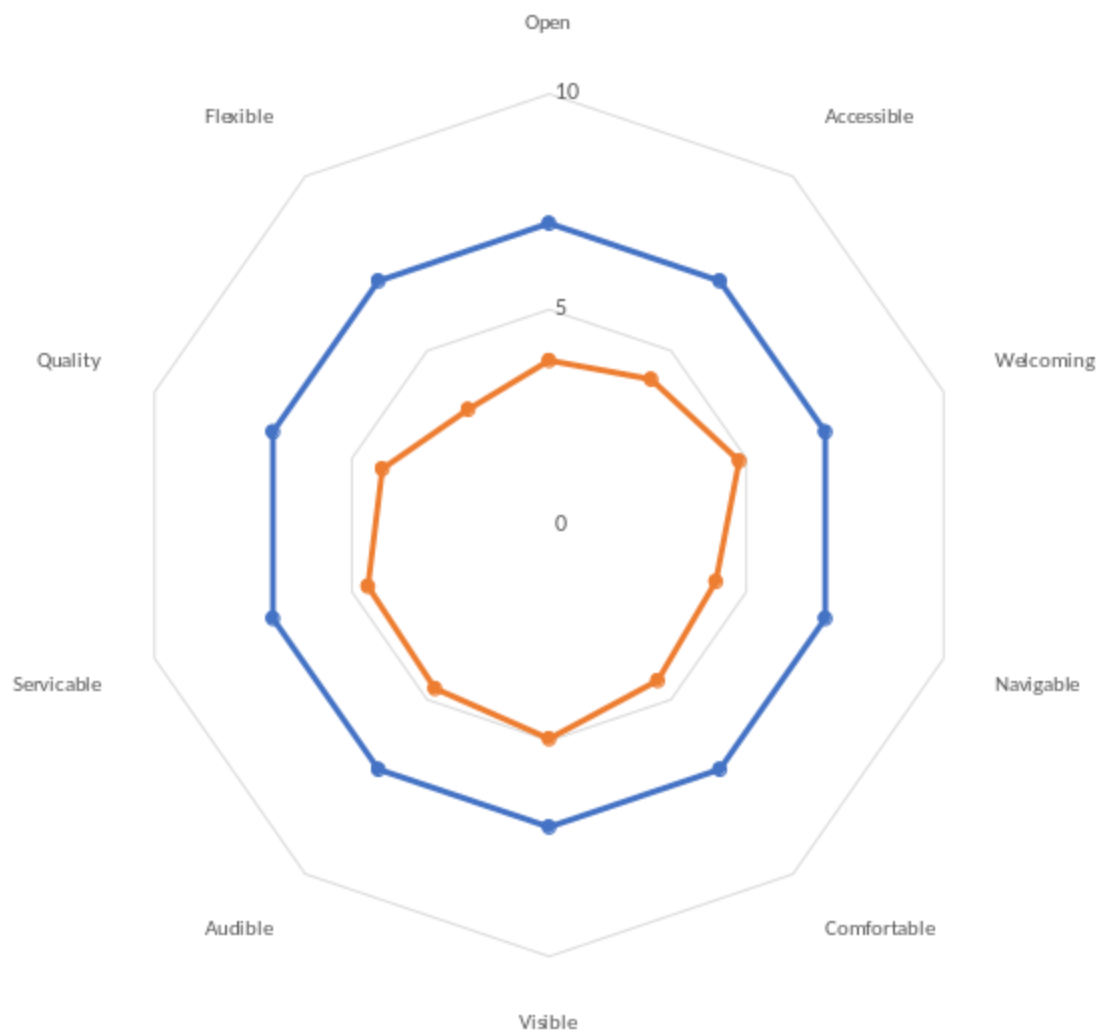
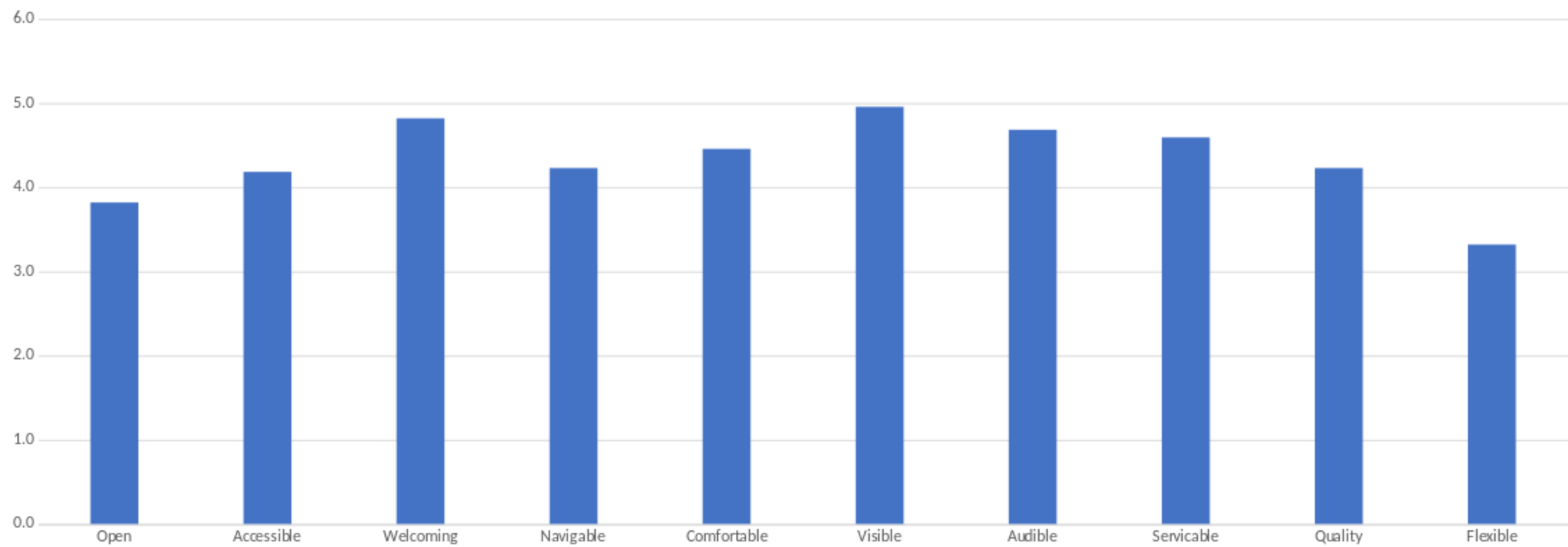


Average



Average scores by category



Is our
church building
a **Millstone** or a
Springboard?

1. Open for business?

Sometimes difficult to see.

No, you can't tell when you go past unless you know it is open.

When not open then nothing is visible.

If you could see in, would it encourage theft?

Leave the lights on and door open.

Larger notices required.

More notices needed.

The outside noticeboard is inviting.

The new doors are visually appealing.

The doors are inviting and may well encourage a person to try and open them.

The glass door lets light out when the building is in use, and shows the way in.

Since having glass inset in the front doors it is easier to see if the church is open or not. On a bright sunny day with the doors wide open always looks more welcoming. Possibly bigger signage by the front door to show what is going on during the week. When there is a lot of rubbish outside in the grounds it can appear neglected.

The garden is clearly cared for.

Well-kept gardens.

2. Accessible?

Yes, although it is a long walk on the level before the front steps.

Yes, apart from the Sanctuary area and the Vestries. There is nowhere for a wheelchair in the nave, without obstructing the aisles, unless it is right at the back. The ramps in the nave also present tripping hazards.

Automatic doors could be installed

It has a ramp, but the bad thing is you have to go up some steps before you reach the ramp. So, you have to pull the push chair / wheelchair up. It looks as though the ramp is at the back of Church.

The new front door is difficult to open and constantly needs attention.

The building doesn't flow, there is no easy movement from one area to another.

For someone using a wheelchair there is a ramp which can only be accessed from the back of the building. On dark evenings this may be more difficult to access. For larger wheelchairs both the doors need to be opened. People may feel anxious about asking. Access to community room adapted toilets is relatively good but getting around the main church space is challenging. Someone in a wheelchair may feel uncomfortable taking up space in the aisle as would also a parent with a child in a push chair. Access for communion along the aisle may feel difficult where it is narrower.

3. Welcoming?

Could be more space, but then that would be wasted most of the time

Do the toilets have to be painted pink and blue?

Yes, however could the dividing wall between the Porch and the Meeting Room be altered?

Would be more welcoming if you could see into Church from the front door. Glass wall from meeting room and glass in doors would help

Foyer sometimes seems overcrowded and off-putting.

The porch is bland.

The porch lends itself to welcoming people.

The porch can be crowded and off-putting to newcomers: we should chat in the nave before services, until the music starts!

There is the porch that is quite small so when there are around five plus people it can get quite loud. This can have an impact on the quiet meditative space that is being created in the main church and possibly intimidating for newcomers coming in the main entrance. Doors have been left open for ventilation but when they can be closed the noise will be less. Having glass inset into the main doors of the church space may help the newcomer to look in and feel more comfortable to attend. The pews take up a lot of space therefore less space for people to be welcomed and shown more easily to a seat. If the pews were removed this would open up the space and chairs can be arranged appropriately for different groups using the church space.

4 Navigable?

More signs needed – Church, Toilets, Sunday School.

Upon entry into the building, you are faced with two brown doors – no signage. No clear signage but generally lots of people around to ask.

We need exit signs on the front door.

It would be good to be able to see into the nave and community room, from the porch - and vice versa.

Not very unless you know your way around. But it soon becomes obvious

There are signs if you need to get out of the building in case of an emergency. But there is a sense of feeling stuck in a pew. I generally find newcomers ask for directions to toilets a lot which is not a problem but sometimes people (and with young children) can find it hard to ask.

5 Comfortable?

Can be cold with a draft from the back

At least the building is warm

The church is adequately heated but the pews are hard to sit in for any length of time

Many comments that the pews are uncomfortable (A mention that some plastic chairs can also be uncomfortable)

Generally, it feels comfortable temperature wise. In winter, doors need to be closed to retain heat particularly if there is an activity in the community room. If glass again could be inset into the community room double doors, then the visitors can see through and be reassured what is happening. The pews and chairs in the community room are uncomfortable for long period of sitting.

6 Visible?

The television is not high enough - visibility is poor after the first 2 rows

The Church lighting is dull with little natural daylight.

In winter I find the eco bulbs very dim
Plenty of light, natural and electric. Raised areas make clergy visible.

The large screen TV is good.

Many say - Pillars obstruct the view in the side aisles

There are a few sight lines that are blocked by pillars. Sometimes people possibly hide

behind the pillars on the pews on the sides and they would not see the TV screen.

However again if the pews were not there seating could be arranged to avoid this and people may feel more comfortable to sit in the central aisle. it does feel a little dark in the main church. No spot lights on people who are leading, reading or performing to give more of a focus. Personally the dark pews and grey pillars and pulpit is off putting.

There are no spotlights on those leading worship

7 Audible?

No soundproofing between community room and Church

The music system is good, but the personal microphones are not always adequate.

Sound needs better control. Turn the microphones on.

Unreliable and inconsistent. Hit and Miss.

Mobile mikes could be improved

An excellent sound system, when switched on!

Yes, but it depends on one's ability to hear well.

Yes, but sometimes not.

Loop system needs connecting to all sound systems (in progress)

Roland Speaker is good

Generally, this is very good. However, on occasion the person leading must make sure that their microphone is turned on or up.

8 Serviceable? (1)

It has many possibilities for religious community which would fund caretaker and building officer

Knock down wall between entrance and meeting room – more flexible welcoming space

Kitchen could be better designed.
Kitchen has seen a lot of use and needs replacing.
The kitchen is unsuitable for anything

more than tea / coffee or a light lunch.

Several comments about the toilets – poor, inadequate, poorly designed

The toilets are poor, and we need more of them

Toilets adequate and kitchen small but very good

Toilets are fine

Yes, but could improve

Need to serve all the people of our parish.

8 Serviceable? (2)

Kitchen and toilet facilities are adequate. Storage facilities are limited, with equipment being dumped in vestries and under pew. The community room and kitchen are tired and could be modernised and redecorated. Most modern kitchens have attractive counters. People can only get from church to the toilets through the Community Room, which can be disruptive. A door, and glass, between Nave and Community Room would provide interest and draw people in. The community room chairs are uncomfortable, and squeaky. The provision is fine for smaller numbers but

for larger events the kitchen is a small space particularly if you need more people to serve food and clean the space afterwards. At present really only 2 possibly 3 can be in the kitchen. There is never enough storage! What storage there is is organized quite well. There are some storage spaces (high cupboards) that are full but not used. However, when a new community group uses the building on a regular basis it is a challenge to find storage. Space for recycling bins is not adequate and is quite unsightly but at the same time encouraging users to recycle.

9 Quality?

All say in need of repair; Needs much attention;
New roof

Unsightly peeling paint and plaster - tatty
carpet

The floor coverings throughout are totally
unsuitable and on uneven floor surfaces

Not qualified to say

Fabric of the building is poor, either carry out
minimal repairs and run it for ten years until
the current congregation dwindles or knock it
down and start again – we can't afford either
though!

The building is in poor repair, the inside is
desperately in need of renovation in terms of
plastering and decorating

The building looks tired and in need of
re-decoration. But some of the fabric problems
mean we would be throwing good money
after bad, and so much needs attention

It does come across as tired and need of
decoration. However more importantly the
surface of the walls is only as good as what lies
beneath. There have been leaks, so better to
sort the main structures of the church before
plastering and re-decorating.

10 Flexible?

Not at present

Not enough

Rigid

Several say some form of re-ordering is the only way forward – pews replaced by good quality, upholstered or ergonomic chairs

Space is vital for all sorts of uses and events by the community

It could be a valuable asset for the community

The church seating cannot be moved but the meeting room is able to accommodate various activities

The Community Room gives some flexibility. Using the nave for other purposes than worship requires considerable time and ingenuity

Generally simultaneous activity cannot happen or go well. The walls between main church and community room are thin and each can hear the other. Activities during the week have to be timetabled not to clash a noisy activity with one that is more meditative. Sound proofing and removal of pews could bring more flexibility but at a financial and time cost.

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