

Covid-19 & Church-21

Paying attention to the voices of Catholic laity in Great Britain

Andrew Village

Professor of Practical and Empirical Theology

York St John University, York

Leslie J. Francis

Visiting Professor of Theology and Religious Studies

York St John University, York

Francis Davis

Professor of Religion, Communities and Public Policy

University of Birmingham

Structure

Setting the context

1. Who took part?
2. Impact of the pandemic on personal wellbeing
3. Impact of the pandemic on lifestyle
4. Impact of the pandemic on religious life
5. Perceived help and support needed and received during the pandemic
6. Accessing and assessing online services during the pandemic
7. Assessing attending services in church during the pandemic
8. Attitude toward virtual church post-pandemic
9. Attitude toward local church post-pandemic
10. Attitude toward my faith post-pandemic
11. Attitude toward Mass post-pandemic
12. Attitude toward the role of God in the pandemic
13. The pandemic and church-leaving: Giving up

Setting the context

Between 8 May and late July 2020 the *Coronavirus, Church & You Survey* attracted good participation from both Anglicans and Catholics across Great Britain and Ireland. The findings from this earlier survey have been made widely available (see Appendix 1).

The *Covid-19 & Church 21 Survey* was launched in 22 January 2021 in order to capture an update on how clergy and laity across Great Britain and Ireland were faring after such a prolonged period of disruption caused by the pandemic. It coincided with another national lockdown introduced earlier in the month to cope with a third upturn in infections in the UK. With a few months, colleagues in Canada and in the USA had been attracted by our earlier survey and asked to join in.

This brief paper has been designed to profile an overview of the responses of the Catholic laity living in England, Scotland, and Wales who participated in the *Covid-19 & Church-21 Survey*. This overview will both provide immediate insights into matters of core pastoral and liturgical concern, and also stimulate further questions that can be addressed by more sophisticated interrogation of these data.

1. Who took part?

Table 1.1 provides an overview of the demographics of the 1,311 Catholic laity who participated in the *Covid-19 & Church-21 Survey*. The majority of the participants were

- from England (86%)
- white British (71%) or White Irish (11%)
- living in urban or suburban environments (69%)

The ratio between men (32%) and women (68%), after allowing for missing data, reflects what is known of the profile of many church congregations.

The age profile shows that half of the participants (52%) were under the age of 60.

The employment status shows that one third (32%) of the participants were in full-time work and one third (33%) were retired.

Table 1.2 provides the service attendance profile of the 1,188 participants who provided this information

- before the pandemic, 93% attended offline services at least weekly
- since lockdown, 65% accessed online services at least weekly

2. Impact of the pandemic on personal wellbeing

Our assessment of the impact of the pandemic on personal wellbeing draws on the psychological theory that positive affect and negative affect work as relatively independent systems. Potentially challenging situations may result in increases both in positive affect and in negative affect. Dynamically, increases in positive affect may offset some of the deleterious consequences of increases in negative affect.

Table 2 profiles the effect of the pandemic on ten markers of positive affect and ten markers of negative affect as reported by the 1,088 participants who completed this aspect of the survey.

The results show that there were large increases in some of the markers of negative affect: 57% of the participants felt more frustrated, 50% felt more fatigued, 47% felt more stressed, and 44% felt more exhausted.

At the same time, the results show that there were large increases in some of the markers of positive affect: 63% felt more grateful, and 62% felt more thankful.

3. Impact of the pandemic on lifestyle

The survey included two rather different types of question to assess the wider impact of the pandemic on participants and to complement the information provided by the balanced affect approach reported in the previous section.

Table 3.1 assesses perceived changes in behaviour and in consumption. Overall, the major change occurred in the amount of time spent on screen: this increased for 78% of the participants. The impact on exercise was reflected in 42% whose level of exercise increased and 37% whose level of exercise decreased.

Overall, there were more participants who reported increase in consumption than who reported decrease in consumption.

- 26% drank more alcohol, compared with 20% who drank less
- 23% drank more coffee, compared with 7% who drank less
- 32% ate more chocolate, compared with 13% who ate less
- 42% generally ate more, compared with 15% who ate less

Table 3.2 assessed perceived changes in physical, mental, and spiritual health. These data reveal improvements in spiritual health.

- 45% reported better spiritual health, compared with 16% who reported worse spiritual health

The situation was less positive for physical and mental health.

- 24% reported better physical health, compared with 31% who reported worse physical health

- 16% reported better mental health, compared with 38% who reported worse mental health

This table also shows a balance between one third (32%) who found it easy to cope and one third (33%) who found it difficult to cope.

4. Impact of the pandemic on religious life

Table 4 assesses perceived impact of the pandemic on aspects of the participants' religious life. These data revealed some important positive signs where more participants reported increases than decreases.

- 59% reported increases in frequency of personal prayer
- 49% reported increases in their trust in God
- 48% reported increases in the quality of their spiritual life
- 35% reported increases in their hope for the church

On the other hand, these data also revealed areas in which more participants reported decreases than increases.

- 37% reported decreases in their trust in the national Church
- 36% reported decreases in frequency of worship services
- 32% reported decreases in their trust in their local church

While these data reveal decreased trust in the local church (32%) and in the national Church (37%), there is even larger decrease in trust in the Government (62%).

5. Personal help and support needed and received during the pandemic

Table 5 assesses the perceived personal help and support needed and received by the participants during the pandemic. The first finding from these data highlights the areas in which needs were experienced

- bereavement, 15%
- illness, 15%
- practical difficulties, 29%
- mental health, 33%
- isolation or loneliness, 35%
- emotional difficulties, 39%
- faith, 55%
- keeping in touch with my congregation, 60%
- keeping in touch with the wider church, 60%

The second finding highlights the areas of perceived needs for which no help was given.

- keeping in touch with congregation, 19%
- isolation and loneliness, 16%
- keeping in touch with the wider church, 15%
- emotional difficulties, 14%
- mental health, 13%
- faith, 11%

The third finding highlights the areas of perceived needs for which the help given was rated highly.

- faith, 24%
- keeping in touch with the wider church, 16%
- keeping in touch with my congregation, 15%

6. Accessing and assessing online services during the pandemic

In assessing access to online services, the survey made a clear distinction between accessing pre-recorded services and live-streamed services.

Table 6.1 examines the proportions of participants who accessed different forms of online services. These data show that:

- 68% accessed live-streamed communion services
- 39% accessed live-streamed services of the word

This compares with:

- 21% accessed pre-recorded communion services
- 18% accessed pre-recorded services of the word

Table 6.1 also examines the proportions of participants who contributed to these services. These data show that:

- 13% did readings
- 6% led prayers
- 2% played instruments

Those who participated in pre-recorded services or in live-streamed services were invited to assess their experience. Table 6.2 examines the responses to this invitation, once again employing the notion of distinguishing between positive affect and negative affect. These data suggest similar responses to both pre-recorded and live-streamed services. Drawing on the responses to live-streamed services (in which a larger number of participants were involved), items associated with positive affect indicated that during or after online services

- 72% felt blessed
- 60% felt inspired
- 56% felt energised
- 51% felt fulfilled

Items concerned with negative affect indicated that during or after online services

- 32% felt distracted
- 29% felt detached
- 26% felt frustrated
- 18% felt unmoved

Table 6.3 completes the picture by inviting the participants to rate the online services that they had accessed. These data suggest similar ratings for both pre-recorded services and live-streamed services. Drawing on the responses to live-streamed services

- 88% rated them easy to access
- 74% rated them fit for purpose
- 66% rated them professional

7. Assessing attending services in church during the pandemic

When churches were able to open for services during the pandemic, what they could offer was limited by the restrictions governing safe practice.

Table 7.1 invites those who attended services in churches to assess how they felt about that experience in categories similar to those used to assess the effect of accessing online services. Setting the figures presented in table 7.1 alongside those assessing online services in table 6.2 illustrates two conclusions.

- more people during or after the off-line services felt fulfilled (69%), compared with 56% attending pre-recorded services and 57% attending live-streamed services
- fewer people during or after offline services felt distracted (17%), compared with 29% attending pre-recorded services and 32% attending live-streamed services

Table 7.2 completes the picture by inviting participants to rate the services in church that they had attended. Setting the figures presented in table 7.2 alongside those rating online services in table 6.3 illustrates two conclusions.

- similar proportions rated these offline services as fit for purpose (78%), as rated fit for purpose, pre-recorded services (74%), and live-streamed services (74%)
- a higher proportion rated these offline services as professional (75%), compared with pre-recorded services (64%) and live-streamed services (66%).

8. Attitude toward virtual church post-pandemic

The *Covid-19 & Church-21 Survey* concluded with five sets of attitudinal questions. The first set explored attitudes toward the virtual future for the Church. The responses to these questions presented in table 8 make the following key points.

First, there has been proper recognition that online provision has made an important contribution to sustaining church life during the pandemic.

- 73% agreed that the lockdown has helped the Church to move into the digital age
- 68% agreed that the lockdown is a great chance to re-think the Church's future

Second, there was also significant affirmation for the various application of social media and online platforms.

- 62% agreed that social media is a great pastoral tool
- 59% agreed that social media is a great evangelical tool
- 55% agreed that online worship is a great liturgical tool

Third, however, there was less enthusiasm for virtual church becoming the norm for the future.

- 22% agreed that online worship is the way ahead for the next generation
- 20% agreed that we should put more effort into developing virtual churches
- 17% agreed that online services should replace some of our in-church services
- 6% agreed that virtual contact is as good as face-to-face

The consensus for the future remained with resourcing offline church.

- 85% agreed that we should put our effort into maintaining local churches

9. Attitude toward local church post-pandemic

The second set of attitudinal questions explored attitude toward local church post-pandemic. The response to these questions presented in table 9 make the following key points.

First, fewer than half the participants imagined that the local church would not be changed by the pandemic

- 45% agreed that their church will eventually return to how it was pre-pandemic

Second, a significant number of participants identified key ways in which their church will be weaker post-pandemic.

- 45% agreed that many people will not return to church after the pandemic
- 44% agreed that the church's income will be permanently lower
- 25% agreed that key lay people will step down and be difficult to replace

Third, more than one in every eight of the participants considered that the survival of their church was under threat.

- 12% agreed that their church building will not be financially viable
- 13% agreed that their congregation will be too small to be sustainable
- 15% agreed that they will not be able to serve children and young people
- 16% agreed that they will need to merge with other churches to be viable

10. Attitude toward my faith post-pandemic

The third set of attitudinal questions explored attitude toward faith post-pandemic. The responses to these questions presented in table 10 make the following key points.

First, around three-quarters of the participants considered that they would try to get back to their pre-pandemic commitment to their church.

- 78% agreed that they will get back to their previous pattern of worship if they can
- 68% agreed that they will cherish their local church more than they used to
- 38% agreed that they will give more time to serving their local church than they used to

Second, around one third of the participants considered that they would develop their commitment to online worship.

- 40% agreed that they will develop their online expertise
- 34% agreed that they will worship online more often than they used to
- 13% agreed that they will meet people online for daily offices or prayers
- 4% agreed that they will find a new online church to join

11. Attitude toward Mass post-pandemic

The fourth set of attitude questions explored attitude toward Mass post-pandemic. The response to these questions in table 11 make the following key points.

First, around three-quarters of the participants maintained a firm commitment to the pre-pandemic view of the Mass.

- 75% agreed that the priest needs to be physically present for the bread and wine to be consecrated
- 75% agreed that they value online services even if they cannot receive

Second, however, around a quarter of the participants saw the pandemic as an opportunity to challenge traditional teaching.

- 25% agreed that properly prepared lay people should be authorised to preside at communion in their homes
- 21% agreed that people at home should be allowed to take bread and wine during live-streamed services
- 16% agreed that people at home should be allowed to take bread and wine during pre-recorded services
- 15% agreed that lay people should be allowed to preside at communion in their homes

12. Attitude toward the role of God in the pandemic

The fifth set of attitudinal questions explored attitude toward the role of God in the pandemic. The responses to these questions presented in table 12 demonstrate a rich diversity of views. For example:

- 74% maintained that God has always been in control during the pandemic
- 46% maintained that God could stop the pandemic at any point whatever we do
- 65% maintained that God's power to save us from the pandemic depends on human co-operation
- 53% maintained that God will save us from the pandemic through science
- 40% maintained that the pandemic is a solely 'natural' event without any relation to God
- 15% maintained that the pandemic is the result of human sin
- 12% maintained that God sent the pandemic to test us
- 6% maintained that the pandemic is a punishment from God

13. The pandemic and church-leaving: Giving up

The research group who designed the *Covid-19 & Church-21 Survey* have had a long-established interest in the causes of church-leaving as displayed in the two books *Gone but not forgotten* (1998) and *Gone for good?* (2007). One of the main reasons for becoming a church leaver, voiced by 69% of the participants in our earlier survey, was simply 'getting out of the habit'. People had stopped going to church, found that they did not miss going, and even more that no one there seemed to miss them. They simply got out of the habit and found no good reason for returning. It seemed to us that closing churches in the face of the pandemic could, for some people, break the habit of a life-time of church attendance.

We decided to close the survey with the simple question, 'Have you completely given up on online services, going to church, or God since the pandemic began?' Over one third of the participants (36%) responded that they had given up on something. It is this statistic that may well need to stimulate the next serious piece of research.

Appendix 1

Publications arising from Coronavirus, Church & You Survey

Qualtrics live between 8 March and 23 July 2020

Church press

- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2020). The emotional toll of Covid-19. *Church Times*, 16 October, 11.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2020). The writing is on the wall for fragile rural churches. *Church Times*, 20 November, 10.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2021). Different angle on the pandemic: Retired clergy have a distinctive take on it. *Church Times*, 1 January, 11.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2021). Shielding... but not shielded: Older churchgoers' views during lockdown. *Church Times*, 12 February, 13.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2021). Eucharist in a time of lockdown. *Church Times*, 19 March, 15.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2021). Survey reveals differing experiences during early coronavirus lockdown. *Methodist Recorder*, 26 March, 4.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2021). Has the pandemic put men off church? *Church Times*, 14 May, 12.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). Has there been a spiritual awakening in lockdown? *Church Times*, 2 July, 14.

Professional papers

- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). Psychological type and responding to Covid-19: An enquiry among lay Anglicans. *Type Face*, 32(1), 29-31.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). The perceived impact of Covid-19 on the Church of England. *Future First*, 75, 1-2.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). Considering the impact of Covid-19 on Christianity in the UK: Opportunity or challenge? *Challenging Religious Issues*, 18 (online).
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). Assessing the impact of Covid-19 on Christianity in the UK: Opportunity or challenge? *Challenging Religious Issues*, 18 (online).

Peer-reviewed articles (published)

- Francis, L. J., Village, A., & Lawson, A. (2020). Impact of Covid-19 on fragile churches: Is the rural situation really different? *Rural Theology*, *18*, 79-86.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2020). Faith in lockdown: Experience of rural Church of England clergy and laity during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Rural Theology*, *18*, 79-86.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). Viewing the impact of Covid-19 through the eyes of retired clergy. *Theology*, *124*, 24-31.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). Shielding, but not shielded: Comparing the experience of the Covid-19 lockdown for Anglican churchgoers aged seventy and over with those under the age of sixty. *Rural Theology*, *19*, 31-40.
- Francis, L. J., Village, A., & Lawson, S. A. (2021). Impact of Covid-19 on fragile churches: Listening to the voices of lay people. *Rural Theology*, *19*, 41-47.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2021). Exploring affect balance: Psychological wellbeing of Church of England clergy and laity during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Journal of Religion and Health*, online first.
- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. (2021). Wellbeing and perceptions of receiving support among Church of England clergy during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. *Mental Health, Religion and Culture*, online first.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. (2021). The pandemic and the feminisation of the Church? How male and female churchgoers experienced the Church of England's response to Covid-19. *Journal of Beliefs and Values*, online first.

Peer-reviewed articles (in press)

- Village, A., & Francis, L. J. Churches and faith: Attitude towards church buildings during the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown among churchgoers in England. *Ecclesial Practices*.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. Introducing The Index of Balanced Affect Change (TIBACH): A study among Church of England clergy and laity. *Mental Health, Religion and Culture*.
- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. Reading the Church of England's response to the Covid-19 crisis: The diverging views of Anglo-Catholic and Evangelical clergy. *Journal of Anglican Studies*.

Peer-reviewed articles (under review)

- Francis, L. J., & Village, A. This blessed sacrament of unity? Holy Communion, the pandemic, and the Church of England. *Journal of Empirical Theology*.

Village, A., & Francis, L. J. Shaping attitudes toward church in a time of Coronavirus: Exploring the effects of personal, psychological, social, and theological factors among Church of England clergy and laity. *Journal of Empirical Theology*.

Table 1.1

Demographics (N = 1,311)

	%
<i>Country</i>	
England	86
Scotland	12
Wales	2
<i>Ethnicity</i>	
White British	71
White Irish	11
Other	10
Missing	8
<i>Location</i>	
Rural	12
Town	40
Suburb	29
Inner city	15
Missing	5
<i>Sex</i>	
Male	31
Female	66
Missing	4
<i>Age</i>	
20s	9
30s	9
40s	14
50s	20
60s	23
70s	18
80s	4
Missing	4

Living status

Live alone	23
Live with others in your household	71
Live in community	3
Missing	4

Employment status

Full-time work	32
Part-time work	14
Self-employed	7
Homemaker/carer	7
Unemployed	3
Student	3
Retired	33
Missing	1

Impact of Covid

(of 645 who were in employment when the pandemic started)

Hours reduced	10
Income reduced	12
Made redundant	4
Started new job	10

Table 1.2

Service attendance profile (N = 1,188)

	%
<i>Church attendance pre-pandemic</i>	
A few times a year	2
Once a month	1
Twice a month	3
Once a week	70
Most days	23
<i>Online services since lockdown</i>	
Never	5
A few times	20
Once a month	4
Twice a month	7
Once a week	38
Most days	27

Table 2

How would you rate how you are now compared with before the pandemic started? (N = 1,088)

	Less %	Same %	More %
<i>Positive affect</i>			
Creative	26	48	26
Excited	60	34	6
Calm	37	49	14
Happy	39	48	13
Enthusiastic	45	44	12
Thankful	8	30	62
Hopeful	22	41	37
Confident	28	55	16
Grateful	6	31	63
Inspired	32	47	21
<i>Negative affect</i>			
Exhausted	14	42	44
Anxious	11	38	51
Stressed	16	37	47
Upset	14	47	39
Afraid	15	51	34
Irritable	13	48	39
Guilty	19	66	15
Despondent	18	53	30
Fatigued	13	36	50
Frustrated	11	32	57

Table 3.1

Impact of the pandemic on lifestyle (N = 951)

	Decreased %	Same %	Increased %
The time I spend in front of a screen	4	18	78
The amount I exercise	37	21	42
The amount I eat	15	43	42
The amount of alcohol I drink	20	54	26
The amount of coffee I drink	7	70	23
The amount of chocolate I eat	13	56	32

Table 3.2

How has the pandemic affected you? (N = 914)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
Better spiritual health	45	33	16
Better physical health	24	45	31
Better mental health	16	46	38
Found it easy to cope	32	36	33

Table 4

Impact of the pandemic on religious life (N = 955)

	Decreased %	Same %	Increased %
Frequency of personal prayer	16	25	59
Frequency of worship services	36	35	29
Frequency of Bible reading	15	53	32
Quality of my spiritual life	18	26	48
My motivation to serve	19	40	41
Volunteering in the community	29	45	26
My trust in God	7	44	49
My trust in my local church	32	41	28
My trust in the national Church	37	42	21
My hope for the Church	32	33	35
My trust in the Government	62	28	10

Table 5

Personal help and support during the pandemic (N = 968)

	Not needed %	Needed not given %	Given not useful %	Given some use %	Given helpful %
My faith	45	11	2	19	24
Practical difficulties	71	8	1	12	7
Emotional difficulties	61	14	2	15	8
Mental health	67	13	2	11	6
Keeping in touch with my congregation	40	19	4	22	15
Keeping in touch with the wider church	40	15	3	26	16
Isolation or loneliness	65	16	2	13	5
Illness	85	5	2	5	4
Bereavement	85	5	1	4	5

Table 6.1

Those who accessed online services during the pandemic (N = 989)

	Yes %
<i>Type of service</i>	
Service of the word: pre-recorded	18
Service of the word: live-streamed	39
Holy Communion: pre-recorded	21
Holy Communion: live-streamed	68
Children/youth/family worship: pre-recorded	6
Children/youth/family worship: live-streamed	11
<i>Type of contribution</i>	
Doing readings	13
Leading prayers	6
Singing	5
Playing an instrument	2
Live interactive contribution	10

Table 6.2

During or after online services I usually felt

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
<i>Pre-recorded services (N = 294)</i>			
<i>Positive affect</i>			
Energised	59	25	16
Inspired	64	28	8
Blessed	73	19	8
Fulfilled	56	25	19
<i>Negative affect</i>			
Detached	24	20	55
Frustrated	20	22	59
Unmoved	12	22	64
Distracted	29	23	48
<i>Live-streamed services (N = 786)</i>			
<i>Positive affect</i>			
Energised	56	25	19
Inspired	60	23	17
Blessed	72	17	11
Fulfilled	51	26	22
<i>Negative affect</i>			
Detached	29	17	54
Frustrated	26	21	53
Unmoved	18	20	62
Distracted	32	21	47

Table 6.3

How would you rate online services you accessed?

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
<i>Pre-recorded services (N = 280)</i>			
Easy to access	85	11	4
Better than face to face	18	29	55
Engaging	55	30	14
Professional	64	28	8
Innovative	32	39	30
Fit for purpose	74	20	6
<i>Live-streamed services (N = 742)</i>			
Easy to access	88	8	5
Better than face to face	14	32	54
Engaging	55	28	17
Professional	66	23	11
Innovative	29	34	37
Fit for purpose	74	18	9

Table 7.1

During or after attending services in church I usually felt (N = 815)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
<i>Positive affect</i>			
Energised	62	21	17
Inspired	64	20	17
Fulfilled	69	18	14
<i>Negative affect</i>			
Detached	16	10	74
Emotionally drained	8	15	77
Unmoved	10	15	74
Distracted	17	17	66
Discontented	16	14	70

Table 7.2

How would you rate the services you attended in church? (N = 777)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
Easy to access	79	11	10
Better than pre-pandemic	15	39	46
Well received	69	22	9
Professional	75	20	5
Innovative	18	28	44
Fit for purpose	78	16	6

Table 8

Attitude toward virtual church post-pandemic (N = 934)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
Online worship is the way ahead for the next generation	22	21	57
Virtual contact is as good as meeting face to face	6	8	86
Social media is a great pastoral tool	62	19	19
Social media is a great evangelistic tool	59	26	15
Online worship is a great liturgical tool	55	20	25
Online services should replace some of our in-church services	17	16	67
We should put our effort into developing virtual churches	20	25	55
We should put our effort into maintaining local churches	85	12	4
We should do everything we can to keep church buildings open	82	10	8
The lockdown has helped the Church to move into the digital age	73	14	12
The lockdown is a great chance to re-think the Church's future	68	19	13

Table 9

Attitude toward local church post-pandemic (N = 934)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
Our congregations will be too small to be sustainable	13	28	59
We will need to merge with other churches to be viable	16	26	58
My church will eventually return to how it was pre-pandemic	45	32	23
Many people will not return to church after the pandemic	45	36	19
My church will emerge stronger than it was before	29	47	24
the church's income will be permanently lower	44	42	14
New people will join the church as a result of our online services	25	46	29
Our church building will not be financially viable	12	45	43
Key lay people will step down and be difficult to replace	25	37	37
We will not be able to serve children and young people	15	33	52

Table 10

Attitude toward my faith post-pandemic (N = 934)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
I will go to services in church less often than I used to	11	12	77
I will worship online more often than I used to	34	18	47
I will get back to my previous worship patterns if I can	78	14	9
My religious will be less important to me than it was	5	6	90
I will develop my online expertise	40	33	28
My financial giving to the church will be less than it was	9	16	74
I will meet people online for daily offices or prayer	13	29	58
I will find a new local church to join	7	13	80
I will find a new online church to join	4	12	84
I will cherish my local church more than I used to	68	20	13
I will give more time to serving my local church than I used to	38	44	19

Table 11

Attitude toward Mass post-pandemic (N = 934)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
We need to find ways of expressing communion spiritually without bread and wine	33	13	55
People at home should be allowed to take bread and wine during live-streamed services	21	23	56
People at home should be allowed to take bread and wine during pre-recorded services	16	25	60
The priest needs to be physically present for the bread and wine to be consecrated	75	12	13
In future I would prefer not to share the cup in church	37	23	41
Communion should not be part of online worship	16	25	60
I value online communion services even if I cannot receive	75	13	12
All lay people should be allowed to preside at communion in their homes	15	29	57
Properly prepared lay people should be authorised to preside at communion in their homes	25	28	47

Table 12

Attitude toward the role of God in the pandemic (N = 934)

	Agree %	Not certain %	Disagree %
God has always been in control during the pandemic	74	18	8
God sent the pandemic to test our faith	12	18	70
God will save us from the pandemic through science	53	31	16
The pandemic is a solely 'natural' event without any relation to God	40	28	31
God could stop the pandemic at any point whatever we do	46	22	32
The pandemic is punishment from God	6	13	82
God's power to save us from the pandemic depends on human co-operation	65	17	18
Science will save us from the pandemic without God's help	12	22	67
The pandemic is the result of human sin	15	18	67