaniment is too loud
  - ▶ The words are off-putting, or in a non-English language
  - ▶ It is not clear when the congregation are invited to sing with the choir
  - ▶ The projected words sometimes contain errors or do not match what is being sung

# New music

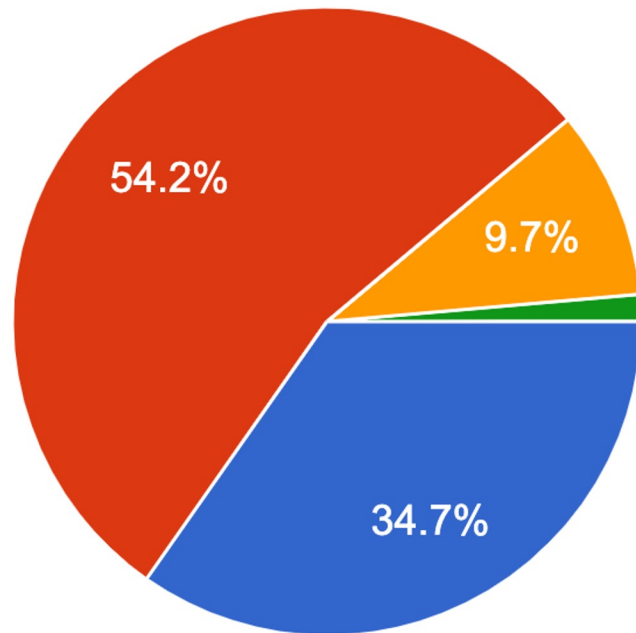
- ▶ On learning new music, most people said that the most helpful ways would be either to have the choir singing part of the hymn through on their own first, or project the notation on-screen alongside the words.
- ▶ The additional answers mostly supported these conclusions, though there were a couple of additional suggestions / requests:
  - ▶ Embedding the choir into the congregation
  - ▶ Following the introduction of a new song, including it again at a service soon after

I am pleased that we include some new congregational music now and then  
75 responses



## I like learning to sing new congregational music

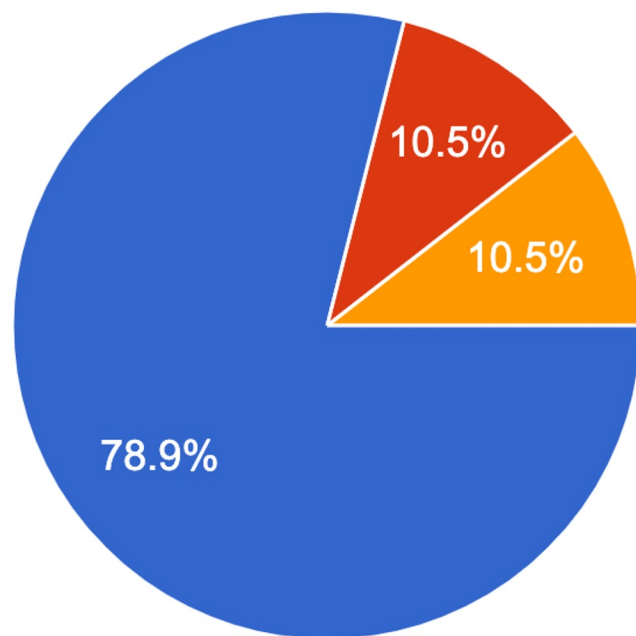
72 responses



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

## When singing new congregational music:

76 responses

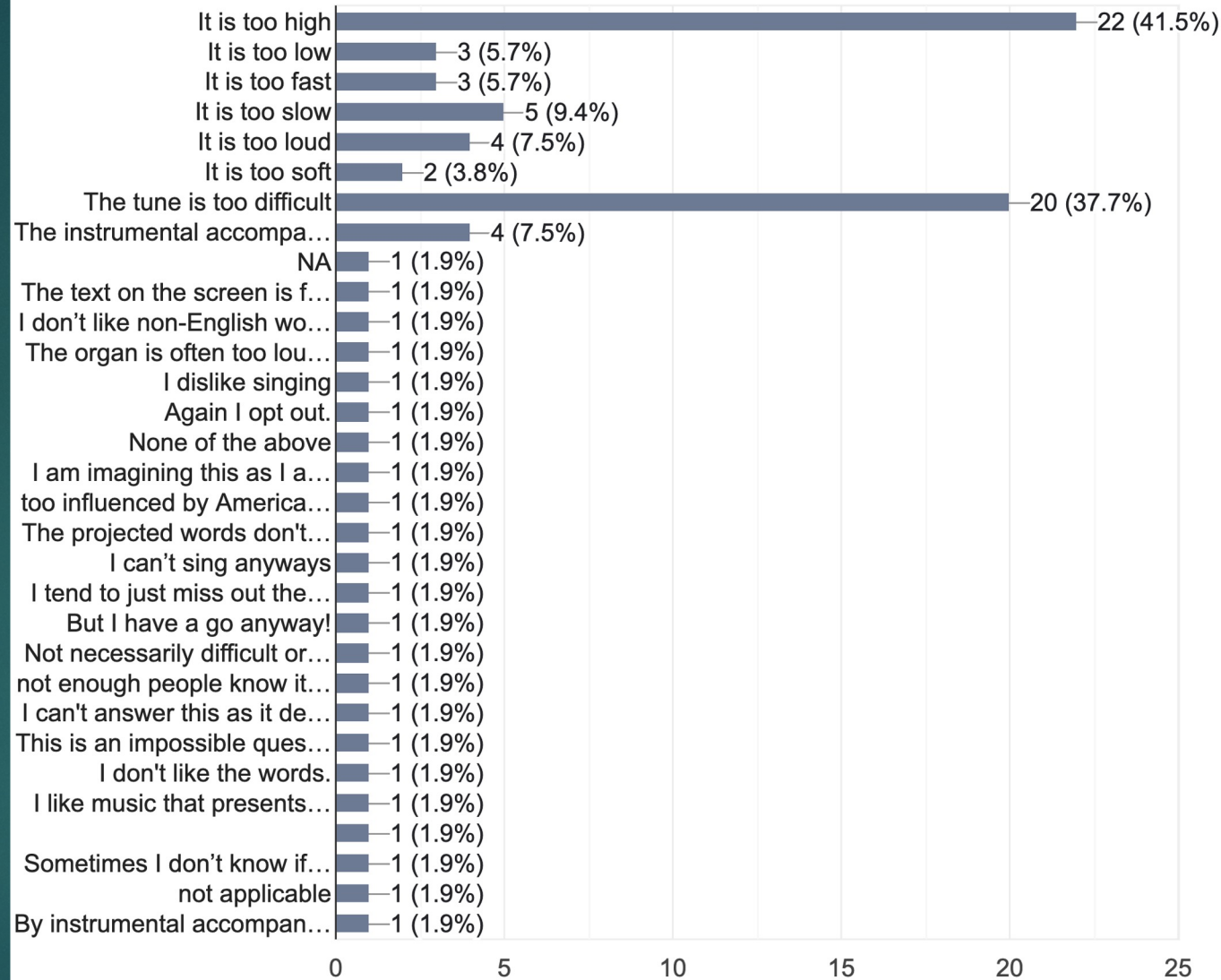


- I generally find it easy to pick up the tune
- I generally find it difficult to pick up the tune
- I generally don't join in with music I don't know well



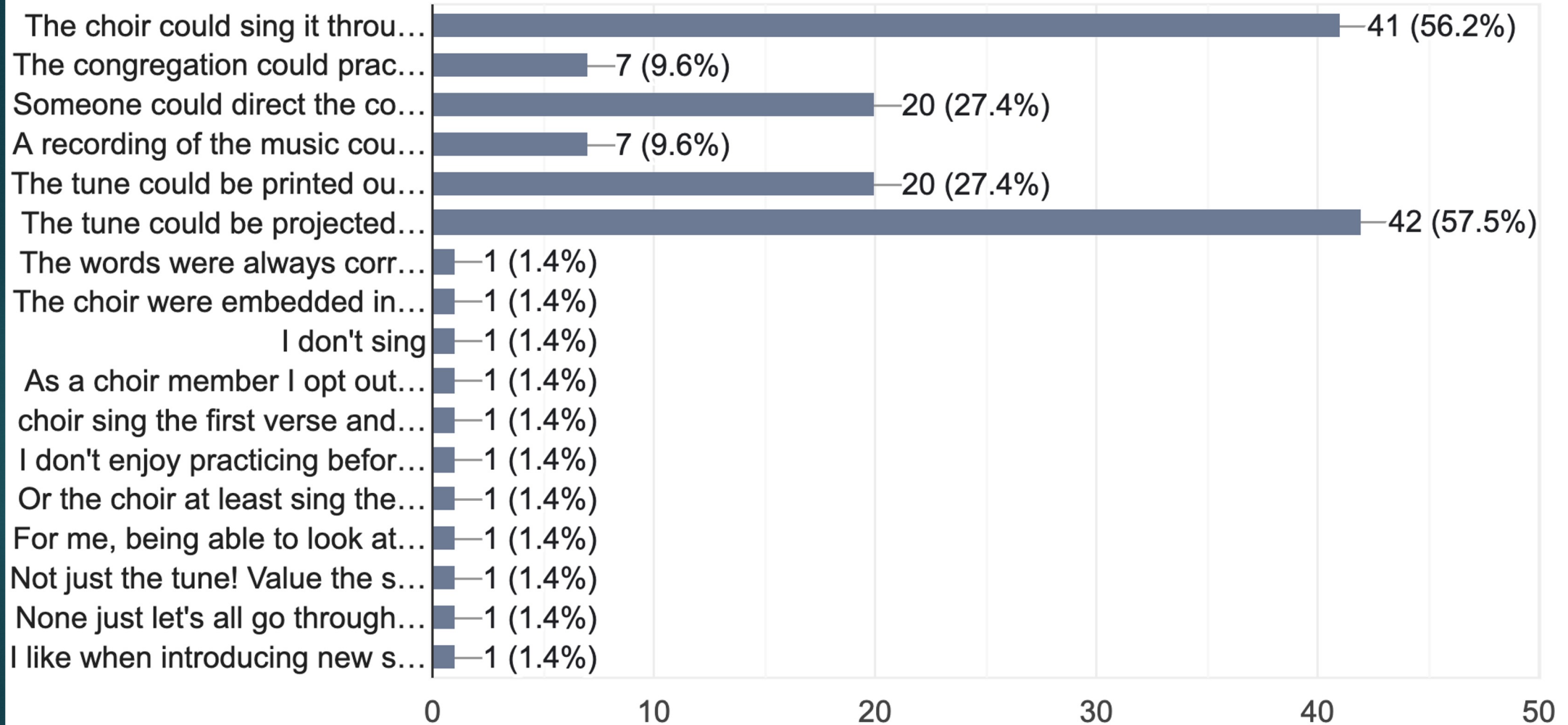
# When singing congregational music in general I sometimes find it difficult or unpleasant because:

53 responses



# When singing new congregational music, I would find it particularly helpful if:

73 responses

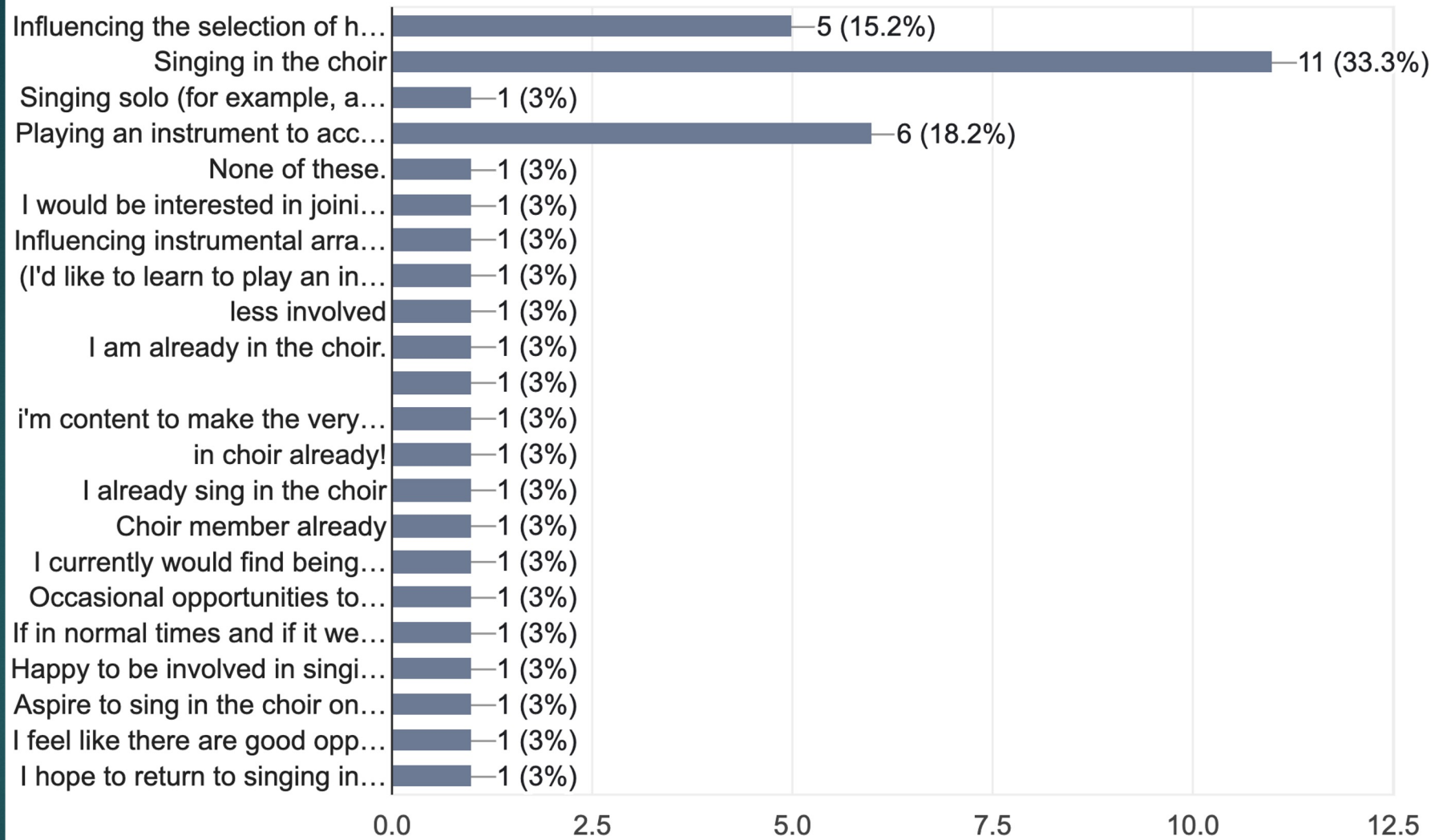


# Furthering involvement

- ▶ Respondents were invited to offer any ideas on ways they may like to contribute to the music, beyond singing as part of the congregation.
- ▶ Several people indicated an interest in joining the choir, and a smaller but still significant number would like to play an instrument.
- ▶ Several reasons were given for not feeling able to play an instrument, the most common being a lack of consistent availability on Sunday mornings, though confidence and skill level also featured, as did other existing responsibilities (such as childcare) during the service.

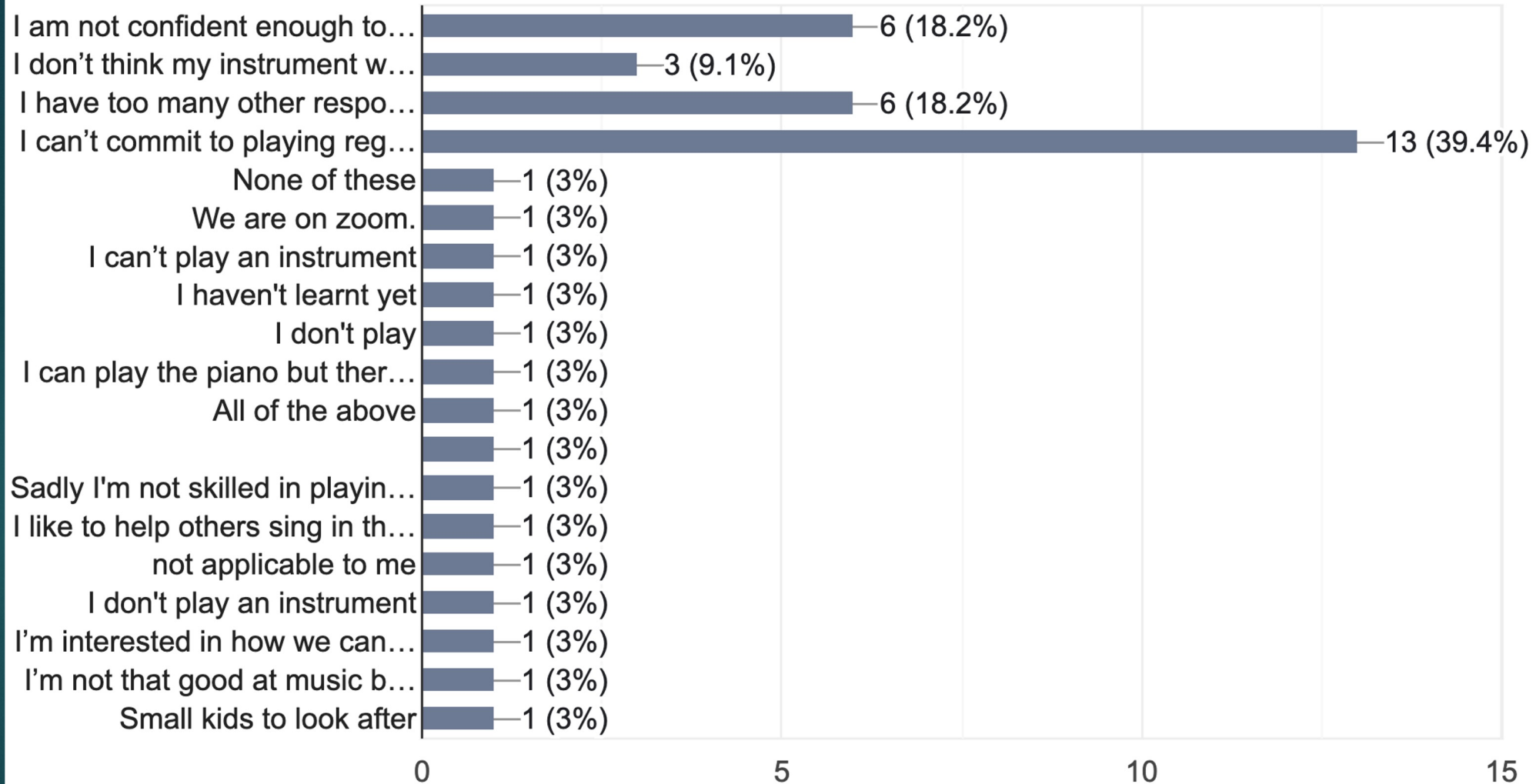
# If there was a suitable opportunity, I would like to be more involved in congregational music, by:

33 responses



# I would be interested in playing an instrument, but:

33 responses



# Any other comments:

## *General appreciation*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ I love the Choir at St Mark's and congratulate you all on the joy that you create for us all.
- ▶ I love hearing the music at St Marks.
- ▶ I think the music is fantastic at St Mark's so don't change it too much please! I think it's really interesting and good quality.
- ▶ I really appreciate the contribution of musicians at St Mark's.
- ▶ Thank you to everyone involved! I LOVE the way that instruments are used in music
- ▶ I love the music at St Marks, the variety, high standard, humility of the people involved sense of being part of it in the congregation, and find it very conducive to worship.
- ▶ I very much appreciate the thoughtfulness of the choice of music and words and the care taken to be inclusive
- ▶ I like the choice of music on the whole very much.
- ▶ St Marks provides a high standard and variety of music we are very blessed

# Any other comments:

## *General appreciation*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ As the above suggests, I am very happy with the current mixture of congregational music and am most grateful for the hard work of our many talented musicians (including choir members) in making wonderful music.
- ▶ I really appreciate the wide variety of music we have at St Mark's; the inclusion of other instruments/players; the introduction of new songs/hymns/; the variety of service pattern and music across the seasons; the anthems sung by the choir at the start and after Communion.
- ▶ The music at the 10 am Easter service was beautiful
- ▶ I really appreciate both the quality and the variety of the music we sing at St Mark's. Thank you David, choir and instrumentalists.
- ▶ The choir and David are brilliant. I really love what they do.
- ▶ Keep up the good work! I especially like hearing the range of visiting instrumentalists.
- ▶ Thank you for all you are doing to enhance worship at St Mark's and make it accessible to the majority of the congregation. I have enjoyed the balance of traditional and contemporary worship we have been experiencing more recently.
- ▶ Enjoy involvement of the younger age range with music on specific occasions and some hymns they are more familiar with or have learnt.

# Any other comments:

## *General appreciation*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ I enjoy a whole range of hymns too many to mention here.
- ▶ The music is wonderful thank you. I appreciate being surveyed.
- ▶ I get great enjoyment from singing church music.
- ▶ Thank you for all the work that goes in to the music, and for taking the time to do this survey.
- ▶ Please don't change anything other than putting the music up in screen (melody or four part). It is fantastic.
- ▶ I really like the music at St Mark's and think it is great. The voluntaries at the end are a personal highlight for me. Keep up the good work!
- ▶ Thank you for all that the music team do
- ▶ The music is so enjoyable at St Mark's - many thanks



Any other  
comments:

*PowerPoint,  
sound desk,  
Zoom, music  
notation*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ Can be really hard to follow the words due to the wrong text often being displayed.
- ▶ When on Zoom , the sound quality for the music and choral music can be a bit patchy- anything that can be done to improve that on e.g. microphones?
- ▶ For choir - too many bits of paper to follow for each service!
- ▶ In the choir there are too many pieces of paper to shuffle round nearly every hymn is on a bit of paper surely we could sing more hymns out of the hymn book. Also the odd change of words that keep happening is a bit annoying. If too many new pieces of new music are added to the service at the same time it must be quite frustrating for the congregation to try and keep up and follow.
- ▶ Quality of music on Zoom is also dependent on the sound desk operator switching the microphone setting which does happen most of the time.
- ▶ Please don't change anything other than putting the music up in screen (melody or four part). It is fantastic.

Any other  
comments:

*Choosing of  
hymns*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ Yes! I love it when there is non congregational singing vis singing the Gloria or even the beginning of the communion- to me this is very special
- ▶ The choir and David are brilliant. I really love what they do. I think I just value less corny hymns!
- ▶ To me a broad range of appropriate music is an essential part of worship and should involve the congregation as much as possible in one way or another.
- ▶ I like the varied selection of songs but sometimes find it hard to fully participate as I don't know the tune of the music and there is no music available. I think sometimes the balance of new stuff to old favourites that we can all wholeheartedly join in with is too much on the side of new things with good words.
- ▶ It would be helpful to learn how hymns are chosen, and why some authors are featured so often.

Any other  
comments:

*Choosing of  
hymns*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ I can't expect my preferences to shape public worship. Given a chance, I prefer pre-1800 music, superbly sung. So that would preclude participation by people like me - an obvious inconsistency. One then becomes an audience, not a congregation.
- ▶ Particular hymns that I never (or seldom) hear, and have loved, include 'God is working His purpose out'; the full St Patrick's Breastplate; 'Welcome Happy Morning'; 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah/Redeemer'; metrical 23rd Psalm to Brother James's Air (not dreary Crimond); 'Souls of Men, why will ye scatter?'; 'As Jacob with travel was weary one day'; 'Immortal Love forever full'. I recognise the language and theology are mostly of the past. So maybe I have to give these up.
- ▶ It is great to see the increasing number of families and a growing congregation but I don't like or trust the emotional intention of happy/clappy type of music increasingly dominating services across the country and incredibly repetitive in style and sound.

# Any other comments:

*Liturgy,  
theology,  
lyrics*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ The service is a bit 'bitty' at present and not sufficient reinforcement of responses. I feel the congregation needs more time to bed into a service format.
- ▶ I really dislike it when the wonderful words of traditional hymns are changed. We have very few traditional hymns; I would like a lot more.
- ▶ I really appreciate the contribution of musicians at St Mark's. It would be good if the organ voluntary at the end of the service could be given the respect it deserves. It is an integral part of the service, but people talk over it and the clatter if coffee trolleys disrupts.
- ▶ The theology of the words is often questionable and is the biggest thing to get in the way of my experience of the hymns in the services.
- ▶ I think the music during the holy communion should be long enough to give the clergy time to clear the table and resume the prayers that follow communion
- ▶ It is great to see the increasing number of families and a growing congregation but I don't like or trust the emotional intention of happy/clappy type of music increasingly dominating services across the country and incredibly repetitive in style and sound.
- ▶ ensure the theology of hymns expresses that of St Mark's contemporary theology.
- ▶ The organ is the most effective instrument for leading congregational singing. The music at the end of the service is PART of the service on whatever instrument(s). It is not a concert performance and applause is totally inappropriate and cringe-making!

# Any other comments:

*Liturgy /  
theology /  
lyrics*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ The sound of the organ can be overwhelming at times, especially during certain voluntaries, which can be too long at times
- ▶ Setting new words to old tunes has made me realise that there is more to a good musical setting than just the meter. There have been a few occasions where the words might fit the meter of the music but they don't really seem to work.
- ▶ At the moment the music feels disjointed at times, with far too many new hymns that often require concentration that can take you out of a sacred place during worship. It feels as if there is a stronger evangelical influence that doesn't suit St. Marks.
- ▶ During Lent, the music within worship was beautiful. I think the anthems are generally lovely as well. However, congregational music for me needs to encourage a sense of community and, in a similar way to liturgy, connect you with God by allowing you not to think always, but to be taken away by the spirit of it. At the moment this is not always easy.
- ▶ In my opinion some words have been changed unnecessarily at times, and I think we need to be careful with this.
- ▶ Not sure it is necessary to have an anthem after communion in addition to singing during it
- ▶ More modern wording and new hymns are fine - but thoughtful and meaningful words are important.

# Any other comments:

## *Participation and accessibility*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ If too many new pieces of new music are added to the service at the same time it must be quite frustrating for the congregation to try and keep up and follow.
- ▶ I like the varied selection of songs but sometimes find it hard to fully participate as I don't know the tune of the music and there is no music available. I think sometimes the balance of new stuff to old favourites that we can all wholeheartedly join in with is too much on the side of new things with good words.
- ▶ I sing in the choir, so these later questions aren't really relevant to me. I think I would find it hard to sing hymns, especially folk or modern ones without the music in front of me. I do like sometimes singing older anthems eg Bird or Palestrina, so I hope these aren't going to be replaced by frequent folky things.
- ▶ We should remain mindful not just of appeasing the (inherently self-selecting!) congregation we already have, but also those we may want to attract [back] to the 10am service whose decisions may be influenced by their experience of the worship.
- ▶ There is clearly a wealth of music talent and experience at St Marks, but sometimes it feel more performative than a community joining together in worship. I also think David does a good job of trying to make it accessible for people to play an instrument and join in. He's good at engaging with people and building positive relationships within the congregation.

# Any other comments:

## *Participation and accessibility*

*These comments are provided verbatim from the survey responses, but have been filtered thematically.*

- ▶ I feel that often the quality of the overall sound is prioritised over the need to include the less musical within the congregation, which I disagree with as an approach to liturgy (while acknowledging that many people don't see that as a problem at all!).
- ▶ Outside of the choir it seems there is often very little engagement from the majority of the congregation, even with well-known hymns, which does not lead to the effective collective expression worship I would like to experience on a Sunday morning.
- ▶ Identifying ways to be more flexible and involve a more varied group of musicians would be crucial to convincingly pulling off anything more contemporary (if we decide that is something we want to achieve).
- ▶ Yes! I love it when there is non congregational singing vis singing the Gloria or even the beginning of the communion- to me this is very special
- ▶ To me a broad range of appropriate music is an essential part of worship and should involve the congregation as much as possible in one way or another.
- ▶ The sound of the organ can be overwhelming at times, especially during certain voluntaries, which can be too long at times
- ▶ At the moment the music feels disjointed at times, with far too many new hymns that often require concentration that can take you out of a sacred place during worship.

# Key takeaways, and our responses

- ▶ **Data:** There seems to be a roughly equal appreciation of both traditional and contemporary music. There were also a similar volume of comments for- and against- having more of each type.
- ▶ **Actions:** On balance, it seems like maintaining the status quo when choosing hymns is most likely to please the the most people!
- ▶ There are, however, other factors to consider, like the clergy or PCC's longer term vision for evolving worship, which could result in a change of direction in future.



# Next steps

- ▶ **Data:** A repeated theme was a low enthusiasm for “Songs from around the world”, including certain folk songs, and those from the Iona community (John Bell et al).
- ▶ **Actions:** We will be more sparing with these types of songs, and think more carefully about how to include them in an authentic and respectful way (this may mean varying the instruments used to accompany them where appropriate).
- ▶ **Data:** There was a lot of support for Taizé (at least during communion).
- ▶ **Actions:** We will continue with the current format for music during administration, and consider how else we could use Taizé (and similar) music during worship.

# Next steps

- ▶ **Data:** There were a few (negative) comments about “evangelical” songs or worship.
- ▶ **Actions:** It was not clear from the comments exactly which elements of “evangelism” we should be avoiding, as it’s clearly a loaded term which means different things to different people.
- ▶ We would be happy to engage in a wider conversation about this with anyone who has specific concern, but we are not anticipating any radical shifts to the worship or musical framework which is already in place.

# Next steps

- ▶ **Data:** There were a few comments about the organ being too loud.
- ▶ **Actions:** We couldn't agree on whether this was a wider problem or not, and would welcome further comments on how the balance sounds from your seat (as it's hard to tell from where the musicians are usually sat!)
- ▶ **Data:** Generally people seem happy to keep learning new music, and appreciate having the tune on the screen, and the choir singing it beforehand.
- ▶ **Interpretation:** We will continue to project the tune where we can, and where appropriate will sing the first verse with just the choir to let the congregation hear it before they join in.

# Next steps

- ▶ **Data:** There are a handful of people who could play instruments but don't, for various reasons.
- ▶ **Actions:** Respondents who also left their name or contact details may be contacted to discuss whether there is anything we can do to help them have the level of musical involvement they would like.
- ▶ We would love the music to be as accessible as possible to anyone, whatever their instrument, standard, confidence or commitment level, and are always willing to have a conversation about how we can incorporate the skills of an individual into our communal worship.

# Further Comments

- ▶ Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey.
- ▶ All the comments we have received have been acknowledged and appreciated, and your feedback is very valuable to ensure we can continue to enhance the congregation's worship in the ways you are best able to receive it.
- ▶ You are welcome to continue to provide feedback on particular hymns or arrangements we've done, suggestions for new things we could try, or comments / concerns on the wider direction of music in the liturgy.
- ▶ You can speak to or email David Willington ([music@stmarkssheffield.co.uk](mailto:music@stmarkssheffield.co.uk)) or any member of the clergy, and we will ensure your feedback is considered during our liturgy planning sessions.