

Online services -

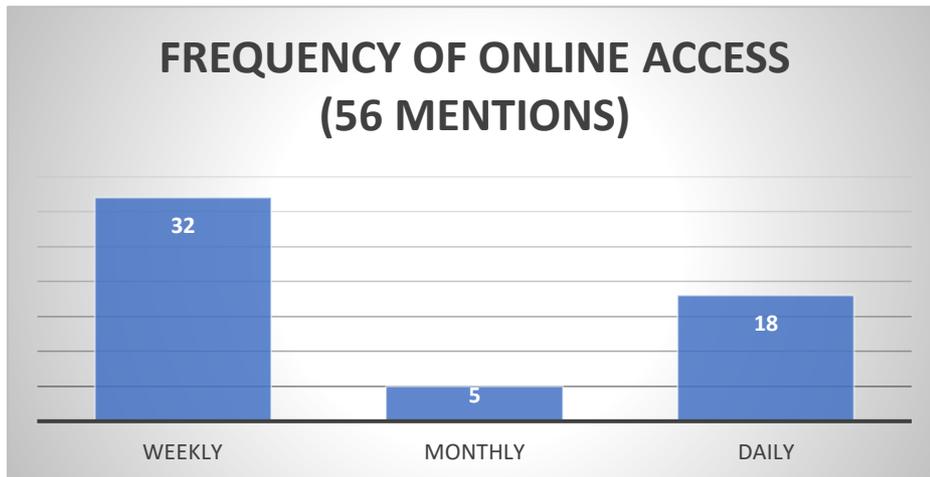
Your views, from 64 respondents

Our response

Access

We asked you about the way in which you use the online services which have been arranged for the Parishes.

Frequency of online service use

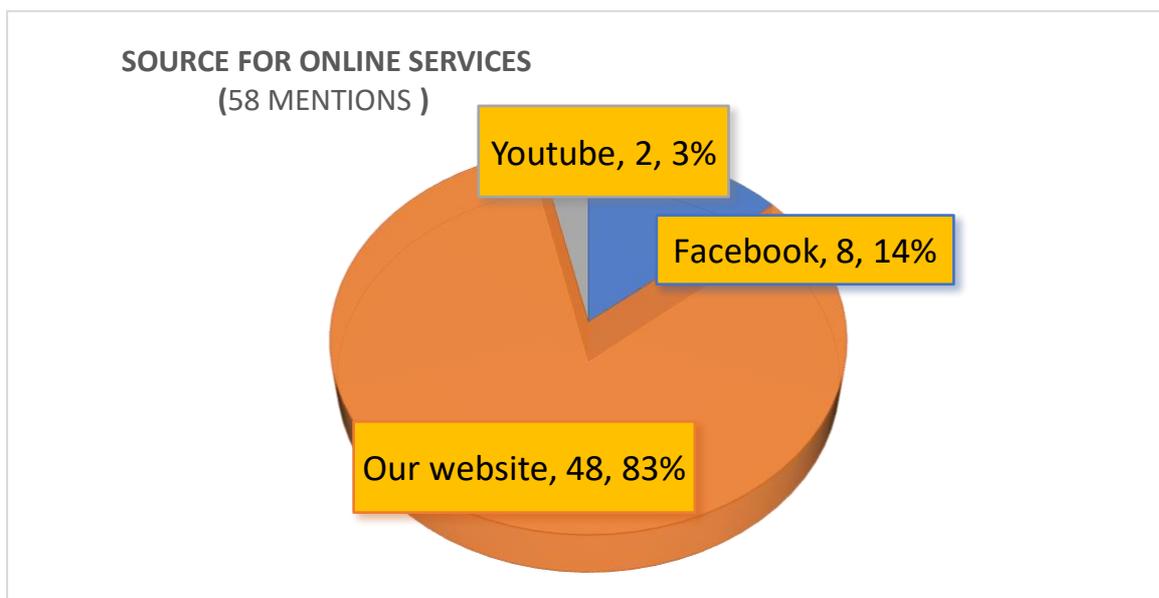


This suggests that the responses have come from a solid core of users and so your opinions should be valid.

But how do we reach the people who are not technology users?

Getting connected

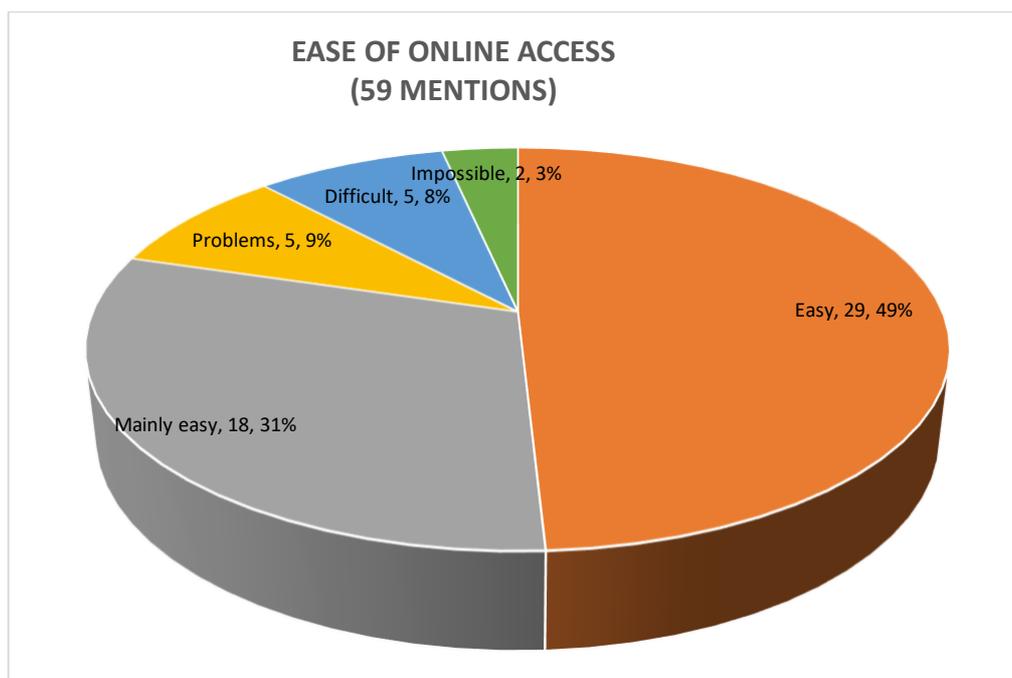
You use the following contacts for the services:



The overwhelming use of our own website, and of Facebook, shows confidence in our approach.

But, can we train other 'hosts' to prepare our own material and manage Zoom and Facebook?

You considered the ease with which online services are accessed.



Whilst four fifths said that access was easy, one fifth had problems of varying difficulty. If we have 160 'congregation' then nearly 40 would have problems.

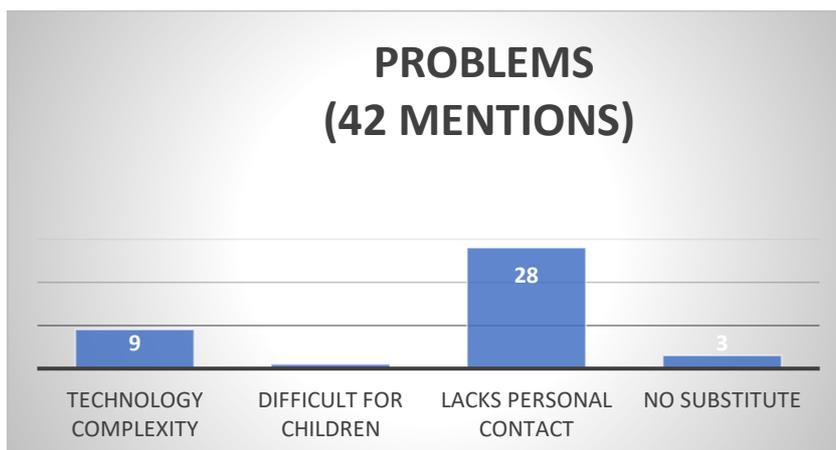
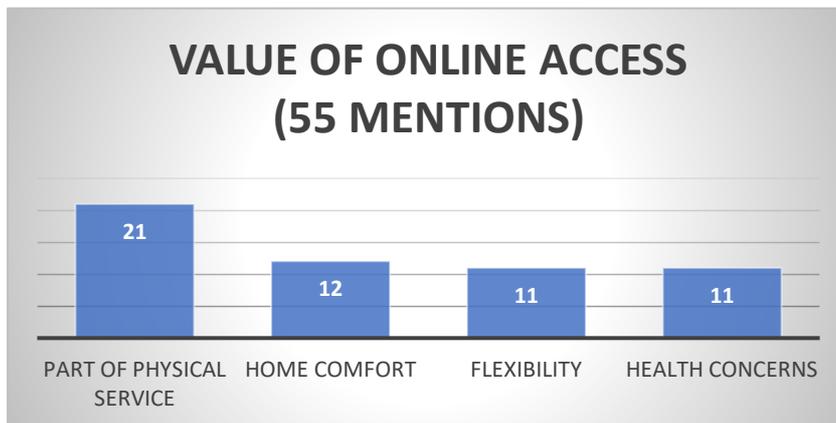
Are we able to develop a locality based technical help team to overcome these individual problems?

Are we able to help those without access to find somebody near with who to share?

Action

We asked how the services are used – their content and approach. The value indicated a considerable group who, because of a range of problems, felt that they gained from online provision.

Value

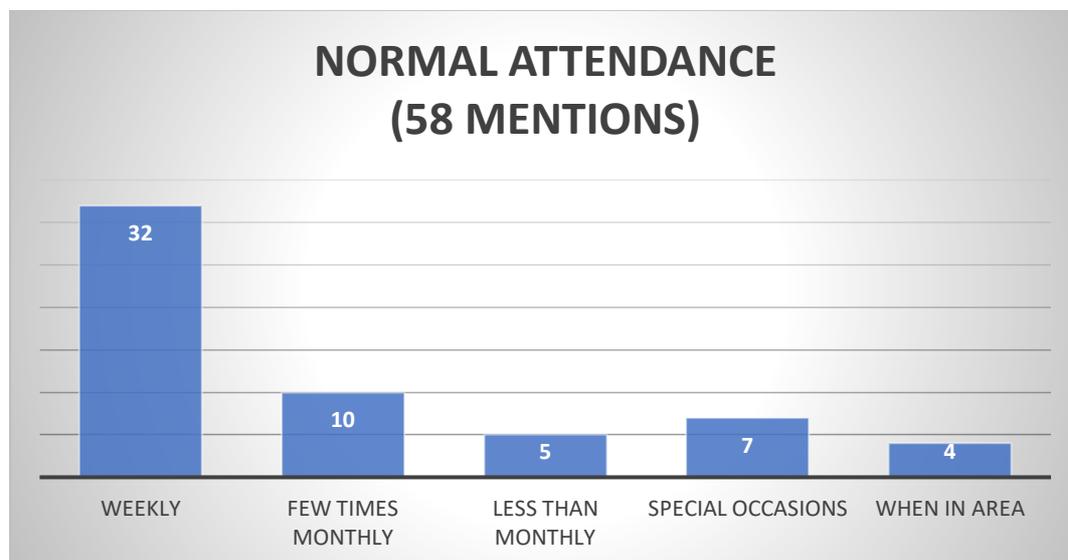


Half of the respondents valued their participation in an actual service. A similar number overall favour online access for other reasons. Flexibility related to timing and later participation than at the service time. Half, however, saw the lack of personal contact as a problem.

Does this suggest that the 'mixed economy' caters for an increased range of congregational members? What does that mean for our Church life?

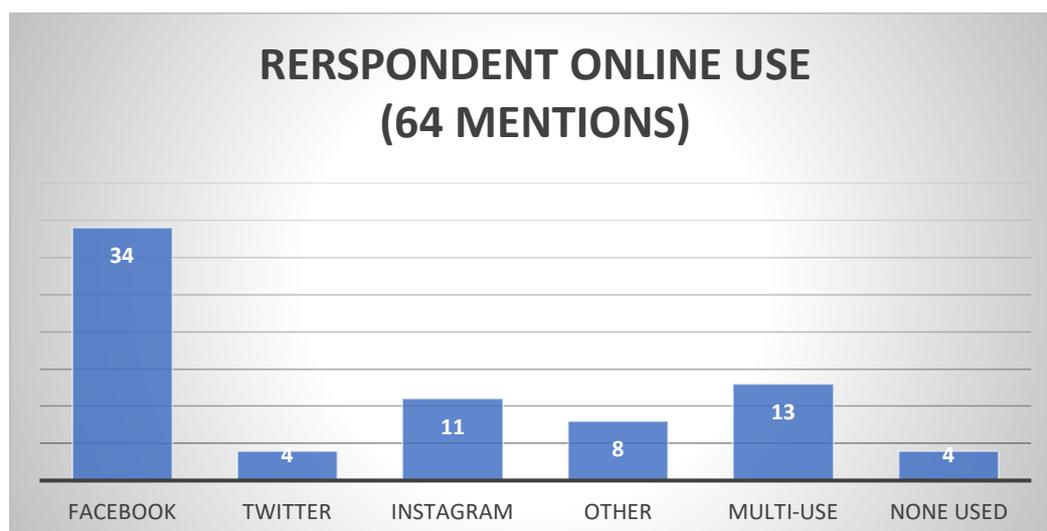
Ahead?

Planning any change needs us to recognise the patterns and practice of the people with whom we work



Our evidence shows that two thirds of the respondents are regular church attendees, and this adds weight to views that might affect future planning. [How do we balance the needs of regular congregation and occasional visitors who could well be regular online users.](#)

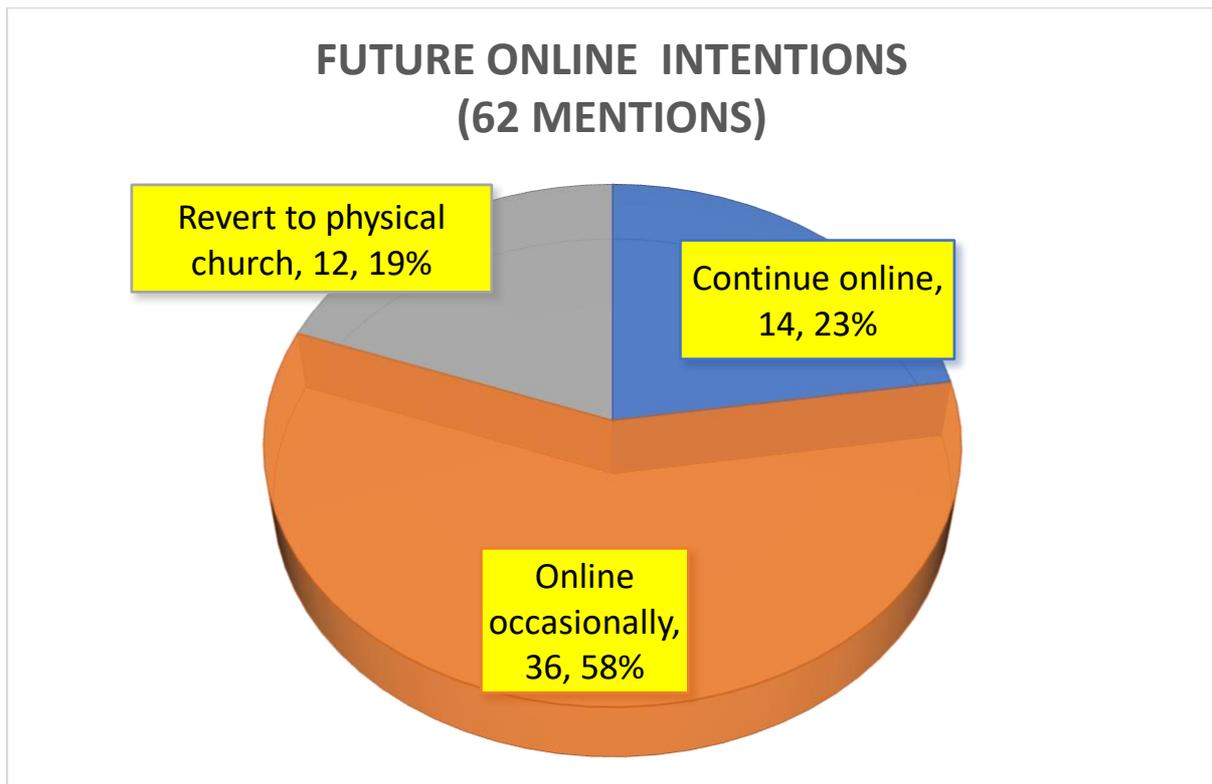
But we also need how any future provision can be facilitated, and so we sought views on online use.



Half of the respondents are Facebook users and this suggests that our current practice of own website plus Facebook works well.

We also use Youtube to host past services and events. Does this lead to complex situations for those for whom the technology is a barrier? Is there a simpler approach? Is there any way in which we can simplify access for the non-users?

Our planning is most affected by knowing how the post-Covid church is likely to be able to offer the Gospel in a new situation. Your intentions help with this.



This suggests that the 'mixed economy' of service provision should continue because the online users are a significant element of the congregation at large.

We return to asking how we can develop a meaningful, coherent and inclusive church community using technology as an adjunct to, but not a driver, of post-Covid church life? How can we become more interactive and yet retain a simplicity of connection that meets our changing demography?

Your comments may help stimulate discussion – and find solutions.

You would like :

A children's service from St. Mary's and even more importantly, a service for teenagers.

A pre-recorded informal service

Visual presentations outside church interspersed with joint Worship

I remember the group worship services around themes and enjoyed them

Church music as well as the anthem – more hymns?

Use outside speakers who can visit virtually for sermons

You have noticed:

Sometimes the speakers voice is distorted , and at times loss of picture occurs

We need help to get people online – Zoom seems to be the platform of choice

We miss the opportunity to speak to the celebrant after the service

But you recognise:

Thanks to all for a really impressive effort to keep us all in touch

An amazing range of on-line services and other gatherings, of a very high technical standard

We live in South Africa and enjoy the Anglican services you hold.

21-8-2020

