



[Date]

Dear

Thank you for all you are doing to support the life and ministry of St N's, xxxxx. It is very much appreciated!

We are writing to let you know that we are planning to assess the health and overall quality of the church in relation to the 8 essential quality characteristics of healthy growing churches. Studies have shown that where these characteristics are present in good measure, churches frequently thrive! Would you be willing to help us gather the data we need to undertake the planned assessment? Although this may take a little of your time it will provide you with the opportunity to influence the future direction of your church.

This process is encouraged and highly commended by Bishop Christopher, our diocesan bishop. He and his staff recommend that to be of lasting value assessments are best done every 12-18 months. Currently some 71% of parishes have undertaken one or more survey. The diocese has offered us the support of a mentor to help us through the process. As is customary in the diocese we are using an internationally recognised survey from the Natural Church Development (NCD) Institute which is specifically designed to help us assess our strengths and areas for development in 8 aspects of church life. It is biblically based and has been used by many denominations and thousands of churches throughout the world.

The survey is completed by a representative sample ideally of approximately 30 regular church members and we would like you to be one of the group. The participants will all come together to answer the survey but will do so individually. Individual results are not shared or discussed and are entirely confidential.

The survey takes around twenty minutes to complete and we intend to carry it out on [date] at [time] in [venue]. We should be finished by [time]. [Include here any particulars e.g. wine and cheese, lunch etc]

After the survey the mentor takes the forms away for processing and will bring the 'outcomes' back to us in due course. These will present a really good picture of the parish as we collectively see it. The outcomes may be shared more widely and will form a basis for future planning by the PCC. If we find the exercise useful we will repeat it at appropriate intervals and hopefully chart our improvements in congregational health!

Churches that have undertaken this process report that when they take steps to create the right environment growth naturally follows. We hope and pray this will be our experience too.

Would you please let us know by [date] whether you can take part in this important initiative. You may let us know by phone [number] [name] or e-mail [email address].

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

[name]

[Planning Team]

