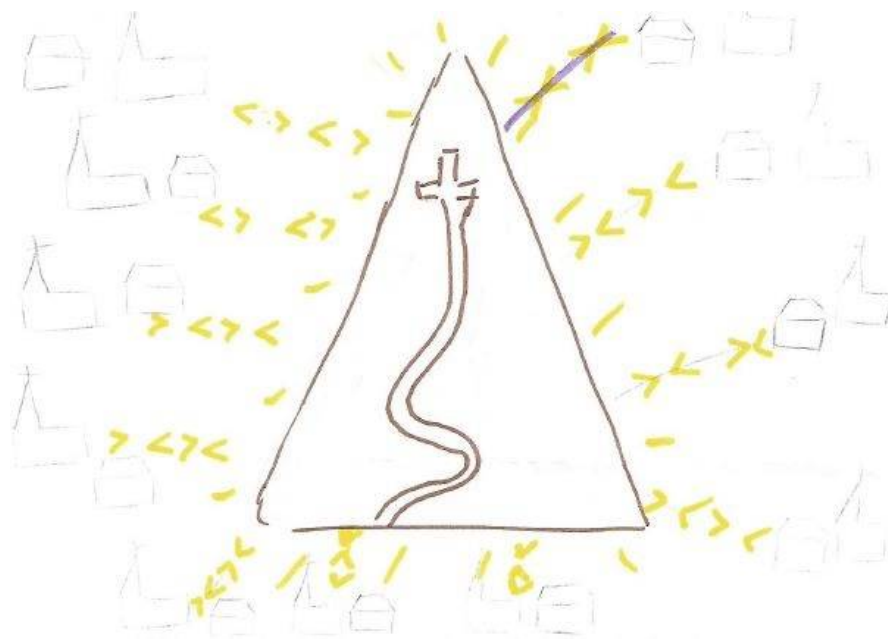




***It is not like
other churches.
It is fun!***



Introduction

In February 2016, seven years on from the opening of the resurrected Scargill to guests, the Scargill Council believed this was an opportune time to reflect on the values of the Scargill movement, explore the impact that Scargill has had on those who have been involved, from first time guests to members of Community and Council, and look towards possible future developments.

A Research Group was formed and considered different ways of approaching the research but in the end decided on a questionnaire which would be available in bedrooms at Scargill and on-line through Survey Monkey. An article was also published in Momentum informing people what was happening and inviting participation. Having looked at the merits of designing different questionnaires for different groups, we decided on a common format as this would simplify the comparison of results. We recognise that in so doing we forfeited the opportunity of exploring in greater depth particular questions relevant to different groups of respondents. For instance we would have liked to explore in more detail with Companions what the Rule of Life meant to them and how they might be better supported in their commitment to it. However, we believe that some of our unasked questions have been addressed in some of the responses. The questionnaire was adapted slightly for current community and community responses have since been fully integrated into this report. The children's questionnaire recorded their responses and is discussed in chapter five. The large number of responses (285) reflects in itself the commitment of so many to what God is doing at Scargill.

As we, the research and leadership teams, have read the responses we have been hugely encouraged by the ways in which God is clearly using Scargill, and especially the ever-changing community, to touch people's lives. Spirituality is clearly at the very heart of the Scargill Movement. "Lives shared, lives transformed with Jesus at the centre" is by no means an empty strap line! The iconic Chapel and the daily rhythm of prayer that takes place there is, as one respondent put it, the 'powerhouse' of Scargill. One first time guest recently commented "These are people who clearly spend time with God." A regular visitor talking about Scargill to fellow church members is reported as saying, "You have to go there to feel it!"

Another observation we have is how what is experienced now at the resurrected Scargill so clearly links to the vision of those who founded the original Scargill in 1958. Although our research focused on the last 6 years we have received many testimonies of the ways in which time on community or regular visits over the years have shaped and blessed so many lives, not least those of many who today are Companions and Working Friends (the new terminology for 'volunteers').

It has been an immense privilege to be involved in this research project. None of us apart from Suz had ever been involved in anything like this before and her previous experience was different in both scale and approach. We have learnt much as we have gone along and on reflection might have done some things differently, especially in shaping the questionnaire. Nevertheless we believe that the contents of this report will not only be of encouragement to Council and Community but will also be of use as we seek to move forward under God into the next phase of Scargill's life. As chair I am immensely grateful to every member of the group who have used their different gifts, experience and time to shape what we offer to Council for their consideration. We are also very grateful to the

wisdom, experience and challenging questions of Bishop John Finney who has acted as our Consultant, attended many of our early meetings, kept in touch with what we were doing and been available to offer advice when we needed it.

Felicity Lawson on behalf of the research group

1 April 2017

Membership of the Research Group:

Steve and Joce Burton (Working Friends) our researchers

Sheila Thompson (Working friend) our secretary

Paul Sumsion (a Vicar from Manchester Diocese who spent part of his sabbatical working at Scargill)

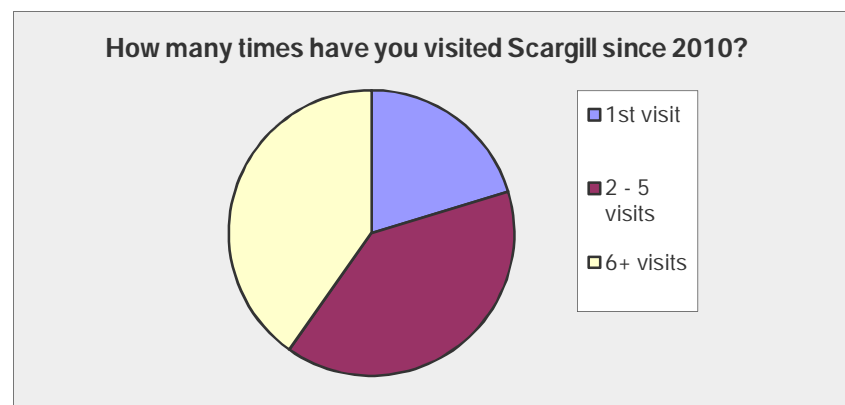
Suz Stephenson (member of Community Leadership Team)

Felicity Lawson (member of Council), chair of Research Group

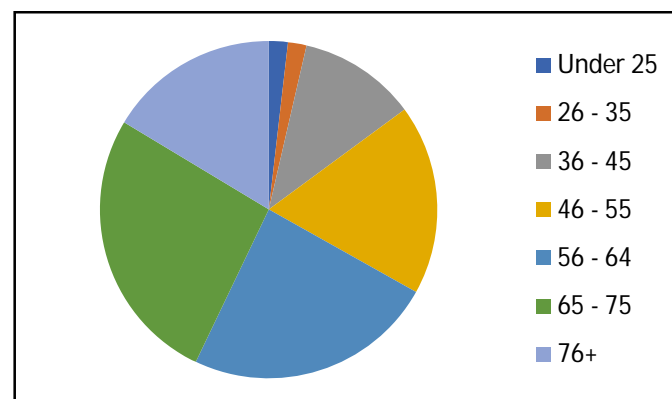
Chapter 1 Who answered our Questionnaire?

The Questionnaire was made available to all who stayed at Scargill from the beginning of Summerfest in July 2016 until the end of October 2016. Copies were emailed to Companions, a selection of Working Friends (many of whom are also Friends of Scargill), all members of Council and a selection of Speakers and Former Community members. An adapted questionnaire was given to all members of Community in February 2017 following a special Community meeting where the research was introduced. Information about the research was also included in the summer edition of Momentum inviting anyone who was interested to get in touch. In total 285 responses were received to the questionnaire.

We asked for some basic information as background to our research. Although we only gathered statistics relating to the number of visits a person has paid since the reopening of Scargill in 2010, it is obvious from the responses to other questions that for many of those visiting frequently their links go back many years. A pleasing number of first time visitors filled in the questionnaire.



Perhaps unsurprisingly there were more responses from those aged 56 and over (approximately 60%) than from those under 55. The low number of responses from those under 25 was boosted slightly by responses from present community members. We were unable to check out statistically to what extent the age ranges of those who responded to our questionnaire fairly reflected the ages of those visiting Scargill as guests.





Chapter 2 What makes Scargill tick?

2. Our first question, after gathering some statistics about those answering the questionnaire was intended to check out people's perceptions of the values which lie at the heart of Scargill, often called our DNA. This list was compiled from a large range of words which are frequently mentioned on the Scargill feedback form. And we recognise that by creating a list this may have influenced people's response, for example creativity clearly runs through many of the additional responses but is not reflected in the statistics.

What is it about Scargill that you most appreciate?

People in the past have mentioned:

Hospitality	Openness	Laughter	Welcome
Love	Peaceful	The community	Fellowship
Care	Meeting God	Equality	Challenge
Prayer	Integrity	Flexibility	A safe place
Space	Variety	Opportunity to receive	

Please indicate those which have meant a lot to you and add others which you have found significant.

2.1 Respondents were very appreciative of what Scargill offers to them. All areas listed were 'ticked' by many completing the questionnaire, affirming that the 'DNA' values espoused by the community and council are being expressed on a day by day basis. The following table shows the overall ranking and how that varied between groups.

	All	1 st time guests	Under 35	36 – 74 or not stated	Over 75
Number of respondents	285	52	10	230	45
Hospitality	90%	87%	90%	83%	89%
Love	64%	56%	70%	57%	78%
Care	60%	58%	70%	53%	64%
Prayer	63%	54%	70%	57%	71%
Space	60%	58%	70%	59%	38%
Openness	41%	31%	40%	37%	42%
Peaceful	64%	63%	50%	59%	69%
Meeting God	66%	48%	70%	63%	58%
Integrity	32%	29%	30%	30%	33%
Variety	34%	35%	20%	32%	31%
Laughter	63%	52%	70%	58%	60%
The community	72%	56%	70%	65%	76%
Equality	23%	17%	60%	19%	24%
Flexibility	30%	17%	30%	27%	33%
Opportunity to receive	46%	38%	30%	43%	51%
Welcome	78%	65%	70%	71%	82%
Fellowship	69%	50%	90%	61%	78%
Challenge	30%	21%	20%	30%	22%
A safe place	63%	56%	90%	58%	60%

The 'All' figures are also expressed visually in the above 'Wordle' image – the different sizes of font reflect the varying frequency of the responses received.

Hospitality is clearly the most important quality overall with 84% of respondents valuing this.

Only 10 people under 35 responded to the survey but for 90% of them fellowship was important and for this group equality was more important than for the other groups (60% compared to 21%).

Perhaps not surprisingly, fewer of those visiting for the first time valued the community (55% of those visiting Scargill for the first time compared to 67% respondents over all. But 76% of those who are more involved as companions, working friends etc. valued the community.)

Only 28% of respondents valued challenge but from the stories that have been shared many people are changed through their involvement with Scargill. 59% valued having a safe space, again something reflected in the responses to other questions.

2.2 Many qualities were mentioned in the 'other' box, although some of these were in essence the same as one of the 'listed' areas. For example 'fun' and 'smiley faces' correspond to 'laughter'; while 'haven', 'home' and 'sanctuary' have similar meanings as do 'honesty' and 'integrity'. Mixing with the diverse community described as kind, caring and helpful to guests and eating together are all appreciated. God's presence is sensed here with a perception of authentic spirituality and a helpful rhythm of prayer and times of worship.

"Just a general sense of God being at work here - amongst the community - in the meetings and fellowship and in the care and pastoral oversight that is given."

2.2.1 Guests appreciate the location, both the estate with the walled garden and woodland and the beauty of the surrounding countryside with its opportunities for walking.

"Additionally I would mention the ability to enjoy the beautiful scenery, and space to wander safely around the estate, and the way you care for God's creation."

"...the wonderful walled garden being restored to being one of the best in England is great."

2.2.2 The buildings, including the improvements and the sacred space in the chapel and the commitment to sustainability were all mentioned. The chapel, being the hub of worship and prayer and giving a real sense of God's presence, is widely appreciated. Others liked the library, the art room with the creative opportunities offered through events and workshops, and the generally improving facilities. The food is regularly praised and the opportunity to self-cater during Summerfest is appreciated.

"...the iconic chapel is a great picture of Scargill community. It has a beautiful simplicity, calling the visitor to seek what really matters. It serves as a jolt to the imagination - what may be possible?! And it draws us into stillness- stay here for a while..."

"the chapel is inspiring and the art works that enhance the space are excellent, inspiring and beautiful."

"For us it is another opportunity given to participate as a family in worship, fellowship and to meet with new friends. We ENJOY the type of accommodation received, for refreshing and rest. The library so well equipped with books catering to needs of each person in the family. We are grateful. We will always be grateful to the team. As a family, we feel at home when we come to Scargill."

2.2.3 The awareness of environmental issues and efforts to address these are important to guests.

"commitment to not wasting food eg 'LOVE' soup [left-over vegetable experience!], commitment to conservation and week/ weekend programmes around earth-care, commitment to involvement in local community, sourcing food locally, using local tradespersons, and 'climate stewardship' promoted."

2.2.4 The programme was an area of much appreciation. People liked the opportunity to hear good speakers from a diverse theological range, the choice of supportive leaders and pastoral helpers, the worship and prayer, the opportunities to receive ministry and to grow, and to share their journeys. People come to laugh, to rest and to try new things; and

appreciate the flexibility of joining in as much or as little as they choose within a structured day. The freedom to cry or talk in confidence is found to be very helpful.

"I appreciate the rhythm of prayer three times a day, especially the time of quiet at 6pm which balances out with all the activities of the day."

"Thoughtful theology, being fed spiritually, beauty."

"So welcoming! A place where love overflows. A place of sharing and listening and valuable insights. Really enjoyed the course."

2.2.5 Efforts to support children and young people were also valued. God's presence was noted!

"Relaxation - largely due to feeling the children are safe and able to have freedom to explore/play without constant supervision. Services in the chapel are very child-friendly (the bean-bags, rugs etc and being open to children/young people in the worship band)."

2.2.6 The commitment to hospitality means that all people, whatever their background or age are accepted, welcomed and valued; several people mentioned that Scargill feels like home to them. The treatment of each person as an individual at Scargill is cherished. Acceptance, being valued and the opportunity to 'be myself' were qualities mentioned several times. Being family was important as was the opportunity just to 'be'. Many who come find a place to be loved and healed or refreshed, they feel safe and able to talk in confidence, have someone to pray with and freedom to cry when necessary. Friendships are made or renewed here and people enjoy mixing with those of a different theological outlook and learning from them as well as from the speakers.

"Being able to be 'me'. Although I am a mum at Scargill my 'hats' as partner, friend, business owner, daughter, sister, neighbour are put on hold for a few days. Coming with one child I instantly felt welcomed and not alone. Being included was great."

"acceptance of people as they are, no pressure to conform/attend be or do anything before we're ready."

"for those of us in (ordained) ministry Scargill is an accepting-you-as-you-are place rather than an expectations-because-of-your-role place. Spirituality is deep rooted, authentic but not dogmatic or partisan and we are remembered each time we visit."

"Knowing that I and other gay people are welcomed and loved here".

"It's a place where I can be myself. A place where one doesn't have to 'toe the party line' in spirituality or churchmanship. A place to say things I couldn't say elsewhere...."

"I have found that apart from meeting so many wonderful people I have also met myself, the person I used to be and have searched many years to find, so

thank you for helping me to locate her and grow to love and care for her again."

2.2.7 Working friends, previously known as volunteers, appreciated the opportunity to serve and to have their gifts recognised and affirmed. Scargill is valued as a place to return to.

"Having the opportunity to serve with the Community. Gifts and talents are recognised and encouraged but not exploited".

"...the volunteering opportunities benefit not only us as working friends (being valued, accepted); but having working friends, as well as resident community, has helped change Scargill's ethos since 2010 – [it] feels more open and 'porous'..."

"opportunity to give as a working friend. The feeling of home-coming each time I return, the feeling of being valued."

2.2.8 Other qualities shown by those at Scargill which also come in for comment, include; simplicity, generosity, understanding, confidentiality, helpfulness, encouragement and supportiveness. The presence of hope, freedom, renewal, informality and inclusivity were also mentioned.

"real and true kindness shown by the community; people being willing to listen and pray; not being 'on duty' but allowed to be me; services for their simplicity and allowed to opt in/ opt out; the art room! people going 'the extra mile' ALL the time for guests, so humbling and such grace shown."

"I noticed that folk were ready to serve, whether at coffee time or meal times or helping to take a case up to my room. I was especially blessed in seeing [the director] clearing away after a meal. 'The boss' is not too big to get involved in that kind of duty."

"I have found coming here has given me hope, space, peace."

2.2.9 Members of the current community were also invited to add comments about what they thought Scargill offered to those joining as wider community week by week. Their responses reflected many of the ideas already expressed. Inclusivity, diversity and generosity were highlighted together with affirmation and support. Some also spoke of people experiencing a sense of 'coming home'.

"Embracing diversity (of different Christian traditions, age groups, nationalities, abilities...)"

"Spiritual refreshment, encouragement, affirmation, support."

"Generosity, through the bursary fund".

"The feeling of coming home. The opportunity to contribute to the sessions - in discussion and in music worship (being part of the choir or band). Inclusivity."

"Scargill makes a great difference to my life. It gave a very busy working Mum like me the space in my life to rest in God's presence, finally find myself and feel God's lavish love."

"It feels like coming home every time I come."

3.1.2 The recognition of and opportunity to use personal gifts is valued by those who return regularly:

"Scargill has been both a haven and a place where we have been received and have found a place for our own gifts and ministry to be appreciated."

3.1.3 It is a place of personal spiritual growth and development where it is all right to be honest and admit one's vulnerabilities.

"... encouraged my daily pattern of prayer. Has modelled for me hospitality and welcome, to encourage what I do in my community. Has encouraged me personally - listening to God, waiting."

"I have been given permission to be me!"

"I came to Scargill for the first time when I was in a bad place spiritually and emotionally. The warmth and care I received enabled me to open up and admit where I was. ... My life now is transformed and Scargill was a vital part of that happening."

3.1.4 It is a place where people discover they are able listen to God:

"It is often a place where I make decisions."

"Found the opportunity to read and to allow the words to open up necessary doors of personal vulnerability. Found the quiet voice of God directing me as I make important decisions for both self and family."

"Scargill has been an important place for us in terms of our call to ministry."

3.1.5 Some respondents described Scargill as a place that offered acceptance and a safe space to admit pain. This allowed them to find healing from deep wounds carried over many years. Other respondents, now acting as long term carers and some facing bereavement, spoke of the support found.

"I have found the acceptance very healing. There is time to ponder and work prayerfully through problems, and recover equilibrium."

"[Scargill has given me an] awareness that it's OK to be 'broken'."

"My first experience of Scargill was when I desperately needed a respite break (I am a full-time carer for my husband) I found such wonderful love, care and compassion and I particularly valued the opportunity to unburden myself and receive prayer."

"My husband died in 2007 and I have found life very difficult but Scargill is one place I feel comfortable about coming on my own. I wish I could come more often."

"With a husband going into care with Alzheimer's disease life has become very different for me. This time at Scargill has helped me to clarify how to pray for the next stage of my life. I am grateful for the time to chat and pray about this with members of the community."

3.1.6 New guests speak of the impact coming to Scargill has had on their lives.

"...my experience at Scargill has enabled my faith to increase and for my journey with God to move forward. In the past 18 months since my last visit friends, relatives and work colleagues have all noticed a change. I have now been confirmed and I am a regular member of the church family."

"... [the] first time I came was in the midst of a very difficult time, completely burnt out and struggling. The love, care and prayer I experienced at Scargill helped build me back up & held me as I started to recover & reconnect with God."

3.1.7 Many respondents described feeling blessed, affirmed and changed, not least by the welcome and hospitality. This included both guests and working friends.

"Scargill is a 'place apart', a place of healing. Community, session leaders, guests & the beautiful surroundings all contribute to this. Time at Scargill gives me courage and the zest to return to the busyness of daily life. Volunteering has helped raise my often-low self-esteem."

"I definitely feel more at peace as a result of the wonderful community showing love, care and friendship. The worship sessions were equally brilliant."

"Each time I have been I have sensed God's presence in the community way of life and the way hospitality is such an expression of His love and welcome. So it has enriched me personally and given me a sense of wellbeing and peace. A place to feel 'at home'... There is a feeling that it's OK to be who I am, no need to 'conform' or pretend."

"I feel I have grown in my faith and become more confident about my beliefs through my contact with Scargill, partly through being welcomed into the community as a working friend and a guest and partly through Scargill courses and retreats. Scargill prayers and support have also helped me through difficult times."

3.1.8 The sense of being encouraged and strengthened in faith was also expressed by a council member:

"...to be involved as part of a council that is so committed to the Lord and to the vision has been one of the most enriching and faith-building experiences of my life"

3.1.9 Some speak of how Scargill challenges perceptions and prejudices, opening them up to alternative ways of seeing things and especially other people.

"I'm more aware of God in other Christians and in the local community."

"Through contact with guests from different outlooks I have learnt to shed some of my prejudices and learnt about the enormous spiritual gifts of other traditions."

3.1.10 The offer of hospitality to all has enormous impact.

"I have realised a new vision of God as the one who opens heaven's door to all comers who seek to find him. Truly a gospel message."

"We have... taken back the message that hospitality in and outside the church is so very important if we are going to grow community..."

"It has taught me about hospitality and to share my vulnerability and keep laughter near-by."

"I think the main impact has been seeing afresh the value of humility/ service/ hospitality."

3.1.11 Some find a vision of what it means to be a New Testament (NT) Christian community which they don't always find in the local church.

"It is the first Christian place I stayed after conversion and it demonstrated to me how Christian living should be - serving others and being warm, friendly and hospitable, as well as having lots of fun."

"I am so glad to be able to observe and share in so much of the potential of Christian community life which is described in the New Testament but is rarely seen in such depth in local church life."

3.1.12 For those in ministry or simply living busy lives, Scargill offers a place where they can receive.

"With a busy life, young children it can be hard to find opportunities to access teaching and discussion and deepen my understanding of God & his kingdom. Scargill is like a 'superfood smoothie' a short but packed full of goodness dose of this & delicious!"

"The activities I have taken part in have helped me spiritually and to have fresh ideas to take back to my own church and ministry."

3.1.13 Time at Scargill and the teaching programme have helped individuals grow in confidence in their faith and their ability to share it with others.

"Not so much tangible new "things", more a reorientation to do the things which I already need to do - and do them more willingly and graciously."

"... it has restored my confidence, and brought me closer to God. I have been able to share experiences from Scargill with other people, and they have visited, and been blessed!!"

3.1.14 Some have appreciated the willingness of teaching at Scargill to address difficult topics sometimes avoided in the local church. The variety of teaching and worship styles is also an inspiration and encouragement and those who are in positions of leadership often take things home with them to share there.

"I was introduced to new liturgies and Compline at Scargill. They have fed my spirituality and I continue to use Compline through a Night Prayer booklet on my own at home."

"We have used several liturgies from here. Excellent teaching."

"connections with Scargill community members that feed our worship and service as a church. New ideas in worship that have been transplanted into our local setting."

"It's good to get away from a thriving but narrow-minded church and meet people from different backgrounds who love the Lord. A little taste of what heaven will be like."

3.1.15 Other respondents also speak of benefitting from the rhythm of life observed at Scargill.

"I've learned from the pattern of living, the balance of work and prayer, seriousness and fun."

3.1.16 It has been a place where people have not only made new friendships but met new partners with several respondents sharing accounts of how marriage relationships were formed through meeting at Scargill.

"I have visited Scargill since the age of 5 or 6 years old...God has used my times at Scargill to speak at significant points in my life; not least when J. and I met there on 1/10/2001 - we married on 15/06/2002!"

3.1.17 Some have found salvation, others have taken on new roles and responsibilities in the local church and community.

"I originally came to faith at Scargill in 1979 and I consider it to be my 'spiritual home'"

"Many years ago I came to understand the Christian message at Scargill."

"A weekend retreat at Scargill was intrinsic to my re-connecting with God, which led to me now training for ordained ministry in the Church of England."

3.1.18 The experience of Scargill has led many respondents to become Friends, Companions and/or offer as working friends. For many this is a deeply enriching and liberating experience.

"As a working friend it has been an enormous encouragement and privilege to feel part of community life, meeting up with others on their Christian journey."

3.1.19 The role of Scargill in supporting personal development proves not to be just for guests and supporters. Comments from former community members speak of how their faith, character and future ministry have been shaped by their time at Scargill.

"As a former member of the community, all I learnt and experienced there has been carried forward over the years....establishing a regular routine of study, prayer and worshipthe shared experiences of living in community in love and faith enhances all of life"

"Scargill is about movement, not becoming static. To me it is somewhere God can work. Two years as a community member has had a lasting impression on my life. Many years later, coming back as a guest and working friend, I feel it is my spiritual home."

"As a community member I was grounded in my discipleship in Christ. My experience at Scargill helped to develop my future life in ministry. Scargill opened up numerous possibilities for me."

"I was a Community member in 1980 and am now a priest in the Church of England - this came about through my time on the community."

"What I have done since leaving has been shaped by my time at Scargill."

"... I was on community for 3 years which was life changing. It provided shelter for me, at a time when I needed it."

"Living here (in the 70s) for five years has had a profound effect on my ordained ministry. Learning to relate easily and quickly to a wide spectrum of people from different backgrounds and with differing personalities and stories; learning to live with my own and others strengths and weaknesses..... accepting different spiritualities...."

3.1.20 A very positive reflection on their time at Scargill was also expressed by current community members when they were asked about what they valued most.

"Seeing people grow in confidence, the safe place means that people flourish in their own gifts and each individual is valued."

"The great sense of fun, acceptance and love that permeates all that we do. The way that our lives are steeped in prayer and the fact that I can see what God is like by looking at the way this community works."

"The rhythm... of prayers, mealtimes, work, breaks, fellowship and solitude. - The diversity and richness of different Christian traditions, nationalities, ages and personalities. This also helps self-knowledge. - A safe place where you dare to be honest towards yourself and others."

"Community is helpful in understanding ourselves, masks can be taken away, it is a mirror on our true selves."

"The slower pace makes it possible to see beauty in difference, it's easier to embrace people who are different to me."

3.1.21 The current community were also asked if they thought their present experience would make a difference to how they lived in the future and what particular aspects of community life might they look to hold on to. Without exception all respondents described the positive impact of community life and their comments picked up on many of the themes already highlighted.

"I don't think I will ever want to lose the feeling of being in community as it is so inclusive and the way that you meet completely different people whose paths you would never normally cross is fantastic!"

"I think I take myself less seriously. It's also exposed me to breadth of spirituality which is really healthy. Yes - I think being on community will make a massive difference to where I go when I leave. In fact WHERE I go and WHO I'm near/with feels far more important than WHAT I will do next. I'd like to think that the values of generosity, welcome and hospitality are ones I'd take with me. Also the rhythm of prayer."

"The 'rhythm' has deeply impacted how I perceive my faith journey. Holding vulnerability and gentleness (my own and others) is another aspect of life here that has impacted me. Working these out in life beyond here will certainly make a difference."

"The time at Scargill has meant more than I'm able to put into words! It has been the most life changing years in my entire life! Anyway, a few things... - The rhythm of prayer and listening to God. - The rhythm of work and rest. - The way of embracing diversity and the importance of patience and grace with differences."

"It's been an eye-opening experience of what is involved in being part of a community. This is something I will take and hopefully implement in future. I have valued the freedom and liberation of being known - and accepted as I am. My view of God is much broader than before. The hard times on community have also been times of growth. The generosity of spirit which is embedded in the heart of community life and a core value of it is so

important, and something I hope to emulate. The impact on my life of these years on community has been great and beneficial."

3.1.22 There are some amazing testimonies of how God has, and is using, Scargill in people's lives. Scargill over many years has ministered to different generations of the same family. There are encouraging accounts from people whose Scargill journey has bridged the time of closure in 2008 and who have been blessed by involvement here over many years or even decades. Blessings have taken so many forms. Some have found faith, some have found and are finding helpful lifelong spiritual patterns of behaviour and for some vital support has been received. Personal spiritual growth has been nurtured and after encounters with God at Scargill some people have moved into new ministries.

Q3b "Has anything happened (or might happen) as a result of your Scargill experience which has made a difference to your family/work/neighbourhood/your local church

3.2 This question sought to establish what impact, or possible impact, involvement with Scargill has had on the outward facing areas of someone's life. There were accounts of people embarking on new roles but more commonly people shared small areas of personal growth that they felt had made a difference. This array of mostly low key but significant change frequently led to new developments and opportunities, often influencing others-

3.2.1 Many said that their experience at Scargill simply helped them live life more positively.

"I'm renewed for a while, that's good enough!"

"I find Scargill is a place where I can come and be refreshed as well as serve, have a new group of friends and then go back into church life encouraged and able to share..."

"Scargill has given me confidence to take an active part in my church, as a single (widowed) person."

"Being less stressed will hopefully impact beneficially on my family and community."

3.2.2 Many more described Scargill as an oasis that they recognised equipped them or gave them opportunity to recharge and rest.

"Having Scargill as a safe place to recharge my spiritual batteries has helped me to hang on through difficult situations at church. It helps me in all areas of life because it nourishes my faith."

"I find I'm able to continue worshipping at my local church (which doesn't suit me at all but I'm married to the vicar) because Scargill keeps me alive

spiritually. Being a companion gives me something to hang on to when all I want to do is walk away from the church and never look back."

"In the past 28 years, or most of that time, I've seen Scargill as an oasis for myself and others; in as much as I have received so much and this equipped me to go back to my home community to share all I have received. Our young family grew up with Scargill and I believe this made a significant impact on their lives. It's a place to call 'home', where the love of God, through the community, transforms lives."

"Learning to slowdown, to rest and not run at 110%. This place is special my work gives me 9 days to retreat. I look at other retreat centres, but I am always drawn back here, perhaps it's because it knows the journey I'm on and familiar faces and people who know me. I have become a better work colleague, Mum, friend and neighbour because of it."

3.2.3 This theme was picked up by current community members when they were asked for their thoughts on how Scargill could further support people in their local communities and churches.

"I think allowing people a space to be vulnerable. Somewhere where they do not have to be strong, hold it together, or necessarily be putting others first. But a space where they can truly admit the hardships of being within church or leadership (if indeed it is tough - this is not true for everyone). And allow them to be held by the love of God for a while. The opportunity to be rested, refuelled and reinvigorated by a desire to serve by having first been served by us. As it is said "you can't pour from an empty cup".

"By providing refreshment, prayer, a safe place to renew vision and strength for both clergy and lay which will have a positive impact on their return to the local communities / churches."

3.2.4 Some respondents describe lessons learned that have influenced areas of activity and engagement going forward.

"Scargill encouraged me to be prepared to do menial and unseen things for God, and showed me that these are just as important as activities like leading services- on community you can be cleaning a washbasin one minute, and greeting a Bishop the next!"

"Working as a team and encouraging others I think has developed from my experience of the workings within Scargill - not easy, but gratifying."

3.2.5 Others wanted to take away attitudes to share elsewhere or described more specific effects on their work and home situations.

"I would like to take the culture and dynamics of hospitality forward in our church family. We have been working on this for a while but it is not easy within a large church family and it works differently within small groups."

"... last year my time at Scargill helped me re-charge and continue to support my staff through a very difficult time at work. As I felt held by God that in turn enabled me to hold them and cope with the impact of that. Family – It did my children the world of good to be involved in daily Christian family life with others."

"More loving towards my children and understand their needs."

"I'm going away free from those things that bound me so it will make a difference in all those I come into contact with, especially family, church relationships, work relationships and everyday life"

"I have drawn on things I have learnt and used them in my chaplaincy volunteer role at a local hospital"

3.2.6 Several guests described a development of their role, encouraged and inspired by time at Scargill. Others talked of how they were considering possible changes or new initiatives.

"Considering community living."

"I have decided to step out at church and take on extra commitment. Also to be more real with other people which I hope will encourage others to do likewise."

"After attending a BRF [Bible Reading Fellowship] Quiet day earlier this year I organised a Benefice Quiet day for the 4 churches in our benefice. This was greatly appreciated."

"Possible opportunity to encourage others into creative expressions of faith."

3.2.7 A number of Scargill working friends and companions described changes to their roles which they believed were inspired by their involvement at Scargill.

"I started a group called the 'chit chat group' I collect 4 people and we meet at a church member's home. Once a month for a cuppa and a chat."

"We started a prayer circle and ministry team in our church. We always bring things back from Scargill (quotes, readings, pearls of wisdom, etc) that we use at the Starfish project, we run, which is a Christian 'drop in'" centre for those wounded by life's challenges. Our time at Scargill always recharges us spiritually and enables us to get back to the project with renewed enthusiasm."

"The experience of praying with folk at Scargill has helped me develop my prayer ministry at home."

"I went back to my local Church of England church having had time away doing other things with other organisations because it reminded me I need to be rooted in my local community."

"It is where I first became aware of being called to Readership but I hadn't even been licensed before I was encouraged to believe that ordination was my route. Scargill is where all the pieces of the jigsaw finally made a beautiful picture which I could understand."

"Some of the liturgy used has challenged me personally and professionally in opening up new ways of leading worship and engaging with God. Time spent in conversation/ prayer with one of the chaplains was hugely significant in a decision I made regarding my local church/ deanery."

"...I am going to join the chaplaincy team at Birmingham Children's Hospital. I have studied theology. I am pursuing Christian theatre which I never could before. I am also passionate about hospitality which affects all aspects of my life."

3.2.8 Many people wanted to invite others to experience Scargill, keen to spread the word.

"Our family feels that Scargill is becoming a key part of our Christian lives and that it is a 'home from home' - so it's good to know Scargill is there. We feel comfortable inviting others (both Christians and non-Christians) to visit Scargill with us as it feels this is an authentic expression of Christianity in practice."

"My experience of the help given to me gives me even more scope to speak of the Scargill experience to my church and friends. I have been visiting Scargill over 20 years and the recent changes have been so encouraging."

"I would like to introduce our families from messy church to Scargill but it will take time."

"I want to visit with my husband. I would like to be able to volunteer at some point together if he would like to. Possibly apply for community in the future."

"Sharing what I enjoy about Scargill with church friends will hopefully encourage others to consider a Scargill experience. (There is such a wonderful variety of topics to choose from) ...Hopefully the enthusiasm I feel will create a hunger to experience similar in those I talk to after a visit!"

"Would like to bring my church family to parish weekend here."

3.2.9 A lasting 'Scargill effect' was noticed by a number of people who came as to Scargill as part of a group. They often commented on how they felt relationships had grown and deepened as a result of the experience.

"When my church came here for a weekend earlier this year people spoke afterwards of friendships being renewed and a greater sense of belonging to our church fellowship."

"Our local church family become closer when we are at Scargill and these close relationships endure and develop when we are back on home ground. It's a feeling that's beneficial but hard to describe. A closeness with each other and our Lord."

"Bonding of both churches have become much closer through this weekend."

"Every time we come on a parish week end we have experienced a deepening fellowship with each other and with Christ. Each visit has helped us grow in our faith."

3.2.10 A similar benefit was also described by family groups

"I think Scargill refreshes family relationships and binds us together. I have seen my children grow spiritually in their own space which is created here. Because my experience at Scargill feeds me spiritually and refreshes, I go back to my local church with more to give"

3.2.11 Overall we see significant personal development taking place as people join Scargill's rhythm of life and benefit from the many areas of ministry offered. It appears to provide an environment where tangible growth can occur. In turn this impact is seen by individuals, families, communities, work places and local churches. For some people there is also a more specific call to develop new areas of ministry and they recognise Scargill has played a part in providing the space or challenge to discern God's calling.

4.1 However there were notes of caution expressed about trying to do too many new things and thereby losing the essence of the Scargill experience:

"please don't try to/or end up spreading yourselves too thinly - an oasis doesn't stay that way if it stretches so much; it's just struggling plants in dry ground."

"... being here supports my local church as I return renewed and ready to continue with my ministry. I would not like to think that Scargill got into a position of spreading itself too thinly. Continue to provide a wide and varied programme and continue to love and care for those who arrive - that is support in itself."

"Don't change! You are doing amazing work for the Lord! Thank you."

"I feel it is fine as it is. Continue to welcome people, pray with them and make them laugh and let them cry if needed."

"For it to continue as it does with real honesty, openness and integrity. This place has been such a blessing for me these past 6 years ... but actually it's not (just) the place - it's the people, the welcome, the vulnerability and utter gracious service of the community."

"I think you have got it right! The quiet spaces; the outside, the amazing chapel, the welcome, yet combined with a lack of pressure to join in everything."

"Please somehow keep the peaceful vigour going!"

"I hope and pray Scargill will thrive but not get too big, as it has an intimacy that it might lose if it got much bigger."

"Scargill is like a well of God's love and such a special place to step into, be re-filled and take that back out into the Daily Kingdom challenges in local life. Please continue to build that well, don't dilute it."

"A community that is welcoming, where it is difficult to tell the difference between community and guests. Laughter and fun but always acknowledging God."

4.1.1 Some of the current community members also expressed a desire to see Scargill 'continue' in terms of size and welcome and also with an ongoing vulnerability.

"I think the size of the place is good and helpful for keeping the atmosphere relaxed, homely and 'a safe place' for vulnerable people."

"Continue doing hospitality as we do now. Not to grow too big - keeping small is more like welcoming people into our home, our family. Continue welcoming diverse groups and especially those who would not normally get a chance to

come eg. *BIASAN [Bradford Immigration and Asylum Support and Advice Network], Housing Justice, inner city churches.*"

"I think just more of what we are already doing. To remain raw and vulnerable, not to become complacent or too comfortable. To continue rethinking what we do. To respond to the world over the cattle grid with thoughtfulness and love, and not to become too removed from the world. To be more visible to the church and its people as an example of disciples trying to live an authentic life of service, hospitality and love."

4.2 'Ambassadors' from Scargill to go to local churches

This was a popular idea but people interpreted the ambassador role in different ways, some thinking of members of community going out to parishes and larger gatherings, others of possibly equipping companions and former community for this role. Building links in this way was generally welcomed whilst there was, on the part of some at least, a recognition of limited resources on the part of Community and a danger of detracting from the core ministry. Suggestions here linked with the production of resources to help others learn about Scargill (see below....)

"Scargill on tour. A Sunday visit by an individual from Scargill - to speak about key values, ethos and activities might help our church members to learn valuable things and might just help build links?"

"Ambassadors would have a strong impact, include a video or power point, the visual effect of Scargill on an audience should not be under-estimated. Local meetings perhaps need coordination from Scargill."

"I feel ambassadors from Scargill to local churches would be a really good idea. Maybe an Ambassador to a deanery synod meeting? A designated person in each church to receive and disseminate Scargill literature?"

"Do Scargill still do visits prior to churches who are booked in for weeks/ weekends? A small group of people going into the parish for a day (usually Sunday to share in the worship) followed by possibly slides and talk about Scargill and to be asked questions. This builds relationships and usually increases numbers of people wanting to come to Scargill."

"I think we could develop an outreach group from the community but one that will coordinate with each or maybe one church each year. I suggest some kind of exchange where several members from a church volunteer and carry out tasks at Scargill releasing community to do a two or three week stint at that church. This way the work can continue at Scargill - give the community members a different experience and also be a blessing to the volunteers who would come."

"I wonder if there is scope for a 'Scargill on the road' ministry? Not trying to replicate what is uniquely experienced at Scargill itself, but helping local churches embrace what it means to be a community, 'marching to a different

drum beat', that is deeply attractive to an ever more individualistic and fractured society."

4.3 Occasional local meetings with others who have been to Scargill to discuss how the Scargill insights could be applied in your area

This was a popular suggestion and links with suggestions about ongoing support for companions, friend and working friends

"Local meetings would be a good idea."

"occasional local meetings with others to encourage one another."

"I should be glad to meet with people in my area North Bucks/ South Midlands who have enjoyed Scargill - or know where such people are."

"... links with local Scargill supporters/ friends/ companions An on-line forum of some sort, a closed or open facebook group perhaps."

"Ambassadors to local churches ... would be lovely for the message about Scargill could be spread into the wider community. I think that you should keep doing what you are doing, because it is like gold dust."

"Development of groups of friends/ companions who might meet occasionally in their own geographical area so that they can envision how to build these relationships/ welcome etc in the communities in which they are based, with support from one another."

There were several requests for more engagement locally:

"More involvement and participation please with churches HERE in this valley!it would be good if a group from the community could perhaps visit churches here on a more regular basis and participate in services."

4.4 Literature about Scargill to be more widely available (mentioned by 35)

Printed leaflets about Scargill and its ministry in addition to Programmes and Momentum were requested. Something simple that could be used by those who have visited Scargill as guests as well as by Ambassadors.

"Print introductory packs on Scargill saying what it's about and how it works."

Another common request was for a powerpoint or DVD about Scargill to be available to help introduce the Movement to others.

"If Scargill could produce a powerpoint which can be downloaded or used directly from the website, it would be easier to promote it in my local church and amongst my many contacts."

"Visiting days from Scargill community members giving information of how community works for Scargill (?ambassadors). Could include DVD to show beautiful grounds, environment, scenes of worship etc."

"Could there be a "kit" and/or DVD for companions or others to share with their home groups or other local churches?"

"Could I have a copy of the photo/ slideshow from the end of Summerfest1? I would LOVE to show it in church and hopefully encourage some of our church families to come in future. I would love to see other families in our church growing and deepening their relationship with God. Sunday AM is such a rush. It would be wonderful to have the time for walks, talks, doing activities together. But getting them to take time out for that to happen seems to be a challenge. Maybe if they could see the variety, the fun etc it would encourage them."

"I sincerely hope and pray that Scargill thrives and that its development plans become a reality. It would be helpful to have a short Powerpoint about the building development plans, including drawings, 3d impressions along with financial needs on the website"

4.5 12 people ticked 'Joining as a church with the Community in their rhythm of prayer and commitment to 'Lives Shared and Lives Transformed with Jesus at the centre' but didn't comment further.

The idea of 'embracing what it means to be community' was captured by current community members. They suggested different groups and churches could explore community living and that this could include adopting a pathway based on a set of community promises.

"Introduce and inspire churches to have something similar to the community promises as a way of clarifying what it means to follow Christ. Welcome, support and guide people who have a vision to create Christian communities in other parts of U.K. and the world. Maybe have gatherings and courses at Scargill for people with this longing."

"I wonder if we could provide a forum/hub here for discussion and support for those who are keen to explore what intentional community might look like in their local communities/churches - I also think we may be approaching a time when we could publish some of our experiences of being community - a 'Stories of transformation' book? Or 'Who put that one there?!'"

"The life of Scargill (community and ministry/presence with guests) is our witness. So I'd be excited... to explore - in the life of their churches/congregations - practices of shared life (e.g. rhythm of prayer, or shared meals, shared possessions) that are also open for folks outside the church to participate in... Connected to that: encourage and support churches/congregations/parishes to explore what a 'pathway/rule of life' might mean in shaping their life and witness."

"For Scargill to continue building links/networks that support other efforts, in other contexts, in building community (e.g. similar to what is happening with former community from Hungary). To continue providing space and/or facilitation for folks to meet and share across existing or perceived borders to share experiences and build peaceable community. (being 'a safe space to say dangerous things.')"

"Helping the churches we work with regularly to find an equivalent to pathway promises which would work in their situations, when they are not living together."

Some community members also suggested Scargill could undertake more mission events as a means of supporting churches and communities.

"More Scargill on mission i.e. Going out to churches or mission events. Also continuing to encourage people while they are here at Scargill."

"Perhaps more team visits from Scargill on missions to churches and communities."

4.6 A link between a member of the Scargill Community and a particular church

This tended to overlap with comments on Ambassadors but has been specifically developed in terms of those coming on Parish Weekends.

The suggestion was made of a member of community being designated as the specific link for prayer requests from individuals and churches.

"Perhaps have a specific member of the community nominated to act as a link for the church, especially to receive prayer requests."

4.7 Training days at Scargill on specific issues

This was an extremely popular idea with those who live within easy reach of Scargill and a whole range of topics was suggested.

"training days might be good, shared ideas are often more helpful, encourage one or two church members to attend like a lay reader for example."

4.8 Joining as a church with the Community in their rhythm of prayer and commitment to 'Lives Shared and Lives Transformed with Jesus at the centre'

The questionnaire recognised that this was a commitment already undertaken by individuals who become Companions but wanted to explore whether there were whole churches who might be interested. Responses were generally aspirational as most people didn't feel they were in a position to influence their whole church.

"Maybe produce a Scargill Community 'how to lead and live in community booklet' - can that translate into a church community? Having a community member visit a church and share their experience could be the beginning."

Other areas of possible development included:

4.9 Resources to support ongoing discipleship and spiritual development

Support for spiritual life away from Scargill was requested by the production of a range of 'tools' that could help to support people in their spiritual lives and discipleship. For example online or DVD teaching materials (including if possible recorded teaching sessions from Scargill events), emailed 'thought for the week, meditations and ideas to help engage more effectively with the rhythm of prayer experienced at Scargill

"I would like the talks and sessions I attended to be online and to be able to see others weekly."

"Would it be possible to include some of the content of talks in Newsletters or Momentum?"

"Some group study notes on community would make interesting discussion in a home group. And include rhythm of prayer."

"The promises taken as a companion need to be reflected upon on a regular basis and to do that in a group would be helpful. Bi-Monthly meditations by e-mail could be another way to reflect on the promises and how these are being worked out in day-to-day life."

"Thought for the week from the community might help to strengthen the sense of belonging for those like me who live some distance."

"I wonder if you would consider bringing together some of your writings - liturgy devotionals into a book for people who want to retain some of the Anglican/ Celtic feel of your services and ministry."

"We thought a regular blog/ newsletter/ thought for the week/ month would be a good way of keeping in touch with those who have been to Scargill (and others) and sharing insights from the community which might apply to the individuals and their churches. If this was on-line - even just by email, it would involve no cost but may also help in terms of advertising Scargill events, conferences etc

"Might there be a new role for Companions to be looking into their local, home ministry (local church) to see how Scargill intentions could flow outwards. Scargill Companions, resourced at Scargill, would be seed through their local worship/fellowship to build up discipleship...."

4.10 Sharing good practice between churches

"Sharing good practice. You must so often encounter the same issues; if church groups coming here find ways to address them/ take action then it would be great if Scargill could help others know about what they did and what worked (not just here but once home afterwards) writing up case studies? linking churches?"

4.11 Ongoing support for individuals

In recognition of the help that many people receive while at Scargill ongoing individual support with perhaps regular sessions over some weeks was requested as was the opportunity for respite at times of crisis. It was hoped that occasional day visits for prayer and counselling might be available and that provision of early help in times of crisis both on a one off and ongoing basis could be arranged.

"There would be a value in individuals being able to visit just for one day or maybe on a semi-residential basis and have the opportunity to receive prayer/ counselling in times of crisis.... there are two different scenarios: 1) One-off day visits in crisis 2) Longer term semi-regular day visits over a longer period."

"To be able to offer extended, supported breaks (2-3 weeks) for ordained ministers who are going through difficult times- this is costly and demanding, but possibly more achievable in a community than anywhere else. And there are very few places that offer this - an opportunity to explore what has 'gone wrong' and to find creative ways through it!"

"More availability for day visits possibly? I am wondering whether people could come for individual prayer/ counselling (which they could make a donation for) enjoy the grounds and stay for lunch."

"It is acknowledged that Scargill provides a place for the walking wounded from our churches to find peace and acceptance. Is there more Scargill could do to recharge these people, or is the peace and rest the priority?"

Another request for help was to offer the 'Scargill experience' to groups such as international students.

4.12 Other areas of ministry

There were many suggestions for expansion of ministry both 'onsite' and within local communities. An increase in the offer of prayer for physical healing and one to one ministry was proposed with perhaps opportunity for those feeling battered and wearied by life to spend time at Scargill. People advocated offering more to those 'on the edge' of church, to seekers and to those who are unsure or at the start of their faith journey. Mention was also made of confirmation services for those who connect to Jesus at Scargill but not a local church, of family outdoor weekends and of work to support the particular difficulties of different age groups. There were many dreams of increasing the amount of work

undertaken with young people of all ages and also with the 20-30 (and 40) age group saying that opportunity to meet with like-minded young adults would be much appreciated as many churches don't provide these. A wide range of other groups were also mentioned including lone parents and young families, those with particular needs such as learning disability, physical and mental health needs, international students and the marginalised (vulnerable /unloved / misunderstood/ hurting/ homeless). People dreamt of being able to better meet the needs of those in urban priority areas and to reach out to those of other faiths or none. Another respondent dreamt of better integration between the generations.

"I was wondering if there would be scope to bring international students/ visitors to Scargill for weekends - particularly those searching for God?"

"...encouraging struggling Christians - being a place of warmth and welcome and healing. Expanding a healing ministry including physical illnesses as well as spiritual needs."

"We have friends who get beaten up and battered by life, and it would be great just to be able to bring them/drop them off at Scargill for a few days of pressure free refurbishment."

"I would like to see 'seekers weeks' (or weekends) for those exploring Christian faith."

"I dream of.....lots of younger people coming and enjoying God's presence here. I think now you have better camping facilities that could be offered to reduce the price for families not just at Summerfest. The programme is really good but perhaps we could target the 20s and 30s generation a little more."

"there's scope for encouraging a younger profile - not just family weeks. It's vital we provide for older teens and twenties - discounted fees and a specific programme within group weekends?"

"Dreams ... reaching out to those without a faith or of other faiths (which I know is already being done). Going out to where they are and inviting them to 'taste and see.'"

"It must not just be a refuge for comfortable returnees such as myself. I would like the ministry to younger people to be maintained and developed. I was once there when a small group of homeless people were being given a holiday. That sort of thing is very good, not just for those invited, but as a challenge to the regulars like myself."

"A ministry to enable lone parent families to develop their journey in Christ, and a place of hope and restoration for those in that situation."

"To increase opportunities for those from Urban Priority areas to access Summerfest and other weekends/ weeks through bursaries/ advertising ... my problem as vicar of UPA was persuading people to book Summerfest far enough ahead when they planned only week by week!"

"..Keep prices down once en-suites are a majority, so good you have a wide mix as can be hard to ask for a bursary..."

"To do more outreach to inner city communities in Bradford and Leeds, I thought it was a real plus having people on bursaries up from Sheffield and Bradford over the summer, it can make such a big difference to people who can't/don't access the Dales."

"More open even than now, to people with disabilities, including mental health & learning. Certainly as guests, maybe even as working friends or co-leaders of some group sessions."

4.13 The building proposals were highly popular with several respondents saying that this would increase Scargill's appeal.

"I dream of the building, step free fully accessible with lots of younger people coming and enjoying God's presence here. I think now you have better camping facilities that could be offered to reduce the price for families not just at Summerfest."

"Refurbished and more accessible accommodation without losing the home like feel."

4.14 The Community

The final area of dreams about the future of Scargill concern the sustainability of the community and its future leadership. In their vision for the future, respondents expressed concern that there should be careful succession planning for the leadership and that community members should be well supported. One person suggested longer term commitments for some members to aid stability and another asked what was 'on paper' about Scargill and how it has developed to this point, feeling that these things were important to ensure its ongoing fruitfulness and viability. There was also a desire to make our lifestyle even more eco-friendly.

"That the Scargill council will continue to be a 'listening' council to God, community, guests and working friends in order to keep supporting and directing the work here along the lines of its mission statement."

"(I know you plan to adjust) the new building plans are sound and should be supported. There needs to be leadership succession planning [for the time when the current leadership team move on]"

"... community depends massively on strong empathetic leadership at strategic level, and leading the community in order to inspire and keep folk safe and faithful. I believe Scargill has benefitted hugely in this regard in recent years, but 'succession' has to be on-going to maintain unity of vision over time."

"My dream would be that in addition to the much needed renovations and improvements to the building that will hopefully take place in the near future,

Scargill stays Christ-centred and 'fuzzy round the edges' (to quote the current director!) with a heart for seeing life's shared and life's transformed by being a safe, loving and caring place."

4.15 Images

Various powerful images of Scargill and its ministry were offered.

"(a) picture I have of Scargill is of a weir or waterfall. It is fascinating to watch the water flowing and moving and know that although it keeps the same appearance it is different water flowing all the time."

"Water flowing from the fells above Scargill right through the chapel and being transformed into electric current (like a hydroelectric power station). The electric currents were like lights spreading out down the hillside into the dale. The power house was the chapel and the emphasis seemed to be that it was the activity of God rather than human activity- God's response to prayer, praise and intercession."

"I understand that water from the Amazon river flowing into the Atlantic makes the ocean fresh, rather than salt, for miles out to sea. A place of prayer and refreshing in the heart of the North of England has a similar potential... to see the sweet fresh water of the Spirit flowing out down river from Scargill bringing life and hope wherever it touches. I think that points to a movement that has a missionary heart as well as bringing spiritual growth in the church."

"Scargill makes me think of a multifaceted jewel glittering in sunlight. There are so many aspects to it. Any one surface of the jewel wouldn't look that special on its own, but taken all together it is very beautiful. Also, it only glitters because each part takes it in turns to be lit up. Another picture I have of Scargill is of a weir or waterfall. It is fascinating to watch the water flowing and moving and know that although it keeps the same appearance it is different water flowing all the time. It would not be the same to just have a photo or picture of it. What makes it beautiful is its flow and movement."

My favourite picture of Scargill is of a drystone wall. Perfect in its imperfections: strong in its weakness, somewhere where everyone can be of use. Like so many good things in life, it can't be bottled or held onto. We watch an amazing sunset and want to capture it but we don't need to. There will be other amazing sunsets. One more picture - clay needs to be kept soft in order to be moulded."

4.16 Others expressed their vision in the following ways:

"to see the sweet fresh water of the Spirit flowing out down river from Scargill bringing life and hope wherever it touches. I think that points to a movement that has a missionary heart as well as bringing spiritual growth in the church."

"Scargill House is like an oasis in the desert; a place of rest, shelter, comfort, restoration - a place to re-energise those flagging spiritual batteries! Therein lies the dream, that one day there will be more places like this to help those who thirst for God."

"I'd like this to be a place of developing, equipping, re-energising and refocusing armies of God's kingdom for their apostolic work."

"I think as traditional Church (sadly literally) dies out, movements like Scargill will become even more important in what discipleship means for Christians, with Christian living becoming hopefully more holistic but probably less expressed in regular attendance at weekly worship."

"The legacy of Scargill will be in the relationships forged amongst community, working friends, guests who seek to want to travel together outside of this place. Scargill has always been a place where God meets with folk and brings people together to imagine what life would be like if they lived with God at the centre of all their relationships, and sought out the heart of God for their lives, their church, their family, their community."



Chapter 5: The Children's View

When the research group were commissioned to undertake a review of Scargill's progress over the last few years it seemed important to arrange a questionnaire to seek out comments from children and young people over the same issues. This was carried out during Summerfest 2016. The questionnaire asked questions which were broadly similar to those on the adult form. 21 questionnaires were completed.

Q1. How old are you and how many times have you been to Scargill?

The children were between 2 and 13 and had been to Scargill between 1 and 10 times.

Q2. What do you enjoy most?

Many activities were mentioned as enjoyable including the 'overtly spiritual' ones. 8 children said that they enjoyed their groups and 6 liked the dramas in the family services. In the following lists the numbers refer to the number of children highlighting a particular activity. Outdoor games were popular (wet and wild 6, playground 8) and activities such as screen printing (4), archery (3), ceilidh (3), movies (4), and food/cake (3) were appreciated. No less than 33 different activities were documented as being enjoyable.

Q3. If you have discovered more about Jesus during your visit(s) can you tell us about it?

The teaching for Summerfest was centered around parables. Spiritual truths seem to have been understood by the children/young people with comments such as "when we are lost Jesus always finds us" "God is with us even when we are lost" and "it doesn't matter who you are God loves you".

Q4. What would you tell your friends about Scargill?

The comments here were really positive with 11 children saying that coming to Scargill is good fun /good and 5 mentioning making friends. Activities such as archery, singing and dancing and camping were said to be good as was the food and the art room. Scargill was described as a good place and 'cool'. One 13 year old said 'come as you can have quite a good time' while an 11 year old stated 'it is very good. It is not like other churches. It is fun'!

Q5. Are there things that you have learnt at Scargill or may be activities that you have done, that you might be able to use in a group at home?

This question resulted in mainly a list of activities that the children thought that they might try away from Scargill. Clay coin making and screen printing were listed and story-telling groups, drama and fund raising also mentioned.

Q6. Is there anything else you would like to see or do at Scargill that you would enjoy or would find encouraging?

One parent added the suggestion that a larger crèche was needed and that this should ideally be available all day. The children suggested longer time for group activities with more outdoor time. Workshops such as piano and knitting were requested with the suggestion of a daily Lego club and more drama throughout the week. Shorter walks were also requested.... A tennis court, a swimming pool and an Xbox were also thought desirable!

Conclusions

Children and young people clearly enjoy their stays at Scargill and will pass on positive comments to their friends. A wide range of activities are appreciated and some of these are later tried away from Scargill so hopefully will enrich the children's home experiences.

Chapter 6: Recommendations and going forwards

Twenty six recommendations were made to Council and Leadership covering every area of the research and these are currently being addressed by different groups as appropriate.

The research group were encouraged that some of them were already being worked on before the report was published, a sign that the Holy Spirit goes ahead of us! An abridged version of the report will form the substance of our discussions at the Movement weekend in September 2017.

Appendix 1 – Longer responses

Blessings over generations

"Many, many years ago (Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley was the speaker) we as a family (my husband David and I plus 3 children) came to Scargill on a holiday. We had been once or twice before. At the time, this time David and I were in the depths of a very serious marriage crisis, coinciding with a faith crisis. We went into Grassington and bought boots, walking boots and one day we, the two of us, set out and climbed the big hill which you can see on the other side of the valley (Knipe Scar?) and sat on a ridge looking back at Scargill or thereabouts. And that was the time that, for the first time, we discovered how to speak from our hearts, and to listen and to forgive and to trust. Our whole life changed. We walked back into Scargill and told Bp Cuthbert Bardsley who gave us his blessing. From then onwards our marriage and faith have blossomed. Subsequently we have both been ordained priest and served the Lord in different parishes. Our son, Martin, now Archdeacon of Oxford, came back to Scargill for six months in his gap year, met Katharine his lovely wife. Their two daughters Lydia, (last year) and Anna (this year) have so valued and enjoyed being part of the Scargill community for some months. Now, this year, we have benefitted from Ann Morisey's teaching under the title 'Three score years and then?' for which, now in our 80s, (I celebrated my 85th birthday in lovely Scargill!) we truly qualify. Now in the 4th age, with all its dilemmas we are still in heart and soul wearing our walking boots in order to travel with our Lord into the next age. Thank you Scargill"

Relationship forming

My visit to Scargill in November 2015 was truly momentous. It was life changing! In early January my husband died after 32 years of a happy but very challenging marriage. He was disabled from birth but when he was 50 and I was 45 years we entered into our first marriage. Over the years my role as a carer increased, and when he eventually died aged 83 years he was ready to pass on and I to release him as life had become increasingly stressful for both of us. I was exhausted but had a wonderful sense of being able to love, stand with and support someone who had so many struggles in life. A few months on and I was able to commit the rest of my life to God. I was 79 years old but didn't want to just 'exist' for the rest of my life. I asked God for a vision of what he wanted me to do. Soon after this I had an invitation from a Malaysian friend to visit Singapore. I was excited but as I prayed about it I realised this wasn't the thing for me. I then enrolled on a six month course on 'Ministering to wholeness' It was an area where I had some training and experience but I felt the need for a refresher course. I had a strong feeling that 2016 was going to be a new start for me. A few days before the course was due to start in October 2015 I had word that the course was cancelled due to lack of support. I was disappointed - what was God saying to me? I came to Scargill on 2nd November for a course on the Psalms. In the afternoons there was an opportunity for a walk. About 6 or 7 of us went on these and we were all amazed at the vitality of an 85 year old man who strode up the hills with the energy of a teenager! Later in the week we were talking in the sun lounge I discovered he had spent more than 30 years of his life working in Africa. I had spent a short time with 'Christians abroad' in Tanzania. This started a lifelong interest in Africa with two nephews and a great nephew serving God in Zimbabwe and Malawi as well as shorter spells in other countries. Derek and I were engrossed in reminiscences. When we finally paused we realised everyone else had gone to bed and we were still talking! Our friendship developed in such a natural way, there was really no point of decision, we both just knew this was what the Lord had planned for us. We had each of us shared news of our developing relationship with a couple of friends and

asked them to pray for us. Nothing negative crept in and the way everything moved forward was amazing. We met November, engaged January, married March, moved to a new area, Rippon in April. Both of us sold properties and condensed two homes into one. We felt guided to a lovely little church which Derek had spotted on the internet and feel we will have a role to play there. Our flat was found in an afternoon simply by glancing in an estate agent's window. It is convenient and has both space and a wonderful view which were our main criteria. We are now in the middle of a major refurbishment of a very dated 1970s property - aged 86 and 80! We gasp at what God has done and are both incredibly happy. All we can say is - 'now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen' Ephesians 3 v20-21 Thank you Scargill for being the means by which God brought us together. Who knows what other wonderful things have happened to people as a result of your love and dedication"

The following was sent in as a result of the article in Momentum

Lives Shared, Lives Transformed

How can Scargill reach out into the wider community?

How can Scargill better support its own Community?

Scargill already has an extensive community throughout the UK and the world.

1. Firstly there are Companions, Friends and former members of the Community. Three populations who have already bought into the Scargill Movement in a real sense. A community that already numbers several hundred people. This is the 'core' community
2. Then there is a population of people who have experienced Scargill. These folk will have been to Scargill on a course or a retreat; some many times.
3. A third group will have 'The Scargill Experience' only vicariously. A close friend or family member having visited and reported back enthusiastically.
4. A larger group will have been to Scargill with a Church or other group as day visitors.
5. Finally there are those whose contact has been episodic. Either electronically via the website, or by reading Momentum or attending an event where they have encountered the Community. An evening with Adrian or Bridget perhaps or a meeting attended by, for example, Paul or Anna and Andreus.

So Scargill's tentacles are already spread far and wide!

So how do we make Scargill a more effective presence to 'the wider community of Scargill?'

For some of us there is the model and experience of our Alma Maters, whether school or College or University. These institutions have all, to a greater or lesser degree, developed alumni organisations. Their main purpose is to fund raise from these former, hopefully sympathetic, students. They usually major on the unique culture, ethos and positive experience an individual will have had in their time there. Obviously much of this would ring hollow with us but the model is perhaps a useful one to note in passing. A secular example maybe of what we could do in a Christian environment. And they are, of course, to a greater

or lesser degree pretending to be one thing [The Special Community] while in reality being something else [a means of raising money]. This model often fails badly for anyone who did not 'succeed' in the way the Institution defines success.

So let's try and come up with our own 'Scargill' solution and begin with the Companions, Friends and former members of the Community.

The Companions have already signed up to the Pathway Promises as a way of life. Why not invite them to support each other in their local communities? Sometimes I accidentally discover that there are other Companions living near us but I don't know whether there are a few or many nearby. We live but an hour from Scargill so can easily come to our 'Scargill Home' but for many of the Companions this is not an option. Maybe this network can be formed by inviting us to join an electronic Community? That would be voluntary and not resource hungry and not violate any Data Protection rules. There is no reason why Friends and former community members could not also be signed up. A Community member [working friend?] could 'supervise' [moderate?] this electronic community. A Closed Facebook Group works for other Communities I belong to [In my case connected to Rowing or water in some way]. My Facebook friends who don't share a particular interest are shielded from the content.

This 'Community' building locally can, of course, be organised or encouraged in non-electronic ways but that would take rather more resource. Maybe, with suitable permissions having been granted of course, it would be possible for these cohorts to do some research during a visit for other reasons?

Who knows what direction or information or developments might emerge from such a group? For starters this group could be the target group [excuse for setting up?] the questionnaire/survey that is being planned. I notice that many of us who are committed to Scargill are quite rich in years. Maybe those of us not totally in our dotage yet could become aquatinted to formerly active Companions and friends who can no longer travel independently. We could perhaps provide support practical and in other ways that their local Christian Community can't.

This Group might also be helpful in 'spreading the word' about Scargill. We were able to help Paul when he took a Stand at Ripon Cathedral for their festival weekend. Being close by he went home in the evening but I suspect many such forays would be available with similar support. An opportunity to repay in a small way the famous Scargill hospitality. Similarly I suspect we are not alone in having a home larger than we need. We would happily be a holiday base or 'half-way' house for others of the Scargill family. I suspect many others are similarly placed and unused!