



Mid Deeside Church - Congregational Survey Report

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Prepared:
Presented to the Kirk Session
Revision:

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Scottish Charity No. SC012967



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Summary:

At the Mid Deeside Church (MDC) Kirk Session Conference held on 15th March 2025, the Kirk Session identified several objectives for the year ahead, including:

“Creating a questionnaire for the active members of the congregation, to determine what they think is going well and where we might do better.”

To achieve this, a questionnaire was developed with the aim of allowing the MDC Kirk Session to evaluate the church’s current performance and highlight possible areas for improvement. The questions were carefully crafted to gather insights into the congregation’s experiences, motivations, and needs, with particular attention given to their spiritual journey, engagement with church life, and opportunities for growth or enhancement.

The questionnaire was structured into five distinct sections, containing a total of 15 questions for respondents to consider.

The survey was conducted between 1st June and 30th June 2025, during which 33 responses were submitted. These responses and associated data formed the foundation for the analysis that followed.

Additional Observations:

Coverage and distribution of the questionnaire was via:

- Link through MDC Website
- Link via “Keep in Touch” (KIT)
- Intimation each Sunday during the month of June 2025
- Individual Link sent to all Session members
- Hard Copies located within the MDC Complex foyer

Data Set: The data set consisted of the following:

- Responses – 12 Hardcopies & 21 Electronically
- Total data set available of 33 responses
- No responses rejected or spoiled
- 33 responses equates to approximately 55% of the active congregation



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Content: An analysis of the survey results notes the following breakdown:

- General Questions: - Responders appear comfortable with worship and being part of the MDC Community
- Questions on Engagement: - Again, comfortable with Worship, communication and being part of the congregation
- Questions on Spiritual Growth: - Questions designed to ask responders to explore their own spiritual growth. Note from the diagrams the trend towards neither agreeing nor disagreeing
- Questions about MDC and the Church: - Questions looking for more participation within the Church and Congregation, a marked increase in those that disagree or prefer the “status que”
- Questions on Mission and Vision: - Again, a large proportion that neither agree nor disagree – why – what are we as a Session missing
- Feedback from responses: - As usual some responses that were critical to the questions and survey and others that made positive contributions

Graphs:

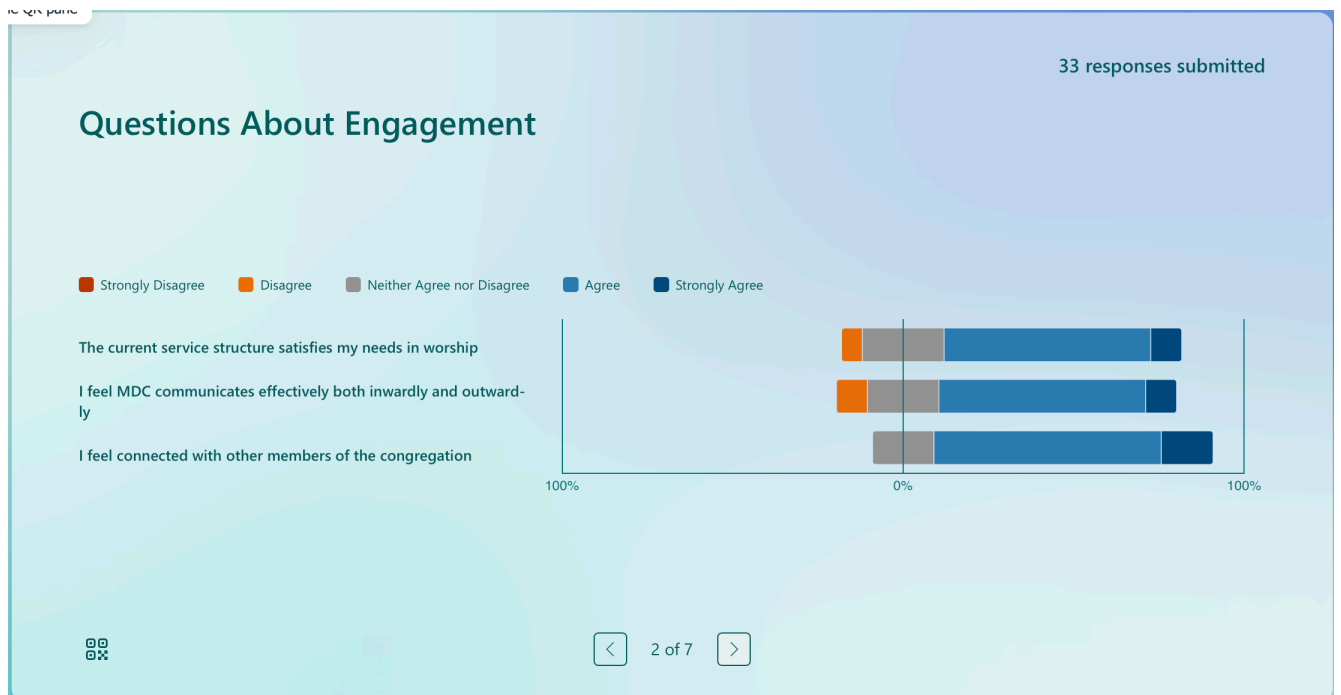
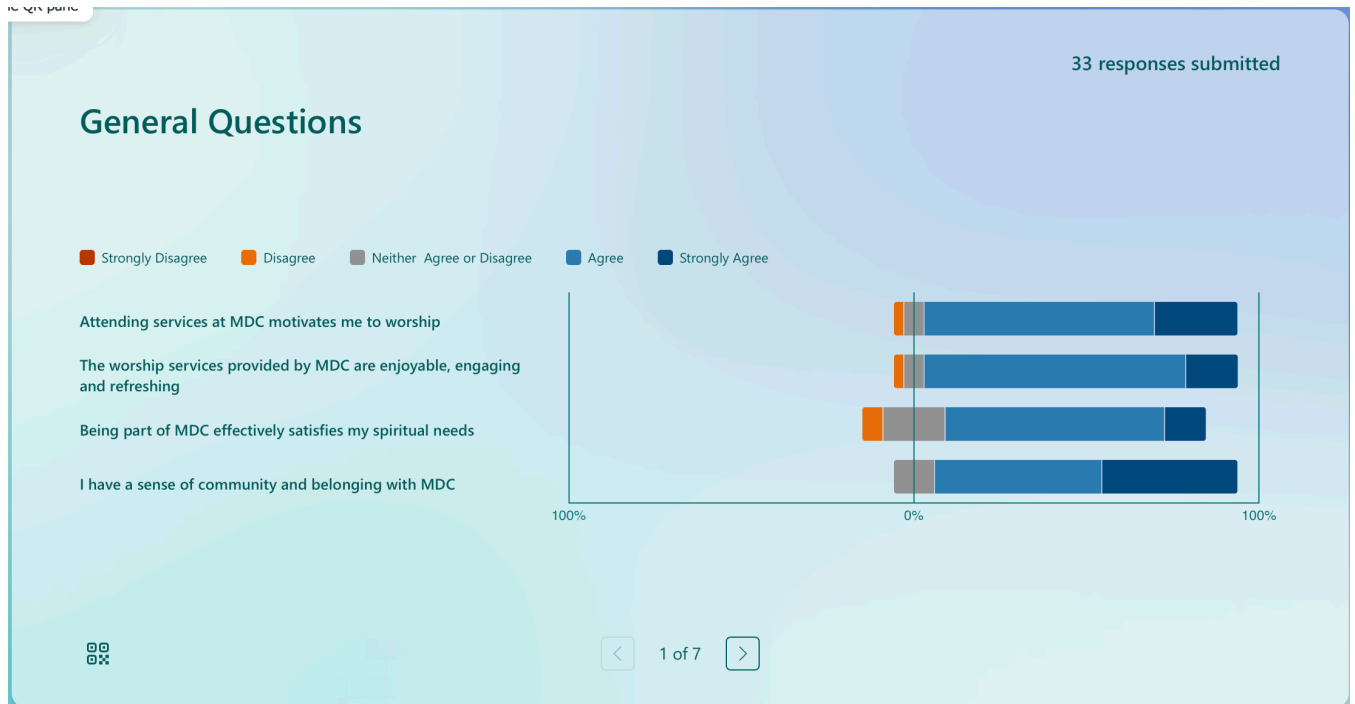
The following graphs record the level of responses and how they relate to the congregations understanding of MDC’s performance. Supporting the responses are the comments received by Responders to the questionnaire, which will need to be considered during any further Session Review.

The report was delivered to Kirk Session at the Session Meeting of 21st August 25 and will form the basis for further discussion at a future Session Conference, date to be confirmed.

It is assumed that the results of the Kirk Session review conducted at the Session Conference will form the basis for any “Planned Improvement Plan” moving forward.

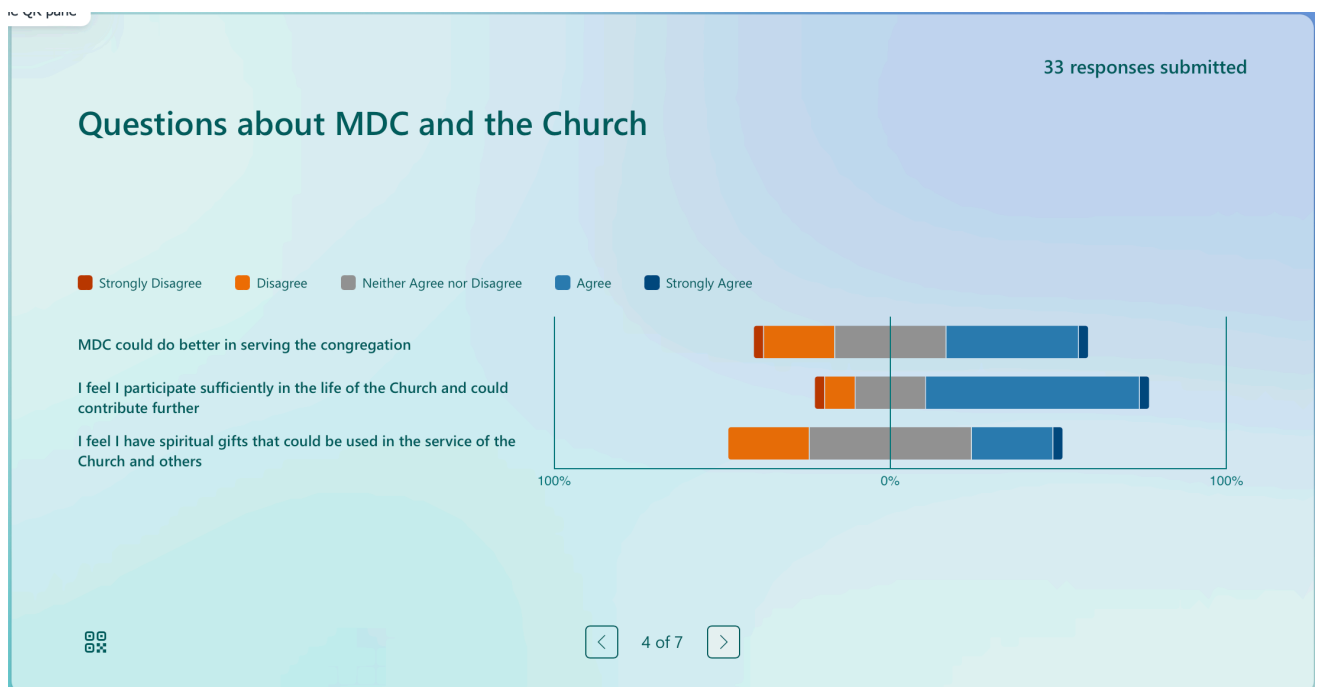
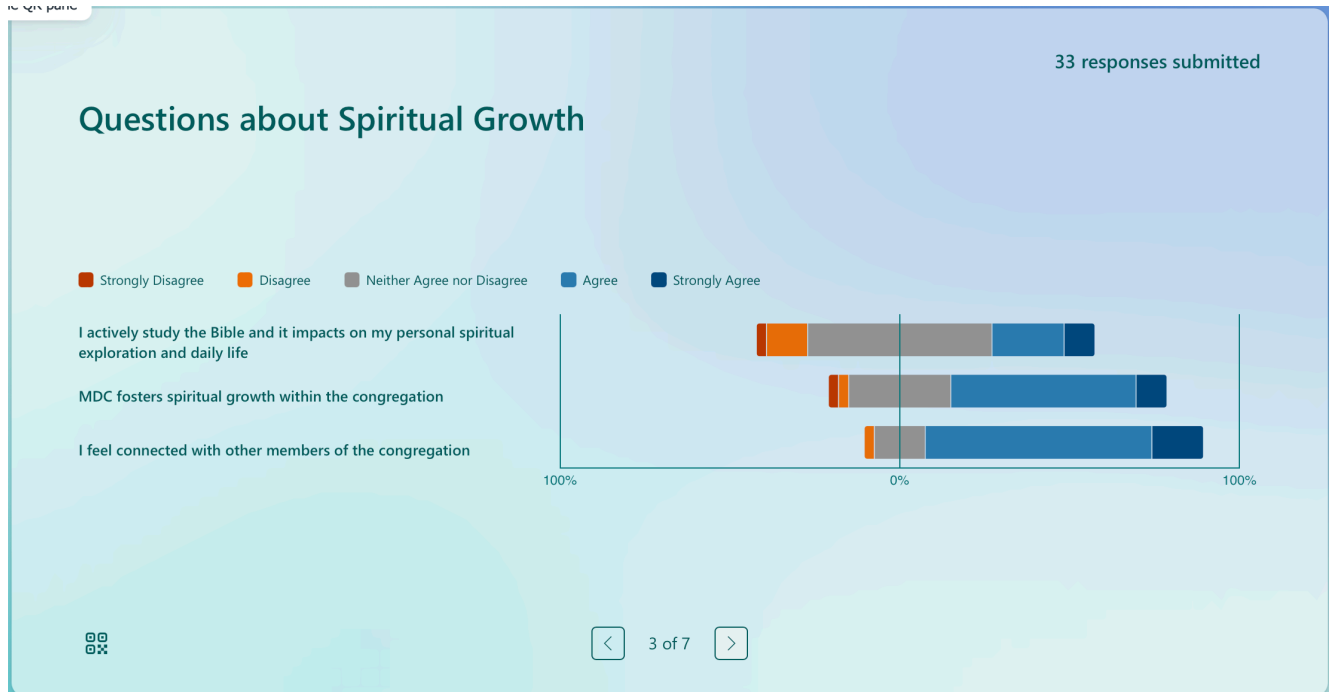


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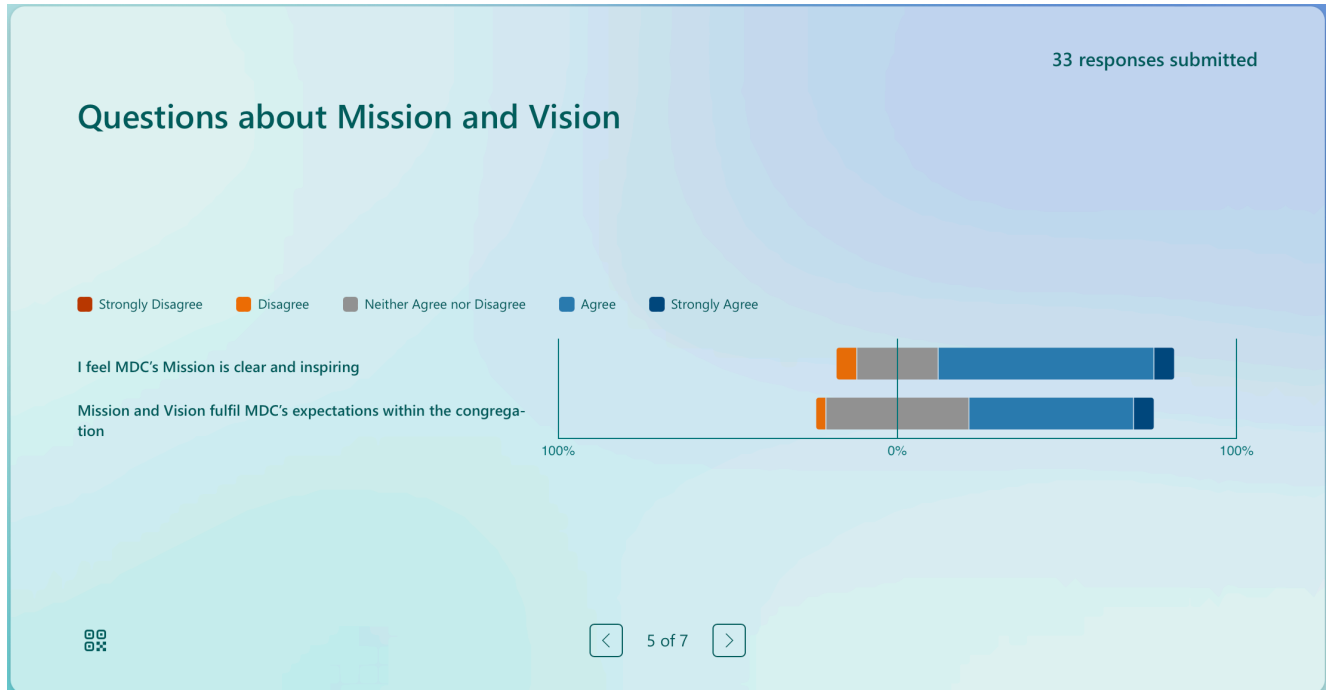


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MDC Congregational Survey – Responders Feedback

1	Rather a broad brush set of questions without reference to elements of church provision such as outreach, pastoral care, young peoples' provision.
2	A bible study group would be beneficial and more activities in the evenings for people who work to get involved. At present a lot of the activities and timings seem to be aimed at those who are retired. A lot of the activities are more social than promoting spiritual growth or learning more about God's word. A choir would be a nice addition too and some more modern songs though I also enjoy the traditional hymns and would like a mix of both. I like the idea of a praise evening with contemporary worship music that was mentioned recently. I do enjoy being a member of the church and appreciate everything you do.
3	The questionnaire is less wide ranging than I expected
4	How can we engage with our congregation to encourage more participation in service and discipleship by all? Many hands make lighter work. I don't have all the answers to this either
5	It would be wonderful to see more people actively involved in our church life.
6	Hard to identify...probably differences creeping in through the years. Compared to church(es) of say the Fifties the relaxation even erosion of traditions has weakened the sense of respect, comfort, quietness absorption.... More simply? Maybe « not what it used to be ».
7	Need to restart Study Groups- at various times, to suit busy people Hope the Youth Leader gets well to continue her great work in the past few years.
8	Not clear on the difference between the third questions in sections 2 and 3. I feel connected with other members of the congregation through engagement in church activities (question 2), but don't understand how this relates to my spiritual growth (question 3).
9	After all the money spent on organ, would prefer to hear organ at Sunday services, unless the organist is unable to play
10	Since we contributed to the repair and maintenance of the organ we are very disappointed it is not used regularly, especially, when the organist is sitting in the congregation !!!
11	Allow a few minutes of personal quiet prayer during the service.
12	New hymns need better management for example having a you tube video demonstration of the first verse just before we try it.
13	Section 5 questions are vague and difficult to answer. Questions 2 and 3 have similar sections re connectivity.
14	There is one thing I am disappointed with and that is that the organ is not used as it should be. I don't think that the piano should be used when there is such a wonderful organ in the church and an organist. Why did we raise funds for the



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	organ for it not to be used every week. I can understand if the organist is sick or unable to play, then yes we have to have the piano but I don't think the piano should be used when the organist is available.
15	My answers are quite neutral as I haven't been attending very long. The welcome has been very lovely, it is clear there is a strong and connected community here. I would love to become a part of it. My only additional note would a question regarding communion, as this doesn't seem to be part of the service schedule; have I just been missing these services, or is this a decision that has been made by the church, or a denominational feature?
16	Opportunities for spiritual growth, discipleship and learning are lacking, unfortunately. The congregation displays little interest in prayer groups and bible study/ learning groups which means that the initiatives in recent years in these areas have 'withered away'. Hopefully, the reintroduction of house groups will be more successful and improve bonding and growth. Understandably, the Sunday morning worship service structure has to meet a variety of needs and it is inevitable that few will be fully satisfied, spiritually. It would be good if there could be more experimentation on different forms of worship - particularly evening services every so often, which are not linked to meals since this does not suit many. The teenagers in our congregation need to be fed more (spiritually/bible discussion).

End of Report