

CHURCH LIFE SURVEY 2023

HAVE YOUR SAY

Thank you

If you're 15 years or over, this survey is for you! Join thousands of people across Aotearoa / New Zealand completing this survey in 2023.

Confidentiality

Your survey responses are anonymous and you are not asked to provide any personal contact details. Survey results are aggregated for your entire church so your individual responses cannot be identified.

Thank you for your time, it is a valuable gift to the whole church in Aotearoa / New Zealand.



Church Life Survey NZ 2023

- Please complete as many questions as you can.
- No question is compulsory.
- To answer a question, tick ✓ the circle next to your option.
- Unless otherwise stated, please tick only ONE response to each question.
- The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

A: About You

A1. How do you normally attend church?

- ☐ a. In person
- ☐ b. Online or on TV
- ☐ c. I do not normally attend church

A2. How often do you attend church services (including online or TV) at this church or somewhere else?

- ☐ a. This is my first time
- ☐ b. Never or hardly ever or on special occasions only
- ☐ c. Less than once a month
- ☐ d. Once a month
- ☐ e. Two or three times a month
- ☐ f. Usually every week
- ☐ g. More than once a week

A3. How long have you been coming to worship services or activities at THIS church?

- ☐ a. I am visiting from another church
- ☐ b. I am visiting and do not regularly go anywhere else
- ☐ c. Less than 1 year
- ☐ d. 1-2 years
- ☐ e. 3-5 years
- ☐ f. 6-10 years
- ☐ g. 11-20 years
- ☐ h. More than 20 years

A4. Before you started attending here (in person or online), what term best described your religious belief?

- ☐ a. Christian
- ☐ b. No religious belief but raised in a Christian home
- ☐ c. No religious belief and not raised in a Christian home
- ☐ d. Muslim
- ☐ e. Hindu
- ☐ f. Jewish
- ☐ g. Buddhist
- ☐ h. Spiritualism or New Age Religion
- ☐ i. Other (please specify)

A5. Before coming here what was the denomination of your previous church?

- ☐ a. The same denomination as this local church
- ☐ b. A different denomination from this local church (please specify)
- ☐ c. This is the first church I have attended.

A6. In what year were you born?

Enter a year between 1910 and 2008

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A7. What is your gender?

- ☐ a. Female
- ☐ b. Male
- ☐ c. Other

A8. Which ethnic groups do you belong to? Tick ALL that apply

- ☐ a. Māori
- ☐ b. European / Pākehā
- ☐ c. Samoan
- ☐ d. Cook Island
- ☐ e. Tongan
- ☐ f. Fijian
- ☐ g. Niuean
- ☐ h. Other Pacific (please specify)

- ☐ i. Chinese
- ☐ j. Indian
- ☐ k. Korean
- ☐ l. Filipino
- ☐ m. Other Asian (please specify)

- ☐ n. African
- ☐ o. Middle Eastern
- ☐ p. Latin American
- ☐ q. Other (please specify)

A9. Which country were you born in?

- ☐ a. Aotearoa / New Zealand
- ☐ b. Australia
- ☐ c. China/Hong Kong/Taiwan
- ☐ d. Cook Islands
- ☐ e. Fiji
- ☐ f. India/Sri Lanka/Pakistan
- ☐ g. Korea
- ☐ h. Philippines
- ☐ i. Samoa
- ☐ j. South Africa
- ☐ k. Tonga
- ☐ l. United Kingdom
- ☐ m. United States
- ☐ n. Other (please specify)

A10. What is the highest educational qualification you have completed?

- ☐ a. No formal qualification
- ☐ b. School certificate / NCEA 1
- ☐ c. NCEA 2/3 / Sixth form certificate / University Entrance / Bursary
- ☐ d. NZQA recognised trade certificate or equivalent training
- ☐ e. NZQA recognised tertiary diploma or equivalent
- ☐ f. Bachelors degree from a university or equivalent institution
- ☐ g. Post graduate degree or diploma

A11. What term best describes your current marital status?

- ☐ a. Never married
- ☐ b. In first marriage
- ☐ c. Remarried after divorce
- ☐ d. Remarried after death of spouse
- ☐ e. In a defacto relationship or civil union
- ☐ f. Separated but not divorced
- ☐ g. Divorced and not remarried
- ☐ h. Widowed

A12. Does your spouse or partner attend this church?

- ☐ a. Yes
- ☐ b. No

A13. What is your current employment status?

- ☐ a. Employed for 30 hours or more per week
- ☐ b. Employed between 1 and 30 hours per week
- ☐ c. Unemployed
- ☐ d. Student
- ☐ e. Full-time home duties / family responsibilities
- ☐ f. Self-employed
- ☐ g. Retired

A14. What is the postcode of your usual (or current) residence?

Enter your four digit postcode

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B: You and This Local Church

*If this is your **first time** or you are a **visitor** please skip this section*

B1. Which of the following aspects of this local church do you most value?

Tick up to THREE options

- ☐ a. Wider community care or social justice emphasis
- ☐ b. Reaching those who do not attend church
- ☐ c. Traditional style of worship or music
- ☐ d. Contemporary style of worship or music
- ☐ e. Sharing in Holy Communion / the Eucharist / Lord's Supper
- ☐ f. Social activities or meeting people
- ☐ g. Sermons, preaching or Bible teaching
- ☐ h. Small groups e.g. Bible study, prayer group
- ☐ i. Ministry for children or youth
- ☐ j. Prayer ministry for one another
- ☐ k. Practical care for one another in times of need
- ☐ l. Openness to social diversity
- ☐ m. Presence of a church school or pre-school

B2. Do you have a strong sense of belonging to this local church?

- ☐ a. Yes, a strong sense of belonging, which is growing
- ☐ b. Yes, a strong sense - about the same as last year
- ☐ c. Yes, although perhaps not as strongly as in the past
- ☐ d. No, but a growing sense of belonging
- ☐ e. No, I don't have a sense of belonging
- ☐ f. Not applicable or don't know

B3. This local church is resourcing my spiritual journey well

- ☐ a. Strongly agree
- ☐ b. Agree
- ☐ c. Neutral or unsure
- ☐ d. Disagree
- ☐ e. Strongly disagree

What is your experience of this local church?

B4 to B9

B4. The preaching is very helpful to my life

- ☐ a. Nearly always
- ☐ b. Usually
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Almost never

B5. I appreciate the music

- ☐ a. Nearly always
- ☐ b. Usually
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Almost never

B6. I feel inspired

- ☐ a. Nearly always
- ☐ b. Usually
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Almost never

B7. I feel a sense of God's presence

- ☐ a. Nearly always
- ☐ b. Usually
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Almost never

B8. This local church is helping me grow in my understanding of God

- ☐ a. Nearly always
- ☐ b. Usually
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Almost never

B9. I am being challenged to take action

- ☐ a. Nearly always
- ☐ b. Usually
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Almost never

B10. How satisfied are you with what is offered here for children under 12 years?

- ☐ a. Very satisfied
- ☐ b. Satisfied
- ☐ c. Dissatisfied
- ☐ d. Very dissatisfied
- ☐ e. Unsure / not applicable

B11. How satisfied are you with what is offered here for youth aged 12-18 years?

- ☐ a. Very satisfied
- ☐ b. Satisfied
- ☐ c. Dissatisfied
- ☐ d. Very dissatisfied
- ☐ e. Unsure / not applicable

B12. How satisfied are you with what is offered here for adults aged 19-25 years?

- ☐ a. Very satisfied
- ☐ b. Satisfied
- ☐ c. Dissatisfied
- ☐ d. Very dissatisfied
- ☐ e. Unsure / not applicable

B13. If you have children under the age of 12, how many?

Select all applicable responses and enter the number

- ☐ a. Not applicable
- ☐ b. Attend this local church?
- ☐ c. Attend another church?
- ☐ d. Do not attend any church?
- ☐ e. I am unsure/don't know if they attend church

B14. If you have children aged 12 to 18, how many?

Select all applicable responses and enter the number

- ☐ a. Not applicable
- ☐ b. Attend this local church?
- ☐ c. Attend another church?
- ☐ d. Do not attend any church?
- ☐ e. I am unsure/don't know if they attend church

B15. Do any of your children attend a church/Christian school?

- ☐ a. Yes
- ☐ b. No
- ☐ c. Not applicable

C: You and Your Faith

C1. Over the last year, do you believe you have grown in your Christian faith?

- ☐ a. I do not have a Christian faith
- ☐ b. No real growth
- ☐ c. Some growth
- ☐ d. Much growth, mainly through this local church
- ☐ e. Much growth, mainly through other groups or churches
- ☐ f. Much growth, mainly through my own private activity

C2. How often do you spend time in private or family devotional activities (eg prayer, meditation, reading the Bible)?

- ☐ a. Every day or most days
- ☐ b. A few times a week
- ☐ c. Once a week
- ☐ d. Occasionally
- ☐ e. Hardly ever
- ☐ f. Never

C3. How often do you read the Bible on your own?

- ☐ a. Every day or most days
- ☐ b. A few times a week
- ☐ c. Once a week
- ☐ d. Occasionally
- ☐ e. Hardly ever
- ☐ f. Never

C4. Which statement comes closest to your view of the Bible?

- ☐ a. The Bible is the word of God, to be taken literally word by word
- ☐ b. The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its historical and cultural context
- ☐ c. The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its historical context and the church's teaching
- ☐ d. The Bible is not the word of God, but contains God's word to us
- ☐ e. The Bible is not the word of God, but is a valuable book
- ☐ f. The Bible is an ancient book with little value today
- ☐ g. Don't know

C5. Do you identify with any of the following approaches to matters of faith?

Tick ALL that apply

- ☐ a. Catholic or Anglo-Catholic
- ☐ b. Evangelical
- ☐ c. Reformed
- ☐ d. Charismatic or Pentecostal
- ☐ e. Fundamentalist
- ☐ f. Traditional
- ☐ g. Moderate
- ☐ h. Liberal or Progressive
- ☐ i. I do not identify with such descriptions

D: You and Your Community

D1. Are you involved in any community service, social action or welfare groups NOT CONNECTED to this local church?

Tick ALL that apply

- ☐ a. Yes; sports, recreation or hobby groups
- ☐ b. Yes; school or youth groups (e.g., a parent teacher association, Scouts)
- ☐ c. Yes; another kind of group (e.g. arts, cultural, political)
- ☐ d. Yes; online groups or communities
- ☐ e. No; I am not involved in any such groups

D2. Do you believe that Christians have a responsibility to actively care for the environment?

- ☐ a. Yes and I am very active
- ☐ b. Yes and I am somewhat active
- ☐ c. Yes but I am currently not active
- ☐ d. No
- ☐ e. Unsure

D3. In the past 12 months have you done any of the following:

Tick ALL that apply

- ☐ a. Lent or given money to someone outside your family
- ☐ b. Attended a public meeting/march
- ☐ c. Supported a campaign (online or other)
- ☐ d. Cared for someone who was very sick
- ☐ e. Helped someone through a personal crisis (not sickness)
- ☐ f. Visited someone in hospital
- ☐ g. Given some of your possessions to someone in need
- ☐ h. Tried to stop someone from becoming addicted
- ☐ i. Donated money to a charitable organisation
- ☐ j. Contacted an MP/local council member on a public issue
- ☐ k. None of the above

D4. Which of the following best describes your readiness to talk to others about your faith?

- ☐ a. I feel at ease talking about my faith and look for opportunities to do so
- ☐ b. I mostly feel at ease talking about my faith and do if it comes up
- ☐ c. I find it hard to talk about my faith in ordinary language
- ☐ d. I do not like to talk about my faith; my life and actions are sufficient
- ☐ e. I do not have faith, so the question is not applicable

D5. Would you be prepared to invite to a church service here any of your friends and relatives who do not currently attend church?

- ☐ a. Yes, and I have done so in the past 12 months
- ☐ b. Yes, but I have not done so in the past 12 months
- ☐ c. Don't know
- ☐ d. No, probably not
- ☐ e. No, definitely not

D6. Do you regularly take part in any activities of this church that reach out to the wider community (eg visitation, outreach, community service, social justice, welfare)?

Tick ALL that apply

- ☐ a. Yes, in evangelistic or outreach activities
- ☐ b. Yes, in community service or welfare activities of this church
- ☐ c. Yes, in social justice activities of this church
- ☐ d. No, I am not regularly involved in such activities
- ☐ e. No, we don't have such activities

E: You and Your Involvement Here

If this is your first time or you are a visitor please skip this section

E1. Are you regularly involved in any group activities here?

Tick ALL that apply

- ☐ a. Yes, in small prayer, discussion or Bible study groups
- ☐ b. Yes, in fellowship, clubs, social or other groups
- ☐ c. Yes, in youth or young adult groups
- ☐ d. No, I am not regularly involved in such activities
- ☐ e. No, we have no such groups

E2. Do you currently perform any of these leadership or ministry roles here?

Tick ALL that apply

- ☐ a. Leadership in a church service (e.g. music, preaching, preparing sacraments or communion, liturgical assistant, welcoming, technology)
- ☐ b. Adult ministry (e.g. women's group, men's group, Bible studies)
- ☐ c. Children or youth ministry
- ☐ d. Community ministry
- ☐ e. Oversight of the church
- ☐ f. Pastoral care role (visitation of the sick, elderly etc)
- ☐ g. Another role not mentioned above
- ☐ h. I perform no leadership or ministry roles

E3. How much do you participate in the activities of this local church, compared to before COVID-19?

- ☐ a. Participate more
- ☐ b. About the same participation
- ☐ c. Participate less
- ☐ d. Not applicable (been coming less than 3 years)

E4. Have the leaders of this local church encouraged you to find and use your gifts and skills here?

- ☐ a. Yes, to a great extent
- ☐ b. Yes, to some extent
- ☐ c. Yes, to a small extent
- ☐ d. Not at all

E5. About how much do you give financially to this congregation?

- ☐ a. I give 10% or more of my income regularly
- ☐ b. I give about 5% to 9% of my income regularly
- ☐ c. I give less than 5% of my income regularly
- ☐ d. I give a small amount whenever I am able
- ☐ e. I do not contribute financially here

F: Leadership and Direction

*If this is your **first time** or you are a **visitor** please skip this section*

F1. Does this local church have a clear vision, goals or direction for its ministry and mission?

- ☐ a. Yes, and I am strongly committed to them
- ☐ b. Yes, and I am partly committed to them
- ☐ c. Yes, but I am not committed to them
- ☐ d. There are ideas but no clear vision, goals or direction
- ☐ e. I am not aware of such vision/goals or direction
- ☐ f. We need to go back to the way we did things in the past

F2. How confident are you that this local church can achieve the vision, goals or directions it has set for itself?

- ☐ a. Fully confident
- ☐ b. Partly confident
- ☐ c. Not confident
- ☐ d. Don't know
- ☐ e. The vision, goals or directions are not clear enough to me

F3. How important is it to you that this local church is part of this denomination(s)?

- ☐ a. Very important
- ☐ b. Somewhat important
- ☐ c. No strong feelings either way
- ☐ d. Not important
- ☐ e. I would rather we were not part of any denomination

F4. What size do you think this local church will be in about 10 years time?

- ☐ a. Bigger
- ☐ b. About the same size
- ☐ c. Smaller
- ☐ d. Merged with another local church
- ☐ e. Closed down

F5. How ethnically diverse do you think this local church will be in about 10 years time?

- ☐ a. More ethnically diverse
- ☐ b. About the same mix of ethnicities
- ☐ c. Less ethnically diverse

F6. What age distribution do you think this local church will have in about 10 years time?

- ☐ a. Mainly older people
- ☐ b. A mix of all ages
- ☐ c. Mainly young people

F7. This local church is inclusive of different kinds of people

- ☐ a. Strongly agree
- ☐ b. Agree
- ☐ c. Neutral or unsure
- ☐ d. Disagree
- ☐ e. Strongly disagree

F8. I have found it easy to make friends within this local church

- ☐ a. Strongly agree
- ☐ b. Agree
- ☐ c. Neutral or unsure
- ☐ d. Disagree
- ☐ e. Strongly disagree

F9. It is easy to get involved in ministry at this local church (eg join a roster, take on a role)

- ☐ a. Strongly agree
- ☐ b. Agree
- ☐ c. Neutral or unsure
- ☐ d. Disagree
- ☐ e. Strongly disagree

F10. All age groups are encouraged to get involved at this local church

- ☐ a. Strongly agree
- ☐ b. Agree
- ☐ c. Neutral or unsure
- ☐ d. Disagree
- ☐ e. Strongly disagree

F11. The leaders in this local church are willing to support new initiatives

- ☐ a. Strongly agree
- ☐ b. Agree
- ☐ c. Neutral or unsure
- ☐ d. Disagree
- ☐ e. Strongly disagree

F12. This local church is a safe place for all who attend

- ☐ a. Strongly agree
- ☐ b. Agree
- ☐ c. Neutral or unsure
- ☐ d. Disagree
- ☐ e. Strongly disagree

F13. In your opinion, which of the following should be given priority by this local church in the next 12 months?

Tick up to THREE options

- ☐ a. Spiritual growth (eg spiritual direction, prayer groups)
- ☐ b. Worship services that are nurturing to people's faith
- ☐ c. Building a strong sense of community within this local church
- ☐ d. Creating a clear vision for this local church's future
- ☐ e. Encouraging people here to discover/use their gifts
- ☐ f. Encouraging new approaches to ministry and mission
- ☐ g. Supporting social justice and/or service to people in need
- ☐ h. Encouraging people here to share their faith and/or invite others
- ☐ i. Ensuring new people are included well in church life
- ☐ j. Ministry to children and youth
- ☐ k. Growing into a larger local church
- ☐ l. Starting a new church or mission venture
- ☐ m. Other

Thank you for taking part in the 2023 Church Life Survey NZ.

Ethics Statement: New Zealand Church Life Survey 2023

Supervisory Committee / Researchers:

- *Rev Norman Brooks*
- *Dr Margaret Galt*
- *Professor Peter Lineham*
- *Dr Barry McDonald*
- *Sr Dr Sian Owen*
- *Rev Max Scott*
- *Dr Lynne Taylor*

Massey University Human Ethics Notification - 4000026135

This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researchers named in this document are responsible for the ethical conduct of this research.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you want to raise with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact Professor Craig Johnson, Director (Research Ethics), email humanethics@massey.ac.nz.

For office use only:

Survey no: _____