

Community Survey

APPOINTMENT OF NEW VICAR TO ALLER, CURRY RIVEL, DRAYTON,
FIVEHEAD, HIGH HAM WITH LOW HAM, HUISH EPISCOPI CUM
LANGPORT AND SWELL

Background

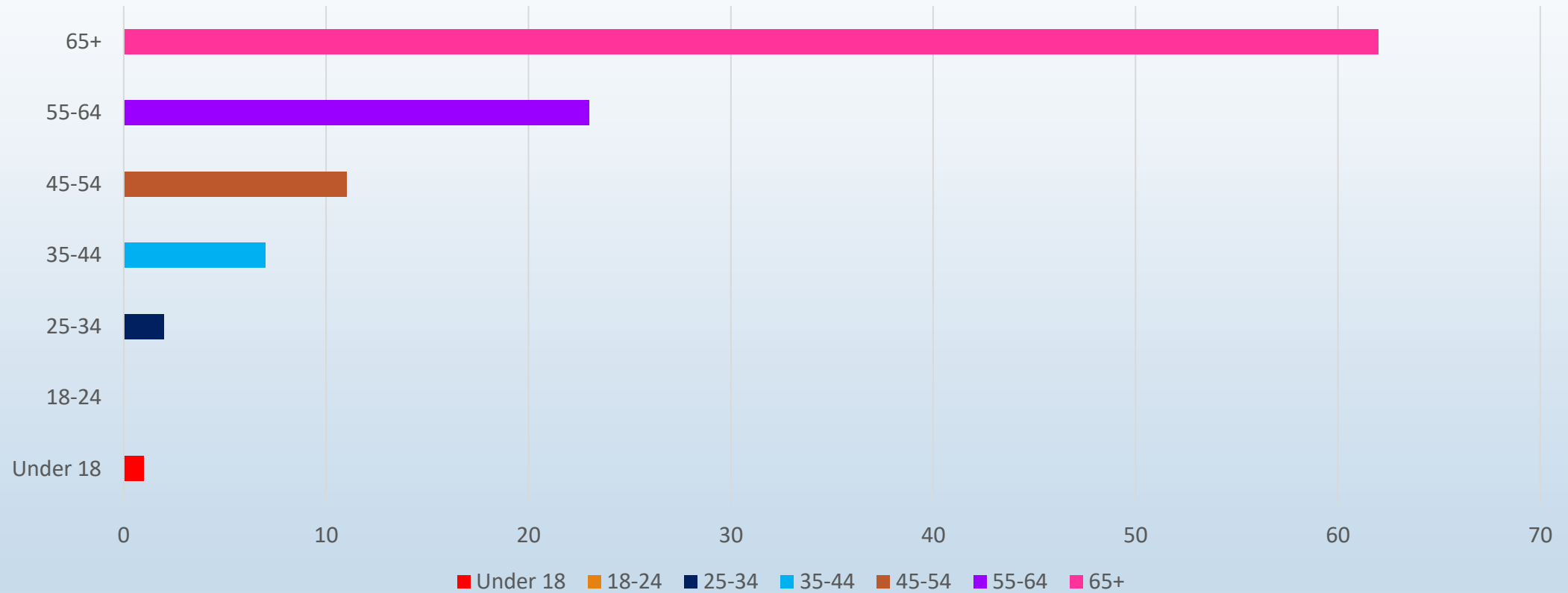
Survey undertaken to consult with the wider community in the seven parishes of Aller, Curry Rivel, Drayton, Fivehead, High Ham and Low Ham, Huish Epsicopi cum Langpor that will make up the new benefice that is going to be recruiting a new vicar in the coming months

Survey available in paper and digital (via Survey Monkey) formats

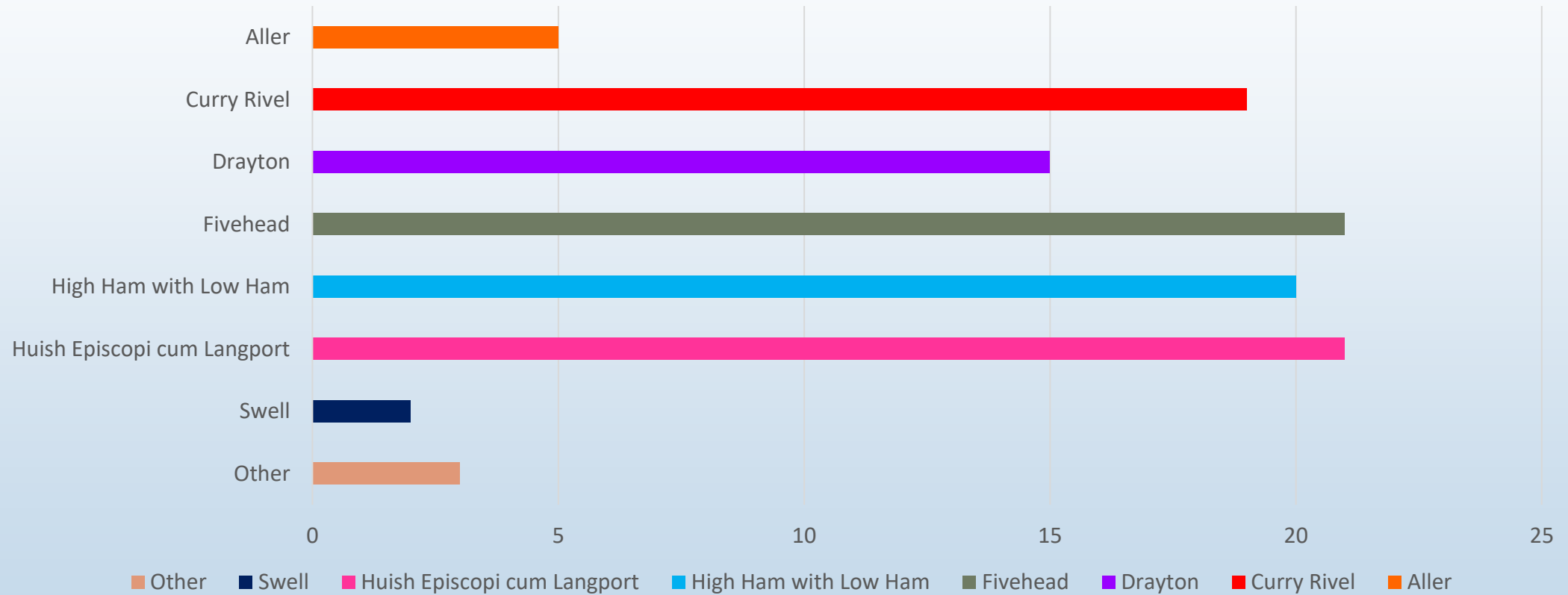
Publicised in a variety of ways e.g. social media, delivered to houses in some areas, available from churches, word of mouth etc

Total of 104 surveys returned, 81 via Survey Monkey, 25 via paper forms

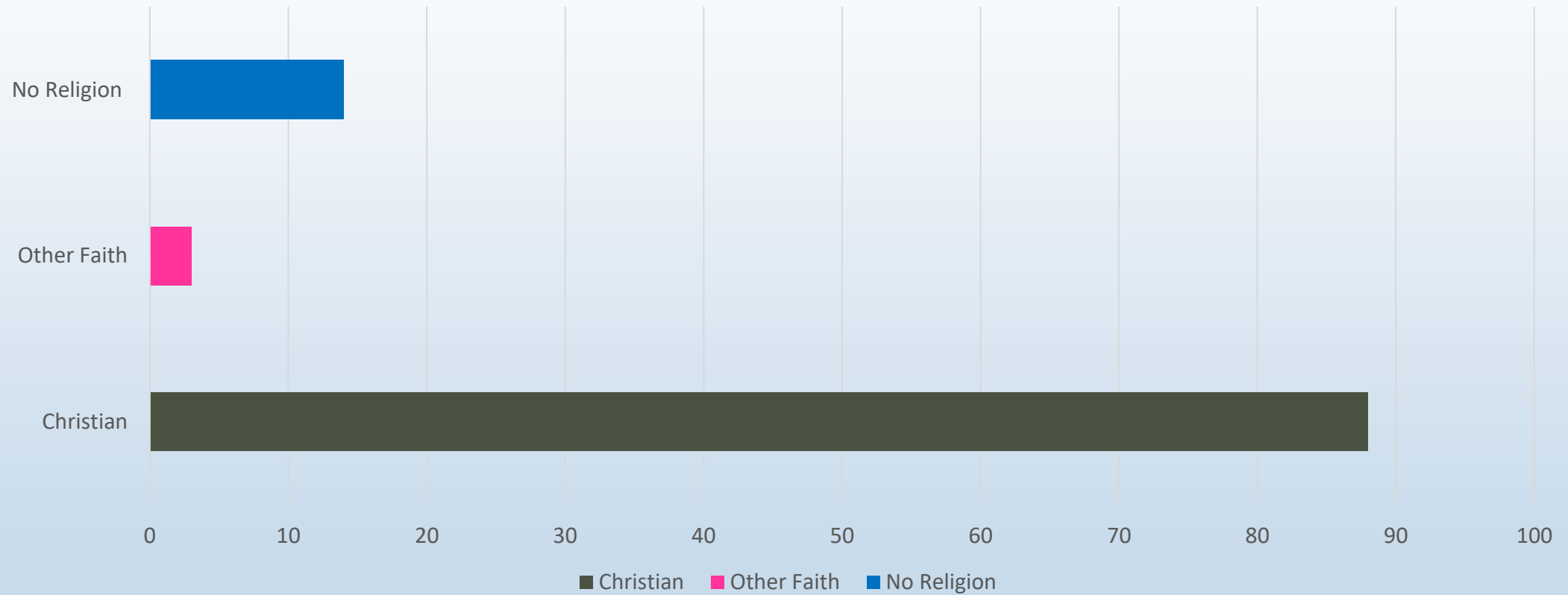
What is your age?



What parish are you from?



How would you describe your faith?



Do you think the church is important in our community?

- 88% of respondents replied yes to this question, although some did go on to say that they felt its importance is diminishing while others were clear that they felt it was very important
- Other responses indicated a feeling that the church may be important to some sections in the community, but not to everyone
- That it was once important but is not any more
- A few others felt that the church building is important (Weddings and Funerals being mentioned) but also a feeling that there needs to be a change in order to attract younger people into church the otherwise it will continue to become less important (in their opinion) over time as it was felt it is largely the domain of the elderly

What are the main challenges in our community?

- The main challenge that was brought up was about a lack of community spirit
- Lack of support for the elderly and vulnerable, particularly mental health, disabilities and the sick were brought up
- The fact that the community is predominately an older demographic, (as were the respondents,) means it doesn't offer much for younger people
- Poverty and the lack of affordable housing
- Lack of good public transport
- The reputation of and view of the church by the community was interesting as many described it as outdated and formal in its traditions and services

What do you think are the best things about the community?

- The most mentioned theme was that people felt there is a good community spirit examples given included people looking out for each other, being friendly, talking to people they meet and being prepared to help others, both informally and through more organised settings such as the food bank
- People liked the fact that there are lots of local activities and groups in the area offering a range of options, although some felt that many of the groups were perhaps aimed towards an older demographic
- Several noted that they felt their community had good amenities, with shops, schools and pubs being mentioned as well as a couple of local cider farms!
- A number of respondents report liking the rural nature of the area, being able to enjoy the countryside and river, with some highlighting that they felt this added to both their physical and mental wellbeing

If you invited the new vicar to tea, what would be the first thing you asked them to do?

- Overwhelmingly the largest response was about the new vicar being part of the community, being visible and bringing the community together
- The next most popular suggestion was about offering more for children and young people and being family friendly
- A significant group made suggestions around growing the church and being there for non-church members
- Pastoral support was also raised by several people, mentioning particularly the elderly and vulnerable and those in need including home visiting

Views of the children in our Church Schools

They wanted the new vicar to be:

Friendly

A calm person

Good listener

Patient and like talking to children

Funny

What they would like the vicar to do:

Lead worship sometimes and tell us about God

Tell Bible stories

Come into school and talk to us

Organise things for us to do in church

Lead 'Godly' play sessions

Share our values



Views of the children in our Church Schools

If the vicar came to tea these are the questions we would like to ask them

Do you have a family?

Are you a Miss Trunchbull type of person or a Miss Honey?

What do you like to do when you have a day off?

What is your favourite service?

What do you normally ask God in your prayers?

Talk to us about your faith

Do you enjoy your job?

What is your favourite thing about being a vicar?

The best things about our community are:

It is friendly and there is lots to do and see

