



Baptist Assembly 2022 Feedback

Following this year's Assembly, those who joined us in Bournemouth and those who joined online were invited to complete a feedback form to share their reflections on the event. The forms reflect a broad range of views and have been analysed by an independent researcher.

This document contains the results of the survey.

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BU Assembly Survey Feedback

Of the respondents (across both surveys, i.e. 148 people):

- 61% are from 55+ year olds
- 62% ministers
- 86% have been to assembly before

Face to face

- Over two thirds of people responding travelled over 100 miles to go to the Assembly

Online

- Majority of people were watching alone on Saturday and with larger groups on Sunday

My general sense from reading the feedback was:

- Those that were on site really enjoyed being together again after so long
- There was a lot to take in, people were tired but thought it was great
- Those that joined online were very grateful that was an option, and the majority would look to engage in that way again in the future
- Inclusion of more marginal voices massively encouraged a few and massively upset a few. I had huge concern when reading the comments of the two who were upset.
- Although people did comment on some of the other aspects of Assembly, reflections on Sunday Morning far outweighed any others!
- Having not been there, I wondered what this said about the theme of conversation (appeared to be least interactive bit from my reading but could be wrong...)

Sunday morning

- Highlight for many
- Huge appreciation for Alan Donaldson's message
- Better choice of songs than Saturday
- In Memoriam didn't work, especially for those online
- Needed a stronger lead – felt disjointed
- Was too long, particularly for online audience

Other sessions

Pecha Kucha – some and some! Lots found it helpful and loved hearing different voices, some felt it was a bit too much info and not enough time to discuss/reflect.

Networking Zone – important space for people onsite to catch up and interact

Prayer space – loved by those who visited, lots didn't know it existed or have time to use

Face to face specific

- Refreshments expensive, queues long

Online specific

- People looking for a more interactive, hybrid experience rather than livestream watch

BU Assembly 2022 Face-to-Face Feedback

There were **103** replies to the face-to-face feedback survey.

Hometown or postcode

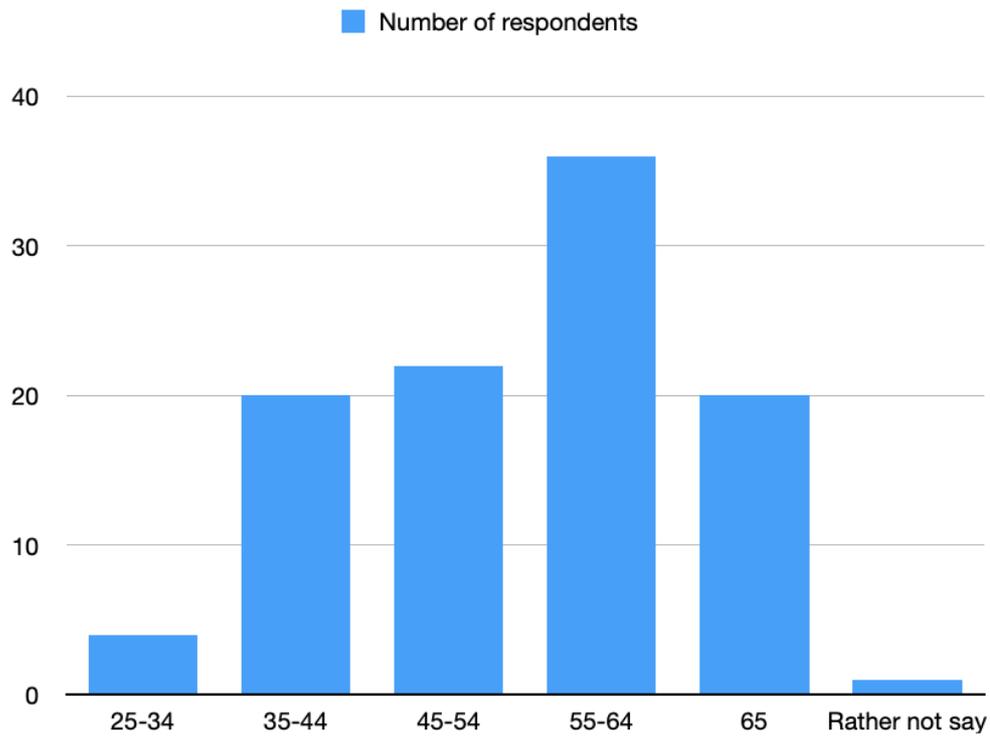
This map shows the different locations respondents travelled from to the Assembly. An online version of this can be accessed at

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1gYyHYzyeGAHtlualap6__Edq7tjJsuU&hl=en&usp=sharing



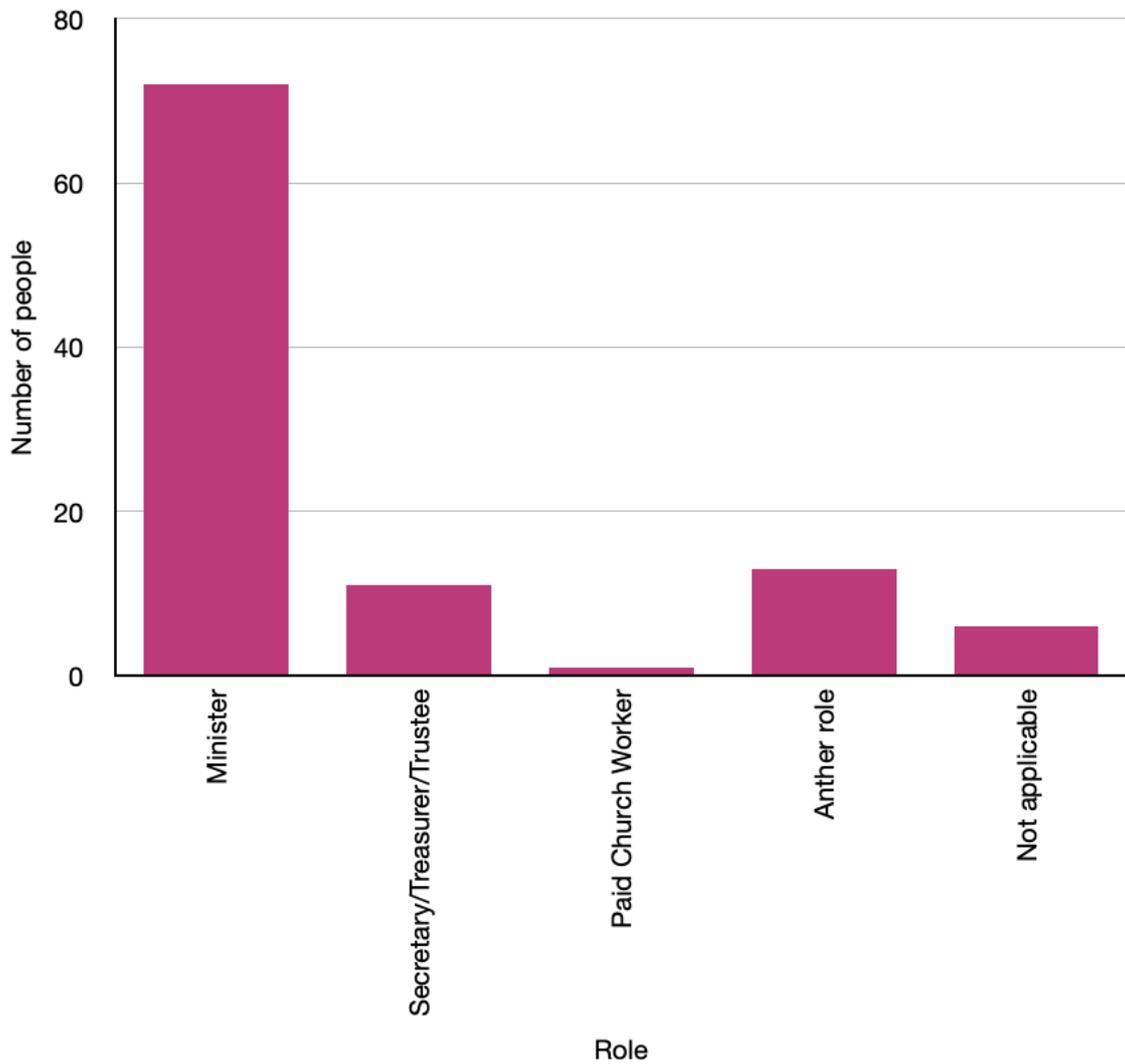
Age

Age range in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
25-34	4	4%
35-44	20	19%
45-54	22	21%
55-64	36	35%
65+	20	19%
Rather not say	1	1%



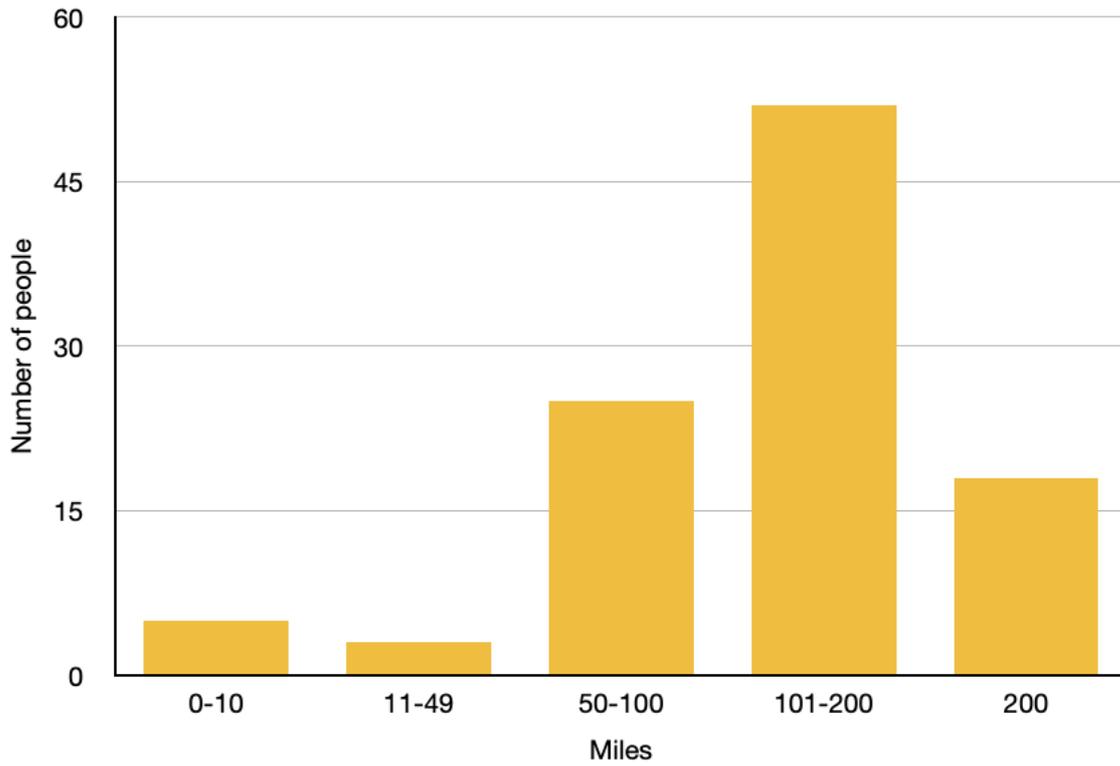
Are you a Minister/paid church worker or do you hold a particular role within your church?

Role	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Minister	72	70%
Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee	11	10.5%
Paid Church Worker	1	1%
Another role	13	12.5%
Not applicable	6	6%



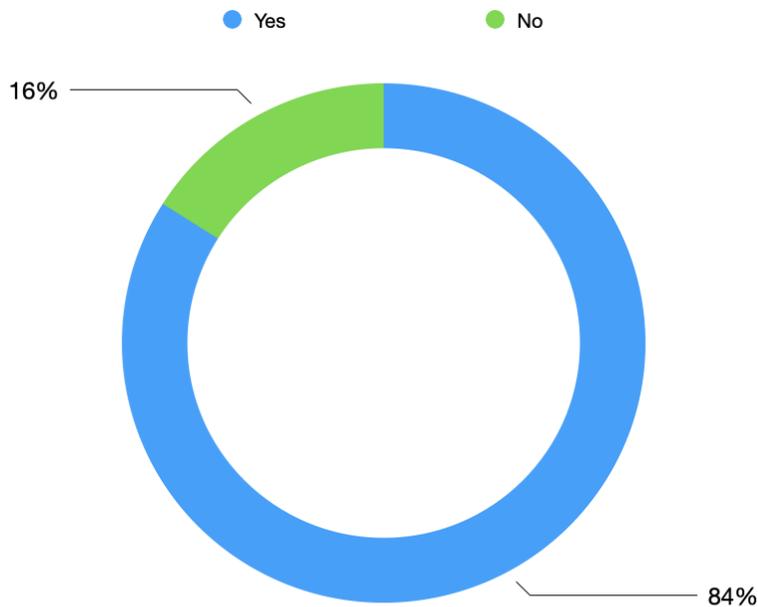
How far did you travel to attend Baptist Assembly 2022?

Distance range in miles	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
0-10	5	5%
11-49	3	3%
50-100	25	24%
101-200	52	51%
200+	18	17%



Have you attended Baptist Assembly before?

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Yes	87	84%
No	16	16%

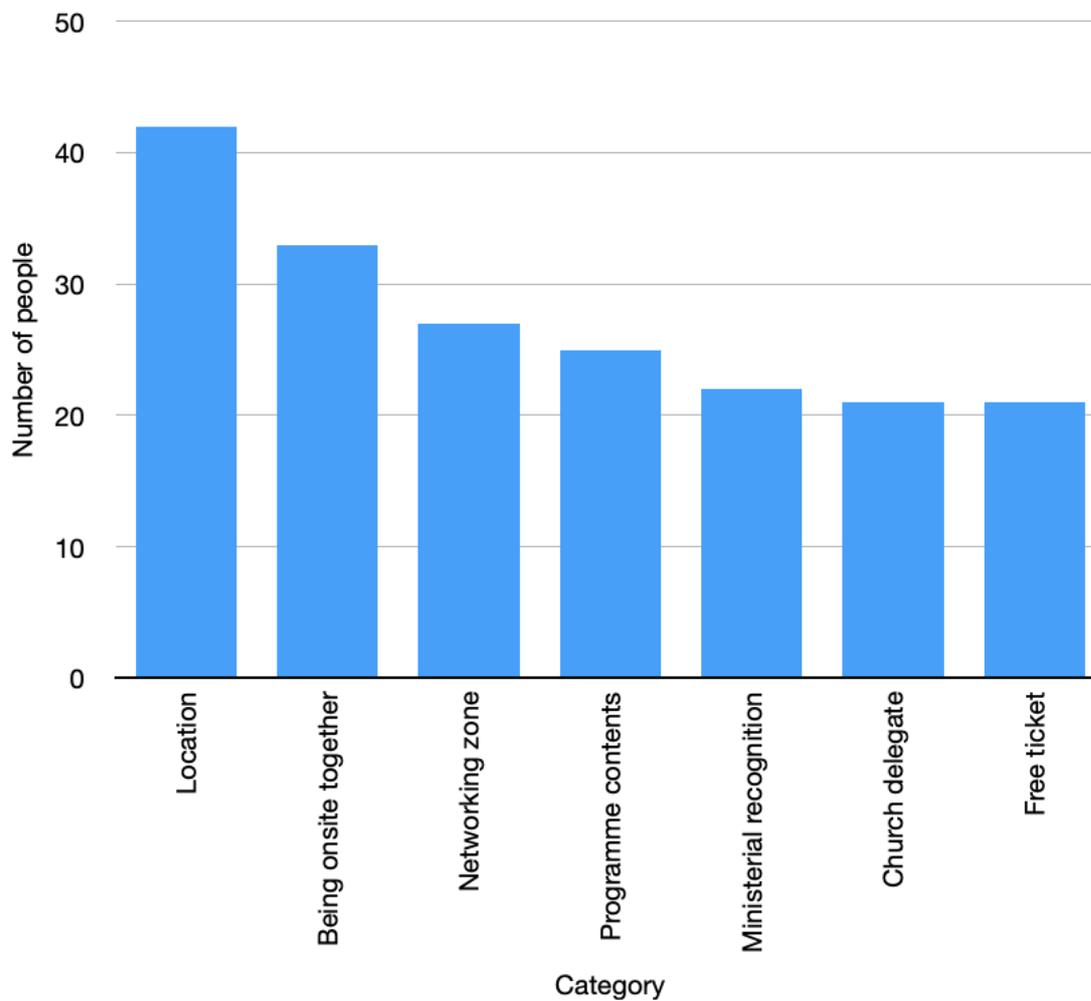


**Please tell us what attracted you to attend Baptist Assembly this year?
(Please tick as many options as you wish)**

Category	Number of respondents selecting category
Location	42
Being onsite together	33
Networking zone	27
Programme contents	25
Ministerial recognition	22
Church delegate	21
Free ticket	21

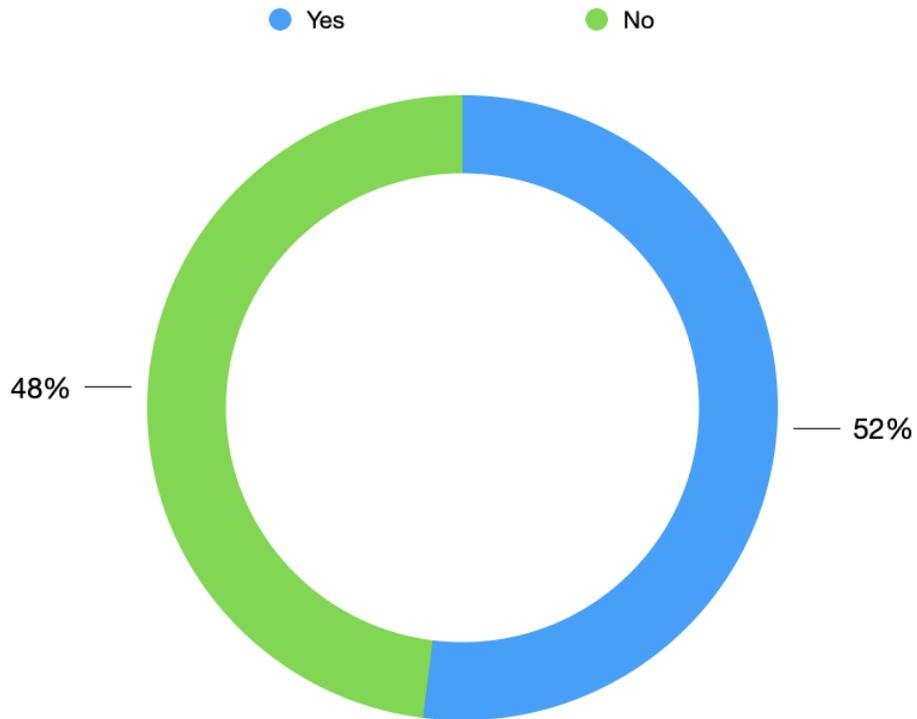
The most popular single answer was 'being onsite together' (18).

The most popular combination was 'being onsite together' and 'location' (10).



Were you given a discount code?

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Yes	54	52%
No	49	48%

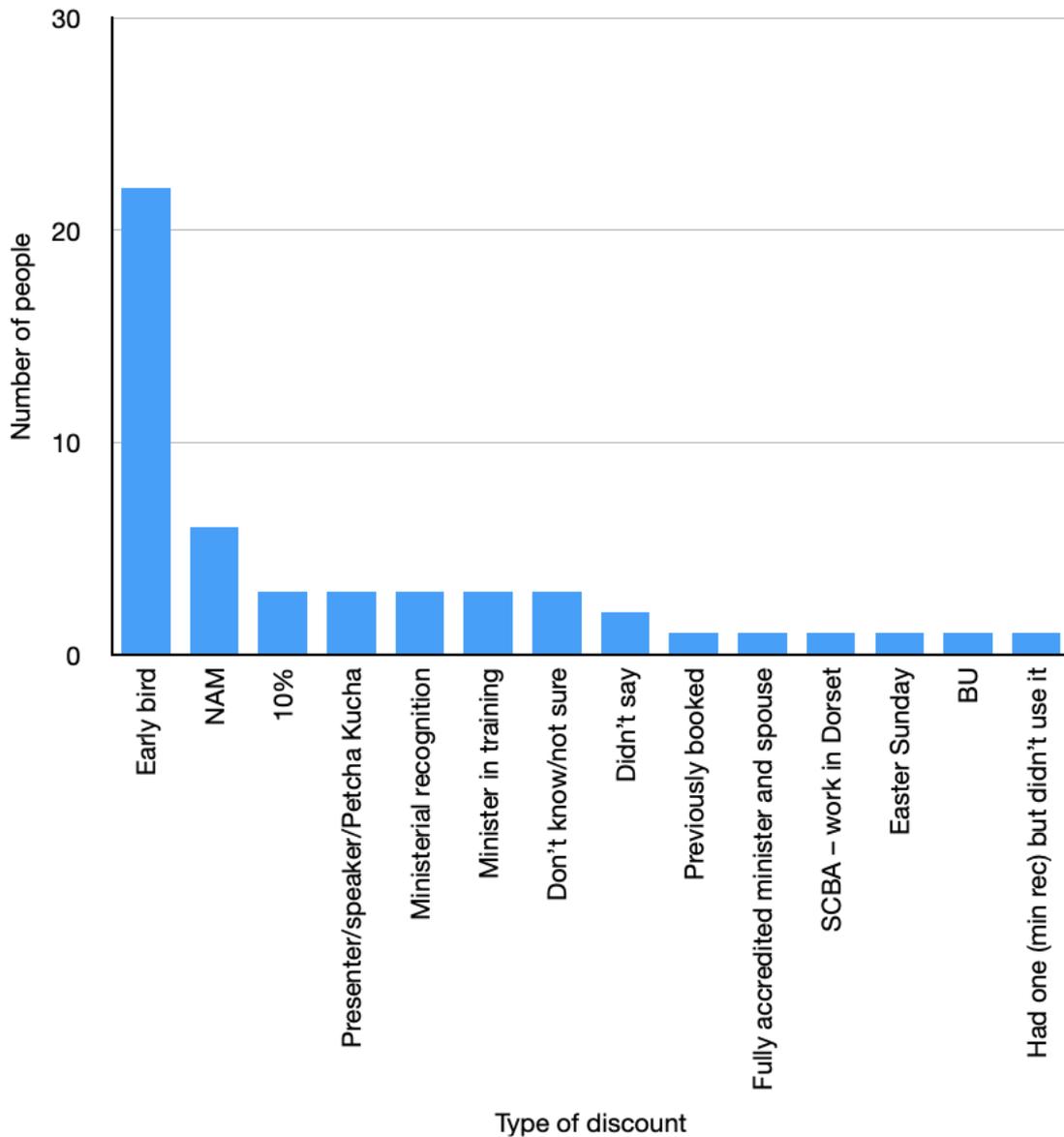


Three of those who said 'no' added:

- Free ticket
- Not sure
- Would have liked one!

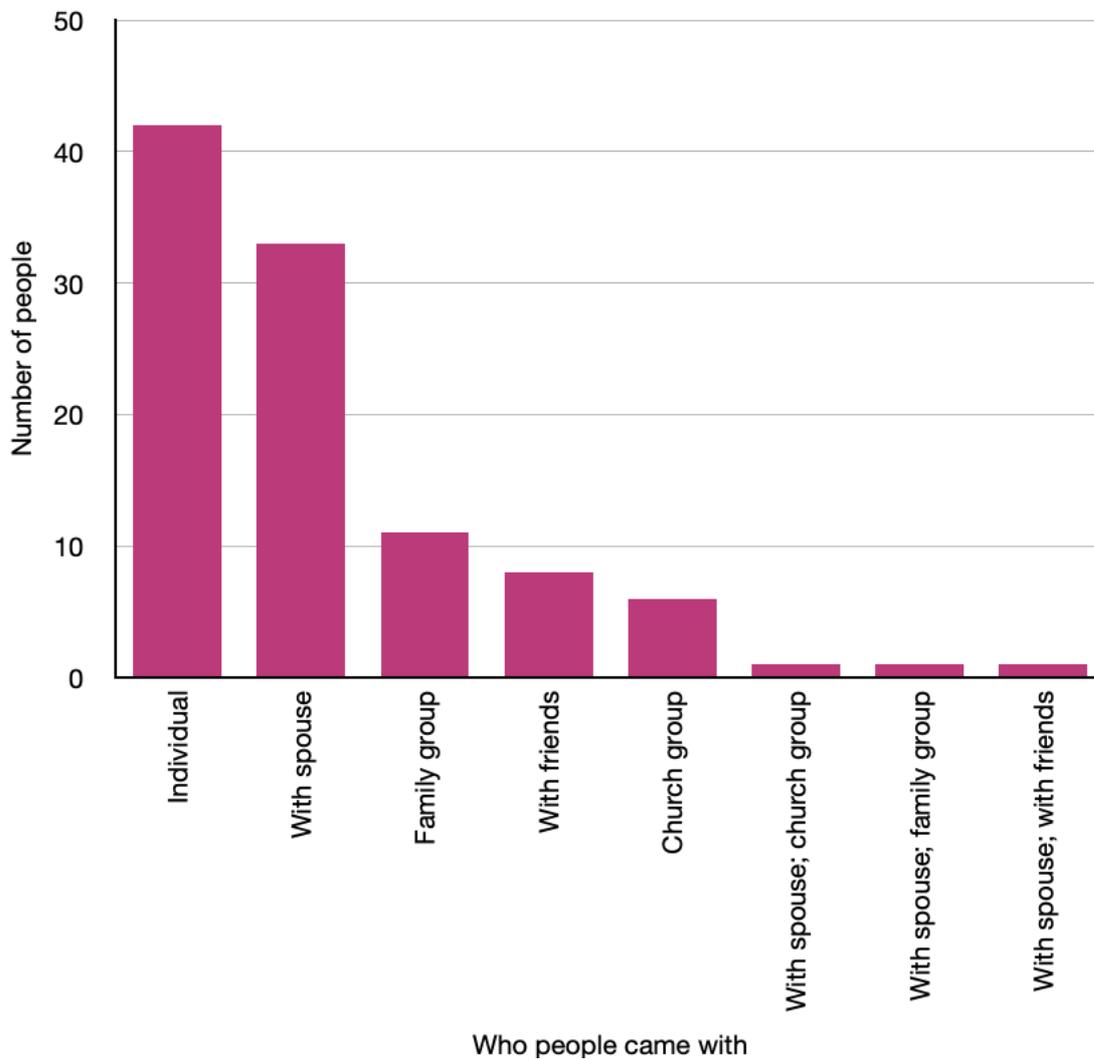
If yes, please indicate which one you used.

Category	Number of respondents
Early bird	22
NAM	6
10%	3
Presenter/speaker/Petcha Kucha	3
Ministerial recognition	3
Minister in training	3
Don't know/not sure	3
Didn't say	2
Previously booked	1
Fully accredited minister and spouse	1
SCBA – work in Dorset	1
Easter Sunday	1
BU	1
Had one (min rec) but didn't use it	1



Did you come as an individual or as part of a group?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category
Individual	42
With spouse	33
Family group	11
With friends	8
Church group	6
With spouse; church group	1
With spouse; family group	1
With spouse; with friends	1

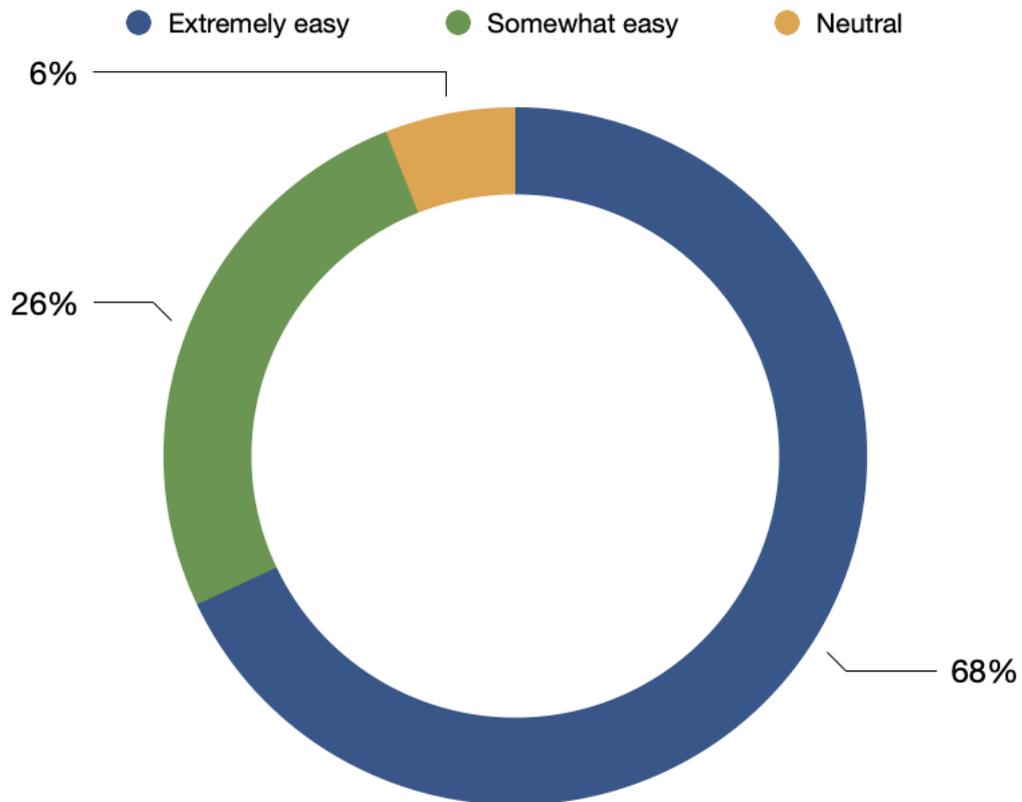


How easy did you find the booking process?

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Extremely easy	70	68%
Somewhat easy	27	26%
Neutral	6	6%

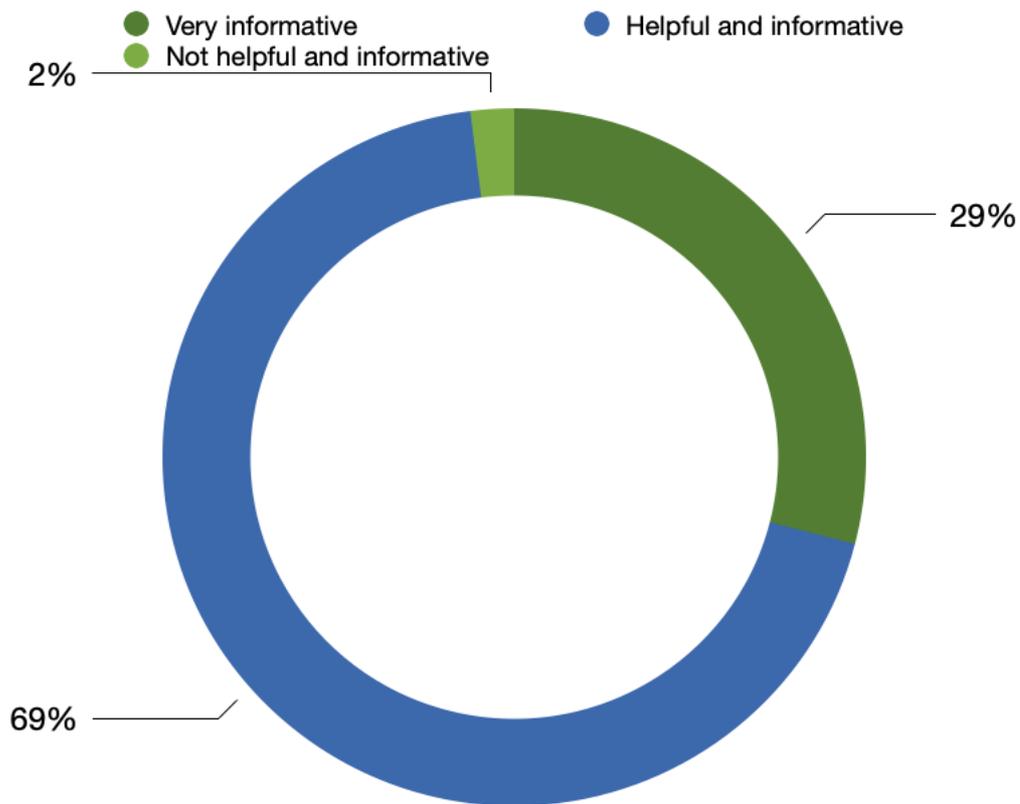
If you did not find it easy, please comment on how we could improve it.

- Someone else booked for me x 2
- Didn't receive my booking confirmation / tickets but was able to obtain them when I email the support team.



How helpful and informative did you find the Baptist Assembly website in preparing for Baptist Assembly?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
Very informative	30	29%
Helpful and informative	71	69%
Not helpful and informative	2	2%



Please feel free to suggest how we can improve the Baptist Assembly website in future years:

Answers fell largely into 4 categories:

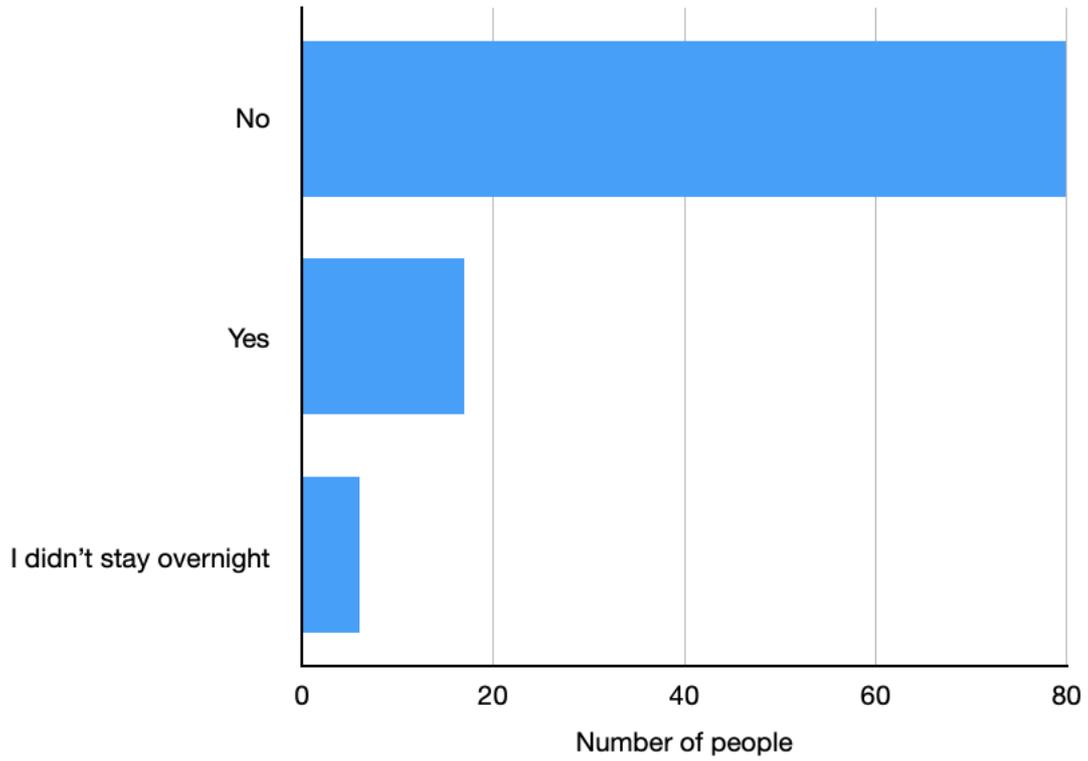
- Logistics
- Emails
- More info, sooner
- Unclear

There's also a section called 'other' which is general feedback, not related to the website!

LOGISTICS
When registering as a family, not having to repeat information.
EMAILS
In the final reminder email, renew the link to printing off the name badge (and send it out 2 weeks before)
The pre-convention mailings in the weeks prior to assembly were very helpful in the past.
MORE INFO, SOONER
The detailed information was very late in coming out this year.
Information was vague and not confirmed until late on it felt
Publish the programme earlier - this helps people to decide to come or not!
To decide if they were going to opt into the Sunday livestream, our church wanted more information about the Sunday morning worship sooner.
When preparing to use the stream for our church Sunday service, it would be helpful to know the running order.
I hadn't understood the afternoon taster session before I came - more explanation would have been helpful.
More information about the content of sessions would be helpful.
As we did not attend on Sunday as a church, but streamed it as our Sunday service, it would have been helpful to have an idea of what was being covered by the children's and youth teams so that we could have had related content for our U18 work.
UNCLEAR
It was slightly unclear that there were often two things taking place at the same time. The Pecha Kucha bit was a little confusing from the website but a great way fo sharing info when we saw it happen.
It was difficult to find the exact dates and I often had to go searching for them as they were not clearly found in email communications or on the front page of the website.
I had to go around a few times to find the programme - this could have been easier
OTHER
I missed a quiet payer space. (was there one?) I did the one at Telford 3 hears ago - if you need me to do this again next year let me know.
Nothing on-site but comment has been made regarding the inclusion of In Memorium in the live Sunday Service
Names could not be read on the screens (mostly small I guess) and the names were not relevant to our general members. Perhaps it would be better to include it another part of the Assembly.
Felt that In Memoria was perhaps not best suited to Sunday live stream to churches.

Did you use the services of Reservation Highway to book your overnight accommodation?

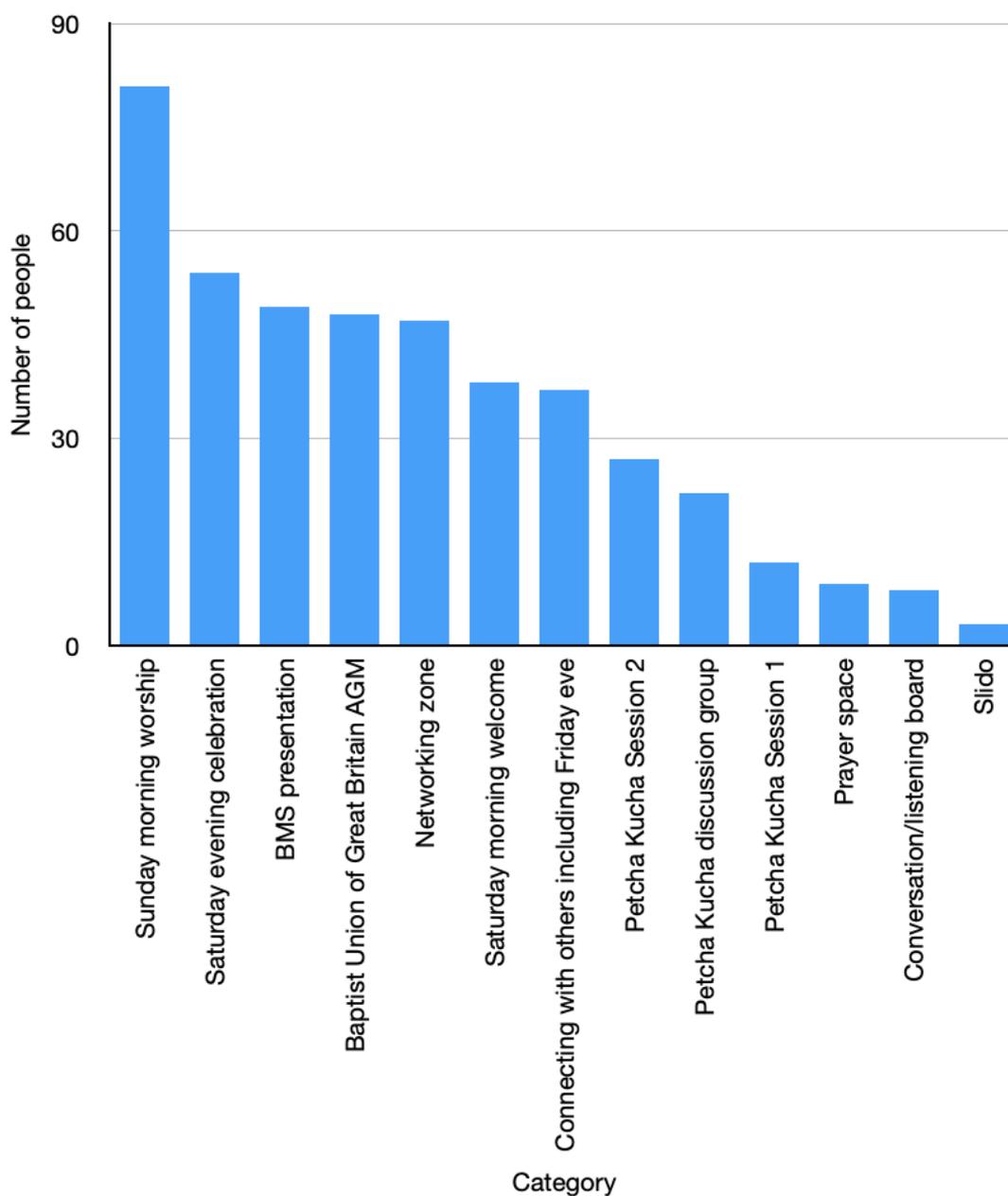
Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
No	80	78%
Yes	17	16%
I didn't stay overnight	6	6%



Which aspects of Baptist Assembly did you appreciate the most?

(Please tick as many as you wish)

Category	Number of respondents selecting category
Sunday morning worship	81
Saturday evening celebration	54
BMS presentation	49
Baptist Union of Great Britain AGM	48
Networking zone	47
Saturday morning welcome	38
Connecting with others including Friday eve	37
Petcha Kucha Session 2	27
Petcha Kucha discussion group	22
Petcha Kucha Session 1	12
Prayer space	9
Conversation/listening board	8
Slido	3



Further comments on the question above:

I've grouped these into the sessions and then general comments.

PECHA KUCHA
I found the Pecha Kucha sections excellent - very grounding to hear specifics, fantastic to hear from a variety of voices (and expert voices) and very thought-provoking challenging content.
There were several very interesting short presentations in the Pecha Kucha session 2 but then no opportunity for discussion groups. I found this very disappointing.
The Pecha Kucha talks were very good but it felt like too many of them without enough thinking/processing time by the 2nd session.
I would have preferred to have discussion on the second lot of Pecha Kucha conversation starters and I felt the discussion group I was in was not very focussed or all that helpful. As I didn't really want to discuss any of the first lot, I plumped for the welcoming with Steve Tinning. It was ok and there were a couple of nuggets of information that were helpful, but overall it ended up being a discussion about politics which I was totally switched off to.
The Pecha Kucha idea worked well because speakers were necessarily focused and time-bound. All the speakers did a great job and gave good insight into their topic. I can't now remember why I didn't go to the second round of talks. (I didn't go to the discussion groups.)
I found the content quite intensive so found the second Pecha Kucha difficult to concentrate on. Maybe one of those sessions or not so many in each. However, i liked them better then the past seminar programmes
Found the Pecha Kucha too fast paced. Had just got my brain into one and it was onto the next
I did not enjoy the conversations on Saturday afternoon (on the stage). I didn't agree with much of what I heard.
The Pecha Kucha sessions gave us too much information in too short a time to take in.
For me the Pecha Kucha didn't really inspire me [maybe that just says more about me.
I though the PKs were really interesting and enjoyed the discussion on my own presentation.
Speaking personally, I found the short presentations lacked depth
SAT AM
Geoff Colmer spoke very openly and humanly on Saturday morning and it was really good to hear from Hayley.
I did also very much enjoy the Saturday morning worship and wished there had been more of it.
I really enjoyed the worship led by Jim & team from Testwood Baptist, both on Saturday morning and Saturday evening (I wasn't there on Sunday).
I especially found the speech by Hayley on Saturday inspiring
The Saturday had no focus on the real issues of evangelism, discipleship and church growth/church planting.

SAT EVE

The Saturday evening celebration was generally good. However, I would have been quite happy to sit through the 50 minute conversations on stage without the interruption of music. I felt that was just really unhelpful and made the whole thing a little incoherent. Because we were up and down like yo-yos it was really hard to concentrate or focus on what was being said.

Sunday morning was the only time someone opened the scriptures. The Saturday evening celebration was awful. Very biased panel of people stereotyping white people. Amie Buhari does not speak for black people and many of my friends felt the same. We don't see evangelism as a priority anymore!

The conversation starters and the discussions during the evening 'celebration' were deliberately provocative apart from the very first speaker who did an excellent presentation of sharing faith. The others, on the whole, reveal the direction of the BU towards Marxism and complete capitulation to the liberal LGBTQ+ group. And being called racist did not go down well.

We did not attend the discussion groups because the presentations were not going to be challenged - only to answer the questions they themselves posed which, may or may not be on faulty premises to start with.

We are being pulled in a direction away from the biblical faith that started the Baptist movement in the first place. A little yeast leavens the whole lump.

The conversations during the Saturday evening celebration were interesting. I'd like to see a little more formality re-introduced into the ministers and mission personnel recognition. Those who came forward didn't seem to know where they should stand and is it not possible for them to be forewarned about their responses?

I wished the Saturday Celebration had focussed more on the NAM presentation with proper handshakes and celebrating them

It was very important to me to be receiving the 'handshake' as part of the Saturday evening session - that formal recognition, and I was grateful to be able to do that in person.

I especially found the discussion talks during the Saturday evening session inspiring

The loudness of the music at the Saturday evening sessions triggered tinnitus which then meant that the spoken parts were very hard to hear, even when the microphones were adjusted.

The conversation on Saturday evening was one of the most powerful and moving experiences I have ever had at Assembly.

AGM

In particular (from the AGM), the 'challenges' from Lyn Green and the "key initiatives"

I didn't find the AGM very helpful. In part this is because I am influenced by the concept that organisations concentrate their efforts on that which they measure. As with many organisations, there was a fairly comprehensive financial resume, but no report on how effective we are (or are not being) at bringing people into the Kingdom of God. My understanding is that this is not going very well at the moment, so why didn't we put at least as much effort into focusing and reporting on that issue, as on how much money we have got as a Union?

SUN AM

<p>The speaker on Sunday morning was great. Really appreciated his input.</p>
<p>Alan Donaldson was superb on Sunday morning.</p>
<p>I really enjoyed the whole weekend and thought the Sunday morning - and particularly Alan Donaldson - was good. However, I wonder whether the in 'In memoriam' might be better placed at the service or recognition of ministers and mission partners. Either that or have some kind additional statement that recognises that many in the wider Baptist family have also passed in the last year and not just the ministers and mission partners.</p>
<p>The music instruments in general were very noisy, it was hard to get a sense of communal singing, except for the one without any instruments. I was, as I am every time, saddened by the in memoriam session. I am very happy for the ministers to be named but find offensive the implication that the other wonderful Baptist servants of God who died (about 7 from my church) are unimportant. All it would take is one sentence and perhaps 30 seconds for people to think of them.</p>
<p>I only attended Sunday morning but it was brilliant. Great sung worship, preach, prayers, remembrance. If it was going to improve I would perhaps like the worship songs to be back to back and I also noticed that on occasions the signers weren't in site on the screen - not a problem for me but might be for others.</p>
<p>The Sunday morning session, in particular the address, was very moving.</p>
BMS
<p>Always good to hear the bigger picture from BUGB and BMS although everything feels so rushed having to fit it all in to such a short space of time.</p>
<p>The BMS presentation and in particular the information about Ukraine support was moving, challenging and had that been the only thing I heard, it would have been enough to make attendance worthwhile.</p>
NETWORKING
<p>I didn't go to the Friday evening, but it was good to meet up with friends on Saturday.</p>
<p>The program content was great, it's a little hard to network with young children.</p>
<p>The chance to sustain and renew long term friendships beyond our current geographical location is the key motivating factor for us. There was plenty of space which enabled this which is as important as the programme.</p>
<p>I made some brilliant connections with people that I hadn't met, but also reconnections with people that I met whilst I was training at Spurgeon's. Unfortunately due to spending so much time in the networking zone and trying to speak to someone in particular, I missed the discussion groups and Session 2 of the Conversation Starters.</p>
<p>I attended all three Safeguarding sessions, which were excellent. I was very disappointed that they clashed with the BMS Presentation, which I was very keen to attend.</p>
<p>I fear there may be complaints about the presence of Affirm in the Networking Zone, but may I add a counter-voice. It was wonderful to have them as part of Assembly - and to see Tim Haines on the platform.</p>
<p>Networking was more done offsite and out of hours, but it was good that there was plenty of space for those who wanted it.</p>

PRAYER SPACE

I didn't use the prayer space and I am not sure when I was supposed to have time to. I attended all of the sessions on Saturday, which was therefore a long day. I don't resent this at all, but it was certainly no 'retreat day'.

I didn't even realise there was a prayer space.

It was great to be face to face again

These were the only two I felt had much if any value (Conversation/Listening Board; Prayer Space)

GENERAL COMMENTS

It was a shame that we had to leave the conference centre so quickly after evening sessions as that made it feel like there was no time for further networking or prayer ministry.

If anything the worship was a little loud, but I realise that it is difficult to pitch it in such a venue.

The arrangements of the programmes was fantastic.

I thought the listening board was a brilliant idea, but I don't know how broadly it was engaged with.

I picked up some resources and booked time with Anthony Collins so that was beneficial, the worship was really good, it was Great to welcome Rev'd Hayley Young

I enjoyed the spaces where I was able to listen to others. I felt that different voices were heard, which I appreciated.

We missed most of the BMS presentation sadly because the BIC only had one service point for drinks in the refreshment break, very disappointed

It would be good to know where are the conversations going now?

Slido was great but was underutilised - was only mentioned a couple of times

I was looking forward to the 'big sessions' and they delivered!

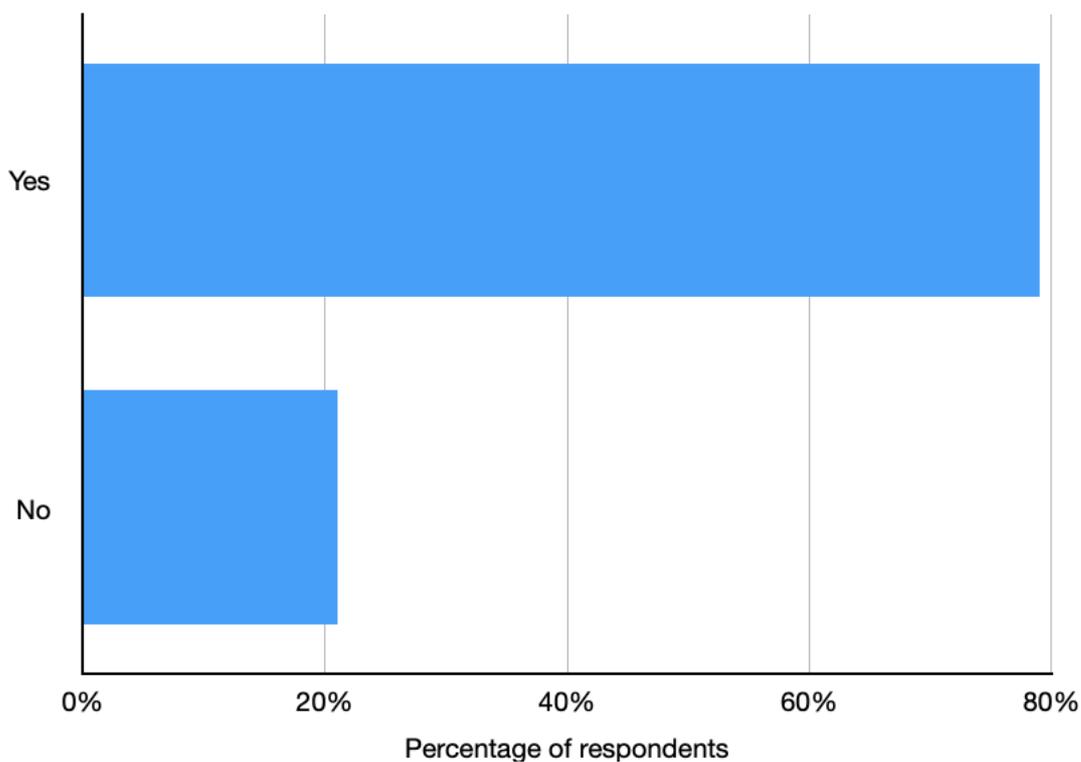
As an exhibitor, there was not much time to access other parts of Assembly

I was in the networking zone so missed much of the Saturday programme

I would have preferred there to be seminars which you could choose from like there have been in previous years. There was a lot of sitting in one place listening.

Did you feel the format of the weekend worked well?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
Yes	81	79%
No	22	21%



Reasons given for 'YES' to the question above re format:

These largely fell into 6 categories:

- General
- Good balance/flow
- Good for length of time we had
- Relating to online and face-to-face
- Content/format
- Room for improvement?

YES, I think the format worked well:
GENERAL
Thought it all worked well
Loved all of it.
On the whole yes but not the Pecha Kucha
I'd like to tick 'yes and no'. I appreciated the quality and heart of those delivering it but there are some things I would change – see room for improvement below
Everything was in place
Mostly positive, I really appreciated the thought put into sessions, and the creative ways of facilitating discussion.
I had no problems with it. (Why is this question compulsory?)
Yes it was different but worked OK
No particular reason, I just felt at ease with the format
Yes, in general it worked well. As it was my first assembly I didn't know what to expect.
It was OK rather than exciting and attractive!!
It just did!
Well organised and informative
Generally it worked well.
Good variety of engagement
GOOD BALANCE / FLOW
Good mix of sessions
It was a well thought out schedule with good length breaks in general.
There was a good balance of content and space to chat / meet with others
The variety of communication methods and formats was good and enriching.
It was well balanced and involved a wide range of people.
I felt like there was a good general mix to the schedule.
There was a good mix of formal and less formal sessions.
There was enough to stimulate without it being too crowded or busy.
Varied and informative. Loved the worship.
The feel was simultaneously well organised and very relaxed. It flowed well and the pace was (apart from some overrun and knock-on effects) really good.
Well organised and compact. Format worked for me.
There was good input and time to mix with people.
It allowed time to meet up with colleagues and share experiences and also to speak to the exhibitors.
We had opportunity to catch up with friends as well as networking with new organisations.
A mixture of time together in worship and opportunity to network.
There was a good variety of input and inspirational content.
There was a good mix of sung worship (the Testwood guys did a great job), meetings, information, updates, prayer etc and a good length of time for networking at meal and refreshment breaks in between.
lots of different voices from the front, wide and varied stalls in networking zone, space to meet people I knew, coffee and food within the networking area
Worship combined with updates, and conversation starters.

Yes -really enjoyed the mix of activities - felt there was space to chat but also to get input.
Yes, the balance between time together and mingle opportunity was helpful
Flowed well
Things just flowed for me.
Good balance of speakers / activities
The programme allowed for the opportunity to visit the Networking Zone.
There was plenty to do and the venue offered good sanctuary to visit the front if you wanted some time away.
GOOD FOR LENGTH OF TIME WE HAD
Well enough. Felt far less rushed than the one-day assembly. I miss genuine debate in the hall - still far too presentational to be truly satisfying.
Assuming we can only have a day and a half, it was good. Still sad that we have lost the longer format
Worked OK, but opportunity to join one conversation only.
Given the limited time it was okay, but I wish there were more time for real conversation.
Packed a lot in a short time and felt like I saw a lot of old friends and it was lovely
Given the fact that everything now is crammed in to 2 days, the format was reasonably good.
It is difficult to give a binary choice answer to this question! I was pleased to have more than a day, and to be there in person. It allowed for more conversations to take place. It seemed a good balance to me to being long enough to allow for a variety of content and allow for connection and short/flexible enough more do-able for a wider range of people (ie not just ministers with the flexibility of working for a church or BU and BMS personnel).
It did work well but still felt quite rushed as there was a lot to get through. I totally understand that it is hard to get the right balance without it going into an additional day.
A bit too much of a good thing in the sense that Saturday was long but all good content
Did well to cram lots into a relatively short space of time.
We felt the allocation of time and topics fitted well into the 2 days, with enough variety and continuity.
Balancing the cost of the assembly with holding it over 2 days or 3, the format seemed to work fine.
On the whole when almost everything has to be fitted into one day
Given the constraints of time, it worked well.
It's better than the short-day version that we had for several years, and allows more of a sense of family.
RELATING TO ONLINE and FACE-TO-FACE
Good to be in person again
Overall, yes, but I think we could have done with less Pecha Kucha sessions.
I think hybrid online and in person meetings are inevitable these days, but it would be great to encourage as many as possible to attend in person.
Live was good but on stream did not always work
It was good to be together again on site, but it was also great that it was possible to join online.
Online and in person was accessible to all. It was mostly great.

CONTENT/FORMAT

I thought the Pecha Kucha presentations were really thought provoking and an innovative way of presenting some of the bigger issues in the Baptist family

I thought the Pecha Kucha sessions were excellent on Saturday.
Alan Donaldson was inspirational!

I thought it was good and would want to encourage those who organised it. I prefer the more seminar style of learning and found the Pecha Kucha a bit overwhelming/info overload - but that's more my preferences. The format was creative and worth doing.

Although the stress on "conversation" is a bit of a strain! Alan Donaldson's contribution was a highlight for me.

I like the discussion-based format. The worship team was brilliant and felt they really led us into God's presence well.

All the essential parts included with new ideas too (Pecha Kucha appreciated with extra time for discussion and reflection) relaxed atmosphere and flexibility to dip into the variety available. Went to all the main sessions and thoroughly enjoyed it.

There was enough balance between space and content to allow for mingling and connecting

There was enough content to engage, whilst also providing space to connect informally with others.

Good to have more magazine / conversational elements and fewer "speeches"

I think the answer to the above very much depends upon who the Assembly is geared towards. If it is primarily ministers and those looking at the Union as a whole, then I think it worked fine. However, I'm not sure that its format or perhaps the content works as well for engaging with regular church attendees. I think the question in my mind is who is the Assembly for: ministers and those already involved in Union life or for everyone who attends a Baptist church? Once that question is answered, then examining the structure is the next place to go.

I was particularly impressed by the Sign Language being used for the virtual audience - a big thank you for ensuring that was present.

The layout of the venue allowing an easy flow between the Conference room and networking zone was particularly useful. Putting most input into the Saturday allowed for maximum input for those just coming for the day. I appreciated having a couple of nights away personally. The children work was extremely well organised and felt very safe leaving little ones there knowing there were staff checking who was coming and going even into the corridor before the seminar rooms.

Sunday morning was excellent.

The networking zone worked well. The venue was pleasant. Bournemouth works well as a host town.

The challenges facing the Body of Christ are multifactorial and gave me food for reflection on the direction the is going. Rev Donaldson's Sermon was a fitting closure to the Assembly

I was in the exhibition space for the Interfaith Group. Because the whole assembly was based around conversations this made the hub quite interactive.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT?

It was a pity that the safeguarding sessions ran alongside the main events but that was inevitable.
There didn't feel like much space around the programme. I could have done with more explanation of who people were and I'd have liked to have heard a bit more about the things council are doing for example, and the associations. The sung worship felt a bit monotone.
Sunday morning needed to be better compared- i.e. sections introduced better for the churches watching.
It did feel that between those from an affirming or conservative viewpoint there is a more direct conversation to have, however uneasy.
Basically Yes, but perhaps a choice of workshops in the afternoon would also work well. There was no time to grab a coffee during the Saturday morning!
It would be good to have a longer Assembly with space for relationship building.
The format worked well but there needed to be more space to sit and natter over coffee, it was almost too time pressured so I didn't attend everything, and I would have appreciated more time to chill with friends
Perhaps the going to different rooms for discussions was a bit cumbersome and took too much time meaning we weren't able to have conversations about the 2nd set of conversation starters.
A lot worked well but there was too much input, my brain was fried by the end!
I found the amount of starter conversations very intense and would have appreciated more time to reflect and discuss, and then some personal space to do the same, rather than coming back to four more contributions.

Reasons given for 'NO' to the question above re format:

These largely fell into 3 categories:

- Length of assembly
- Content
- Lack of time to network

NO, I don't think the format worked well
Yes and no .. some parts did, some didn't
LENGTH of ASSEMBLY
Too short - prefer Friday/Monday
Bournemouth is such a long way to travel - and the lack of trains on Sunday meant that I had to miss worship on Sunday in order to get home before 9pm. A 26-hour Assembly is simply too short.
The format is what it is to cover the essential ground. However, the longer assemblies in the past gave more time for engagement, discernment and time spent just in the company of likeminded participants. I'd prefer things to be less rushed and more time for everything in order to be immersed in the event rather than feeling like a runaway train.
It felt rather rushed as only one day was given to the Assembly (Sunday morning had elements but was essentially a long service). I would prefer a 3-day Assembly (see comments below). I don't think that the live stream on the Sunday would have been very beneficial to local churches, but I am sure you will have feedback from those who did (it wasn't streamed in my church).
I liked listening to the updates, such as BMS, but felt that the information could have been shared by video. I feel that Assembly should be for discussion and presentation of strictly internal information, rather than general presentation.

<p>Didn't find the Saturday afternoon engaging. Would like questions to be able to be asked in the AGM like in the past. Also, would love to spend more time with those getting their handshakes and really celebrating, like when they used to cross the platform. Felt this really showed we care for ministers.</p> <p>Networking area was great and to be able to talk was brilliant. Our young adult children though focused on the free stuff as not a lot else engaged with them. I would love to see something for the young adults/older teenagers that are ministers' children, where they can share the struggles and joys of being ministers children.</p>
<p>I would have loved to have the Assembly split over 3 days Friday to Sunday, so that we can have 2 full days (Friday & Saturday) for activities and Sunday for closing as we currently have it.</p>
<p>CONTENT</p>
<p>It was a time when post pandemic those in ministry and church leadership needed to be affirmed. In many ways the theme of difficult conversations was very unhelpful. There have been plenty such conversations over these last 2 years. The topic also created too much scope for opinions and not enough was rooted in Christ. As someone from poor white working-class roots, I felt I was being lectured that somehow, I had to be dis-empowered so as to empower others. I see nothing of the Gospel in this. Thankfully it was saved by Sunday morning. Probably would not now attend next year.</p>
<p>This was an opportunity to inspire Baptist ministers and felt safeguarding sessions, the AGM was not something that we should have to come and pay for. What would have been worth me coming for was worshiping and being inspired by God's word and then networking with other ministers.</p>
<p>While the Conversations on the Saturday evening were appreciated by many, I thought that a key-note address, similar to the Sunday morning would have been better.</p>
<p>Some 'conversations' and follow up meetings were helpful, but the Assembly was lower on inspiration and unifying aspects (despite Lynn's excellent efforts) than in the past</p>
<p>Not entirely: I didn't find anything that particularly appealed in the 'Conversations'. I also found the chats part of the Saturday evening did not work for me.</p>
<p>This Pecha Kucha did not work well at all. I rather have enjoyed a Bible reading or some encouragement from scripture</p>
<p>The theme was having conversations- the conversations that were on offer were closed conversations from a liberal viewpoint. No representation was really given to any other view</p>
<p>I think we lost more than we gained. the Bible study, communion on Sunday etc.</p>
<p>I would have preferred seminars to choose from like there have been in previous years. I didn't think that the Pecha Kucha and discussions brought much.</p>
<p>There was not enough time to absorb information on such a wide range of subjects. Fewer more in-depth discussions would have been more productive.</p> <p>I miss substantive debate; whereas a denomination do we have space to have real discussion together about issues of the day?</p>

LACK OF NETWORKING TIME

It worked fairly well, but there was not much opportunity to fellowship with others without missing part of Assembly.

It did not feel as if there was much free time in the weekend to interact with the networking zone/prayer space etc or to catch up with friends as it felt like everything was packed into a small amount of time.

It was OK. But one of the main reasons I attend the assembly is to meet people, and a good way to do this can be the seminars, but there was only one discussion group this year (that wasn't really a seminar). The other things that hinder getting to meet new people, was that there were simply fewer people there than previously, but also that the area for refreshments did not have much to offer and was situated on the periphery. If there was a better catering area more centrally located, that may provide more opportunities to get into conversations.

As a lone attendee I felt isolated and disconnected for the entire weekend. There was little of any direct relevance for my ministry and there was no real conversation (dialogue) only monologues. Additionally, the entire venue and format seemed focussed on larger churches despite them having a specific conference later in the year. For those supporting themselves, or from smaller fellowships, costs were prohibitive and the grant inadequate.

Well, it's difficult for me to know what was aimed for so I don't know how to measure if it succeeded. But if the aim was conversation and connection, I found that difficult. There were few conversation spaces that were "organised" and the one discussion group I attended was just a Q&A about politics rather than a dialogue among those who attended.

If there were any parts of Baptist Assembly you think we could have improved on or changed, please indicate which part this was applicable to.

Where there were 2 or more comments about an item, I created a category. They are:

- In Memoriam
- Music/songs/worship
- Livestream
- Refreshments
- Logistics/communication
- Communion
- More mission focus
- Children/Youth/Diversity
- Content/format
- More Bible/Preaching/Theology
- Prayer
- Conversations
- Criticism
- Other

IN MEMORIAM

I think the Holy Grail at Assembly is all about the In memoriam and NAM's recognition going well. In the years I have been going these have changed so much, and I do miss the dignity of the various RMTL's introducing their own ministers to the President and General Secretary. The more laid back approach seems a bit chaotic, although much better than the year the actual handshake never happened.

I also thought we jumped into In Memoriam after a rather inappropriate song (in my humble estimation), a more reflective worship section would have been more in touch with the mood of the event.

While I was at Assembly, my church watched the Sunday morning service via livestream. Several elements of the service took little account of the fact that churches would be joining in without any wider context from the whole Assembly or any previous Assembly participation. In particular the In Memoriam section was challenging, all the more so as no explanation was given as to who was being remembered. This led to a lot of confusion within our church, and some people who were upset (one person worried that the name of her mother, a Baptist church member, might appear on the screen).

Personally, I prefer In Memoriam in the same slot as Handshakes.

The 'in memoriam' was felt to be out of place. It was long and didn't add to Sunday morning worship. The people weren't known and for many at THS it was not understood who was being remembered.

I felt similarly about the 'in memoriam'. Sunday morning worship when being live-streamed wasn't the right place for that.

I feel that a few items were disjointed. 'The Right Hand of Fellowship' ceremony would be better linked with 'In Memoriam' as they are both acknowledging a life in ordained ministry / mission. On this matter, the Assembly is touted as for all people in Baptist churches, however, the 'In Memoriam' is very much based on the ordained / commissioned, which may feel very exclusive.

Having the "'in memoriam'" during this time, which meant nothing to 95% (at least) of our congregation back at home was I think a mistake.

My home church would have preferred to see the accreditation on Sunday as part of the livestream, and the 'in memoriam' section felt like a long list of unknown names to them

In memorium prayers were lovely but we felt that the section was not properly introduced.

MUSIC/SONGS/WORSHIP

I think including a couple of hymns, more well-known songs would have helped

The music group were very good but many of the songs were unfamiliar and limited in their scope with a couple of exceptions. This was especially so on the Saturday, even beginning with a song which was acknowledged might not be known. The Sunday was much improved. Why was dry ice used on the Saturday evening? - a serious question.

And showing my age here perhaps - I was glad that I knew most of the songs that morning - unlike the other times of sung worship. But I am ministering in a church where we are just not able to engage meaningfully with so much new material that is constantly being introduced so I know we are well behind in what is current. However, I don't expect to sing only the 'old hymns'; in fact I would be very disappointed if we did but I would have appreciated a wider mix.

I was very disappointed by the choice of songs on the Saturday. Unknown to me. Difficult to sing. Other traditions of Baptist worship seemed overlooked in favour of the charismatic evangelical tradition.

Personally I found the music - particularly the instruments- too loud. I have a minor issue with my ears so occasionally the loudness of the music meant it was painful to listen to. I tried moving but it didn't seem to make much of a difference. However, I realise that many others probably really appreciate the music that way.

I was surprised that the balance of worship was mostly new. I suppose if Assembly is going to be the place where people gather to learn new worship - fair enough - yet I do feel a better balance of old and new would have helped some people to connect better. I think there is a danger Assembly could become ageist if we don't do this carefully.

I think the sung worship did not take account of the age demographic of those attending.. Also on a practical note it was hard (as someone who is relatively short) to be able to see the words as they were set quite low on the screen.

Have worship leading that is less performative and includes more variety of worship styles
Personally I would appreciate different styles of worship (e.g. contemplative, reformed/hymns) in addition to the charismatic modern rock band approach (very very well done though it was).

A greater range of sung worship might have helped too.

More worship, less stop start service

LIVESTREAM

Breaking into small group for prayers would not have worked at our church streaming. If churches are to be encouraged to stream then perhaps more thought to how content comes over in a variety of settings.

Sunday morning was perhaps too long for it to work in a livestream church setting.

The Sunday morning was OK for us in the auditorium, but not so for those watching via the live link back at church.

1. It started late, so the congregation were just sitting there waiting.
2. The constant moving of mics, again meant there were long pauses.
3. Having the "in memorium" during this time, which meant nothing to 95% (at least) of our congregation back at home was I think a mistake. In fact the prevailing feeling is that if next year the morning service is live streamed, we won't join in.

Sunday morning worship mainly because I knew that my church were joining in the live stream...

And I said I would add their feedback into mine.

So from THS folk who sat in church and watched on the 'big' screen:

"The production quality was poor. The camera angles and lighting were poor and the subtitles not helpful.

It was not helpful not starting on time for those sitting remote from the event waiting with just the same adverts scrolling - an explanation about what was going on would have helped alleviate uncertainty and frustration.

Sunday Morning Worship - I thought more could've been done to make the live stream accessible to church congregations on the Sunday morning. For many in my church it was the first time connecting with the Baptist union in this way and I thought more could've been done to celebrate the life of the union; to introduce key people; to share highlights of the conversation starters from Saturday; and to broaden the awareness of the wider church family we stand with.

My home church would have preferred to see the accreditation on Sunday as part of the livestream, and the in memorium section felt like a long list of unknown names to them. Much as they appreciated the significance it was difficult for church visitors and it made up a major part of the service which may deter us using the stream again. I do wonder if the new use of livestream across churches warrants a change in order to make the Sunday a more celebratory experience and really focus on bringing churches across the country to worship together.

I think that more could have been done to recognise the online audience watching. By this I mean a few words of welcome. It may be that our stream on Sunday morning missed this, but it did seem that for the Sunday worship the live stream came in on Lynn Green asking people to sit down and watch a video, rather than on any words of welcome.

REFRESHMENTS

Queues for coffee were very long - needed more service points - might even be worth including drinks in the price of the weekend

The coffee! Was pricey for what it was; also the queues were long - that's probably all outside your control, but as you asked I thought I'd mention it!

I wish there had been free coffee/tea included in the cost. It would have reduced queues at the break times

The catering was rather inadequate for the number of people so getting a cuppa at the scheduled break times took a very long time.

Q for catering!

Hot meal be included

LOGISTICS/COMMUNICATION

The BSL screen was hidden when folk at the front stood.

There was a significant overrun on the first session on Saturday which impacted on what followed. Whilst I wouldn't want to return to the second-perfect timing of twenty years ago, it's important (and respectful) to keep to times.

I think the sessions on the stage all need to be 'hosted' better - not having clearer links and explanations made it less coherent.

We felt that the In Memorium section was not properly introduced.

The networking zone information was late and not very helpful. We missed the chance to set up on Friday evening because it was hidden in last minute detail and this significantly contributed to an exhausting start to Saturday morning.

I'd have valued being on the stage for the handshake, being down the front made it difficult for friends and family watching the live stream to see me.

There were times that people on stage didn't introduce themselves - I didn't have a clue who they were!

On the Saturday evening (I think) there were strobe lights which affect people with migraine and potentially those with epilepsy or TIAs- no warning that I could discern.

Yes please. When it comes to welcoming the fully accredited ministers I was very disappointed that they were not welcomed up to the stage in turn to receive their handshake and instead were all lined up on floor level to receive their handshake whilst we were worshipping.

As NAMs receiving the recognition handshake, we had very little information on what was going to happen. We were given instructions just before that part of the programme (which I would have missed if I was in the loo!), and it seemed that others involved (such as Hayley) also were not very clear what was happening. Earlier planning, and an annually consistent format could make a big difference here. I recognise that there has been much change over the last few years and this has not really been possible; I think a new consistent format would be good to now aim for. With a better idea of what was going to happen, I would have been able to share with others ahead of the event - this may increase attendance and participation, at least online. Certainly, if words of commitment are going to be shared, they carry much more weight and meaning if those saying them are able to know what they are in advance - I cannot remember what it was I said with others on Saturday night now, which means it feels unnecessarily tokenistic. I was very pleased to be able to do this in person and I am glad that space is made for this in the programme.

I can find coming to assembly alienating, in a variety of ways. Having sometimes thought it was just me, I have come to realise many people feel this way. As I have reflected on that I think it is in some ways an inescapable part of gathering together in this way, and I appreciate the efforts made to talk about and encourage listening and conversing with one another. For me, I notice the tendency of those 'at the front' to be very positive about things being 'amazing' and how good it is to be together; I would actually find it quite helpful and liberating for the potential awkwardness to be acknowledged and even included in the worship - in prayer for example. I believe this helps further, along with other efforts, to create the atmosphere of inclusion that is clearly and laudably being sought after. I would be quite willing to write such a prayer as a suggestion.

COMMUNION

Would have loved to have communion together

Communion together.

MORE MISSION FOCUS

I was surprised were not included were: a real discussion and aim at mission and evangelism. There were some brief comments made but no real discussion or significant encouragements around it.

More mission focus.

CHILDREN/YOUTH/DIVERSITY

I was rather shocked to discover how few people were in the youth programme, and was also concerned how few people were there who were in their 20s or 30s. Also I am concerned how little ethnic diversity there is. Would a reduction in the price result in more young people coming? And in view of the overall numbers being down so much, could we not very significantly reduce the cost by holding the Assembly in one of our larger London churches? This could also have the effect of increasing the ethnic diversity.

We just felt it would have been good to hear from the children/young people on the Sunday morning. Not sure what that could be- song, short drama. Also, stronger appreciation and thanks for the workers!! We've been in that situation and felt very under valued!!

CONTENT/FORMAT
I was pleased to be part of the safeguarding seminars, but hadn't appreciated that they were the only 'alternative' strand. A greater variety might encourage attendance at the alternatives.
It would have been good to hear more inspirational stories. There are many good things going on in Baptist life and perhaps a series of 5 minute videos telling stories on the ground would have been inspiring. Also, In the midst of the encouragement to listen to others, listening to God might then have felt more central.
It would be good as we are Baptists, to have a baptism at the Sunday morning celebration!
Having a dedicated BMS Presentation slot, which did not clash with another event.
Also, more seminars would be good, also more reference to what we are doing to bring more into the Kingdom of God..
Bit more free time to meet friends on Saturday
Give more time for engagement and reflection.
MORE BIBLE/PREACHING/THEOLOGY
More Bible study/preaching
I missed having a keynote speaker at the Saturday evening Celebration. Alan Donaldson was inspirational on the Sunday morning - and I valued his exposition of scripture. Also thanks to Lynn for her message on the Saturday morning. I can still remember some of the inspiring messages from previous Assemblies many years ago from people like David Coffey and Alistair Brown, a real highlight! If I'm honest, I didn't find the Saturday evening chat panel format particularly helpful. It felt as if it didn't have a lot of substance to it. I personally would have got more out of looking at what the bible has to say about one or more of those subjects. But I recognise that others may have found it helpful and that different formats can be useful for different learning styles.
Spend time looking at the bible together.
Recognition should be the highlight of the session it is within. Instead the session ended with meandering conversations. There could have been more proclamation. And more Bible.
The first time it felt like the Bible was explored in depth was on Sunday morning. This felt like a missing element - again, inspiration and food for the soul.
Overall, I would have appreciated more teaching and/or theology discussed/given at Assembly. While I understand the theme was about conversation and having important ones across our union, I still missed the teaching aspect and would have appreciated something more on the Saturday.
In the time available, it as pretty good. Personally, I'd prefer a little longer for assembly and, possibly, a little extra teaching input.
Perhaps a keynote speaker on the Saturday as well as Sunday service
We could also have done with another keynote speaker at some point during the weekend to allow some more depth to our theological reflection.
In recent years we have not had the incoming president giving an address. I would much rather have heard from Hayley Young on Saturday evening rather than "invited guests reflecting on some current conversations". Hayley has a theme for the year and I would have liked to have heard her speak on it.

While I enjoyed the conversations on Saturday evening, I felt that some deeper content here in addition would have been helpful.
I didn't think the discussions on stage on Saturday evening were very beneficial, I think for someone to take some time to draw scripture into some of the thoughts being raised would have been good.
An inspirational element (improve the Biblical/Visional/empowering aspect) - though the worship team did very well and Alan Donaldson was very good!
PRAYER
Optional small group prayer "rooms" at a programmed time slot would better fit where many church members are now at. I guess that a great majority of delegates are Life Group members and would be familiar with that.
In memorium prayers were lovely
More time for prayer
More prayer together would have been good, The first time I remember this happening was the Sunday morning
CONVERSATIONS
I loved the idea of all the different conversations and issues being embraced, but I'm not sure how grassroots they really were when the issues and people were presumably chosen based on a metric other than feedback from local members of congregations? Might there have been an opportunity to let Assembly delegates actually set some of the programme through pre-Assembly interaction? I don't know. It's all good if we want to push certain things and give profile to priority areas, but then it needs to be billed as such.
Although the Pecha Kucha sessions were good, it was rather a lot to have thrown at you all at once! I think the 'conversations' theme was rather overdone generally. As someone said at one point, "Let's stop having conversations about having conversations"!
Providing some intentionally designed opportunities for connection with new folk (for introverts rather than extroverts) and have some properly facilitated conversations about important topics chosen by churches rather than the centre.
Indication or idea as to how we take the conversations and careful listening to one another back to our churches/regions, and how this will be picked up and continued nationally.
Only thing that could have been better were the Pecha Kucha discussion groups - felt these were really good but needed tighter and more intimate facilitation - we had about 70 in our group with 2 facilitators, couldn't really hear people speak but also felt it was too big a group to have a meaningful and fruitful conversation - I think this should have been split down into say 4 groups of 16/17 with a facilitator in each. Really important to have conversations.
Saturday evening, worship time was excellent but the discussion would have been better in a smaller area where people who wanted to stay could and actually join in the conversations. One of the members on the stage seemed to have an axe to grind and was very aggressive with his views which put me and my partner off. We left the Saturday evening session with a bad taste in the mouth
The conversations were interesting but there were so many it was a lot to take in.
The "conversation" discussion groups were too big for real conversation and there was no sense of being listened to or contributing our own ideas. It felt like the speaker just wanted affirmation of their own views.
Pecha Kucha sessions were good but there were too many of them, which felt like information overload.
We didn't find the discussions on the stage on Saturday evening very helpful. Much of the content seemed to be town and city centred.

CRITICISM

Get rid of those discussions that those on the fringe want to have. Where are the moderate and conservative voices? Are we now the minority?

I am appalled by the extreme views portrayed during this conference. And we HAVE to listen to them?

We are not being listened to. A point that was picked up during one of the discussions.

Probably everything except the Sunday morning worship!!! We need to be careful of what kind of people we invite on stage. Have we given up on people who preach the gospel? Everything we do seems to be about listening and more listening. We are on the verge of splitting the union if Didcot does not wake up!

OTHER

After such a difficult couple of years for many ministers, church leaders and churches I would have thought this a good opportunity for a talk speaking to leaders to offer encouragement, to remind them they are doing a good job, to remind them they are not alone, and to encourage them to keep on pursuing Jesus. Something to pull ministers and leaders together and just inspire them to keep going would have been well placed and perhaps much needed.

I believe that it would be best to target the Assembly at ministers, hold it at a conference centre, such as the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire (<https://www.cct.org.uk/the-hayes/the-hayes-conference-centre>), share meals together over 3 days (midweek), allow time for more prayer / networking and having conversations over walks in the Peaks and possibly some other activities.

I think that the PechaKucha presentations were good as they kept the speakers on topic and sharing the most relevant pieces of information to get the conversation started. I'm not sure why there were five more talks after the conversation space, but without time to discuss. A longer conference would allow for, perhaps, four PechaKucha presentations, followed by discussion in the four groups, followed by a break before repeating the above.

More central location

The BUGB AGM feels outdated. BMS seem to have dispensed with formalities in theirs - can BUGB follow?

The balance of input from the platform versus input from the floor felt counter to the theme of listening and conversation. I think some key themes were ignored, especially on sexuality and gender fluidity.

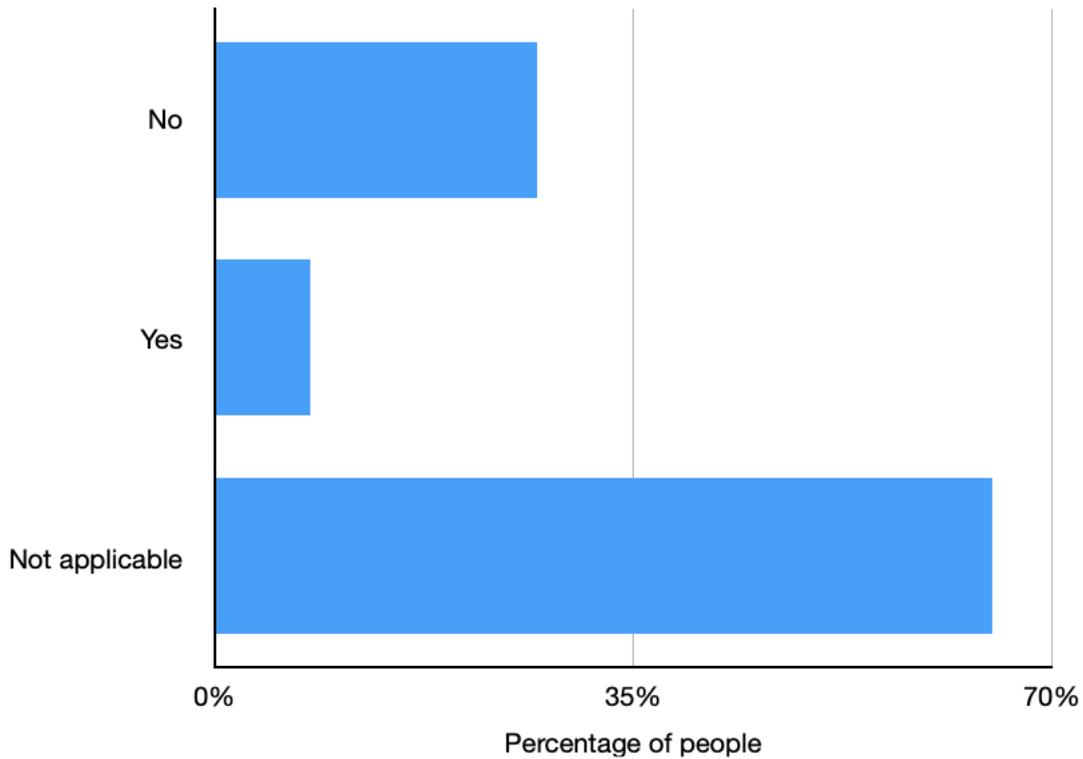
I also felt that Baptist Together looks and sounds more and more like a para-church organisation, there to assist individuals rather than promote the unity and welfare of the union of churches. To have an agenda for change is good and necessary - I am left wondering if there is a basis for union if we go further in the direction of redefining ourselves as a movement of people, particularly if that movement is away from rooted commitment to local church gathering.

Looks like the Friday evening went well, did not sign up for this as told spaces were limited. and we were not sure if it was 'our thing' Although we would be interested to know how well this went as if something similar in future years may be tempted to go

I felt like we could have done with half a day more somehow. It went by very fast

Did your children/young people attend the Tots', Children's, or Youth Programmes?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
No	28	27%
Yes	8	8%
Not applicable	67	65%



If you have answered yes above, please indicate which programme you used:

Category	Number of respondents selecting category
Tots	2
Children	2
Tots and children	2
Youth	2

If your children/young people did use the Tots, Children or Youth Programme, please provide more detailed feedback below, including any direct feedback from your children/young people:

Tots	The Tots leaders were great and my little one had a great time and was happy to be left and enjoyed it. The improvement would be in them being able to put up on the big screen when the meetings over ran that parents still had to collect on time. I made the mistake of assuming that if things over ran then the youth activities continued.
Tots	Our little granddaughter loved it as she was so eager to go all the days without fail.
Tots and children	Zach absolutely loved it, it was a great success.
Children	Fantastic, both loved the sessions and the workers.
Children	They enjoyed themselves. Thank you for this valuable provision.
Youth	They had a positive experience and re-connected with friends from previous Assemblies.
Youth	They enjoyed it

Do you have any special requirements such as mobility or accessibility requirements?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
No	1	1%
Yes	102	99%

Did you share your requirements with Baptist Assembly when you booked your ticket?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
No	1	1%
Yes	102	99%

Please feedback how your requirements were met at Baptist Assembly:

“I received no communication from them after indicating my needs. I was able to get seats near the front however so I could see those speaking clearly enough to lip read, it would have been helpful to know if a seat could have been reserved to prevent needing to be early to ensure I could sit somewhere appropriate.”

Is there anything we could have done better to enhance your experience of Baptist Assembly 2022?

These comments fell into the following categories:

- Sound
- Prayer space
- Make it longer!
- Refreshments
- Networking
- More Conservative Evangelical content
- Other

SOUND
Generally it was excellent. I have commented directly about a Covid safety concern on Sunday. Work on inclusion/accessibility can be further developed by careful use of language, avoidance of overly loud music and not using flashing/strobe lighting.
Sound levels were erratic. Some music was very loud, some spoken word was far too soft to hear.
Worship was generally good, and I appreciated it.
I though the in memoriam prayers were especially good.
Turn the sound down a bit!
PRAYER SPACE
Put the prayer space where it was more visible. A lot of work went into it and it was extremely helpful but a bit tucked away. Prayer space was excellently presented
The Prayer Space was not easily found. Once its location had been spotted it seemed obvious but signage could perhaps have been clearer.
MAKE IT LONGER!
Be one day longer!
It would be helpful if Assembly could be longer. It's a long way to come for 1.5 days. Relationship is at the heart of our interdependent ecclesiology and more space to facilitate this in creative ways would be great.
longer period for assembly
REFRESHMENTS
More tea/coffee distributions points. At the first break on Saturday the queue practically circled then entire room at one point. There needed to be at least one more place to purchase a drink. We decided it wasn't worth it and went into town instead.
Also using venues where costs are radically lower to use (soft drinks were £3 each)
Obviously it depends on the venue, but more than one coffee station would have been good especially for the morning break.
The catering at the BIC was poor as only one outlet serving in the break and the coffee was terrible.

The catering was very expensive - it's a shame we couldn't combine our purchasing power and got some sort of discount on teas and coffees. For me, that area to sit and catch up was a key feature of the assembly but found the price point prohibitive.

More tea and coffee stations - very long queues!!

There should have been water fountains to refill bottles - the only water available (that I could find) was on sale in the café. I realise you can't just add water fountains to a venue, but it's worth bearing in mind for future venues.

NETWORKING

More stands and exhibitors would have been good.

Would be great to have more organisations in the networking zone - such a good way to have conversations with people - i.e. scripture union, messy church, LICC

More time to chill and network with others

More time for engagement, reflection and interaction on a personal as well as a business level.

More time to socialise and talk about what's really happening in our jobs etc.
Actually having a conversation rather than talking about having a conversation and never actually getting to the conversation!

MORE CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL CONTENT

Better planning that would have catered for the evangelicals

Where are the mainstream Christians these days? Stop all the extreme nonsense. Their voices are being heard too much.

OTHER

It would have been helpful to have had an idea of the programme earlier. I booked a session with Anthony Collins but at the time I had no idea of the programme so ended up missing most of the AGM.

Interestingly, we live-streamed the sermon at the Church and having registered, we received the programme at the Church before I received the programme as an attendee!

Cheaper parking or recommendations on how to find cheaper or ideally free parking.

I missed having an address from the incoming President Hayley Thomas

Made Saturday a shorter day as we had to miss the evening session due to exhaustion.

Provide a list of delegates and their churches to assist networking and friendship renewal . However I realise this will challenge data protection rules.

Keynote speaker Saturday evening (but understand the conversation style this year)

Be good for the whole group of attendees to have feedback from the children's work

Had Bible study/studies.

Had chairs with lumbar support!

Shorter Sunday morning service, separated from In Memoriam.

I thought more could've been done to make the live stream accessible to church congregations on the Sunday morning. For many in my church it was the first time connecting with the Baptist union in this way and I thought more could've been done to celebrate the life of the union; to introduce key people; to share highlights of the conversation starters from Saturday; and to broaden the awareness of the wider church family we stand with.

Alan was very engaging as a speaker and the message he brought was excellent.

A fun space for families rather than just a program to drop them to may facilitate conversation and social time for parents, particularly on the Fridays night?

Are there any other comments you would like to pass on relating to Baptist Assembly 2022?

These comments fell into the following categories:

- Same sex marriage conversation
- Thank you!
- Well done!
- Good work!
- Online
- Suggestions
- Criticism

SAME SEX MARRIAGE CONVERSATION
I want to echo comments already heard at Assembly that we need a proper discussion of sexuality and the place of Same Sex Marriage at next year's Assembly. I appreciate that this is extremely difficult to do well and there are very significant risks. Good mediation/conflict resolution practice would however tell us that we need to move towards, and not away from, conflict. This discussion needs to go beyond Council to be truly a denominational discernment. My prayers are with our Movement's leadership in the challenges of this time.
Beyond these comments, I want to say thank you to everyone involved in pulling together an Assembly with a wide variety of good input, good worship music and inspirational content.
I think the inclusion/affirming issue was addressed well - a thankless task no doubt, but an important one. So thank you and well done! The talk on the Sunday morning was hugely helpful. Personally as a couple we found the Pecha Kucha sessions were quite long, but that's just our personal perspective, others may have the capacity to absorb more than we do. The Stewards did a great job. Overall a big thank you, it must be an epic task to make this happen.
THANK YOU!
Thank you for all you do to bring us together as a Baptist Family. After 3 years apart it was really great to reconnect, and all your hard work is very much appreciated.
Thank you for all the work that has clearly been put into running this event.
Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a great weekend.
Thank you! All the staff and volunteers were incredibly warm and helpful, the content was inspiring, the worship was well led, I appreciated the diversity of cultures and voices and intentional conversation building and the all round excellence.
Thanks to those who worked hard to prepare for it and run it so smoothly.
I thank Rev Lynn Green and the team for a great work done
WELL DONE
Well done everyone! Great team effort to organise it so well and so smoothly. Many of the Baptist family involved.
Well done for the organisation it must have taken to set up!
Well done to all organising this, a lot of work involved I know.

GOOD WORK

Overall, it was an excellent experience- my comments are details that would improve a great event.

Enjoyed the friendliness of BU staff.

It was so good to be together again and thank you for trying to create a gathering space on the Friday evening. I had booked into that initially but travel plans had to change so I cancelled.

Just a well done to the team and to the SCBA hosts. It's a big task especially after a gap due to Covid.

Loved being at Bournemouth which of course was made all the better by the good weather on Saturday!

Thank you.

keep up the good work

Fabulous job guys - be encouraged

Overall I thought it was very good! Alan Donaldson was excellent.

Really enjoyed it -thanks for all your hard work putting it on

ONLINE

Our Church watched online and whilst it was greatly appreciated the following comments were raised that would have improved the interaction and feeling of inclusion:

There was assumption that the speakers were known. A name/title banner would have been appreciated.

The subtitles did not align with the singing (so I'm told) and that made it difficult to join in. It would have been appreciated if the singing of the Assembly could have been added to the mix to give the impression of being present with those physically present (even though they couldn't be seen).

An lack of introduction to the various elements, especially the 'In Memoriam', left newer Baptists/congregation members guessing as to what was happening.

There seemed to be a disconnect between asking people in the room to pray for one another but that left those in the Church building (remote) not sure if something else was coming or it was the end.

Please see these comments in the light that our folk REALLY APPRECIATED all that was done this year and would like to see it continue as it made them feel much more connected to the wider family. These are just things they feel would make it better for the remote worshippers.

There is the obvious danger that the Assembly becomes an online event rather than somewhere where you go to and worship, fellowship, learn and encourage one another.

My church watched online, it was a bit long for them. Their comments; The screen was cluttered with extras slides which made watching difficult. There was a spotlight which shone directly out, (it did in the venue too).

SUGGESTIONS

I wouldn't have had the one to one facilitated "conversations" after the main address on Sunday. They would have been better placed within the Saturday afternoon framework. We had a stimulating address on Sunday then seemed to cram other stuff in. I would have preferred more of a large scale church service, with communion and the prayer line for people more as part of the service rather than afterwards. The praying in small groups was good, but I would have preferred that to be part of more time in corporate prayer in the service.

I wonder if there could be an area in coffee zone which says - are you here on your own and don't know many people, sit at one of these tables and someone will join you. I'm guessing its a very lonely experience if people come alone. I picked this up on Friday eve at the church, and from Facebook comments, some were feeling daunted by lots of people but they didn't know anyone.

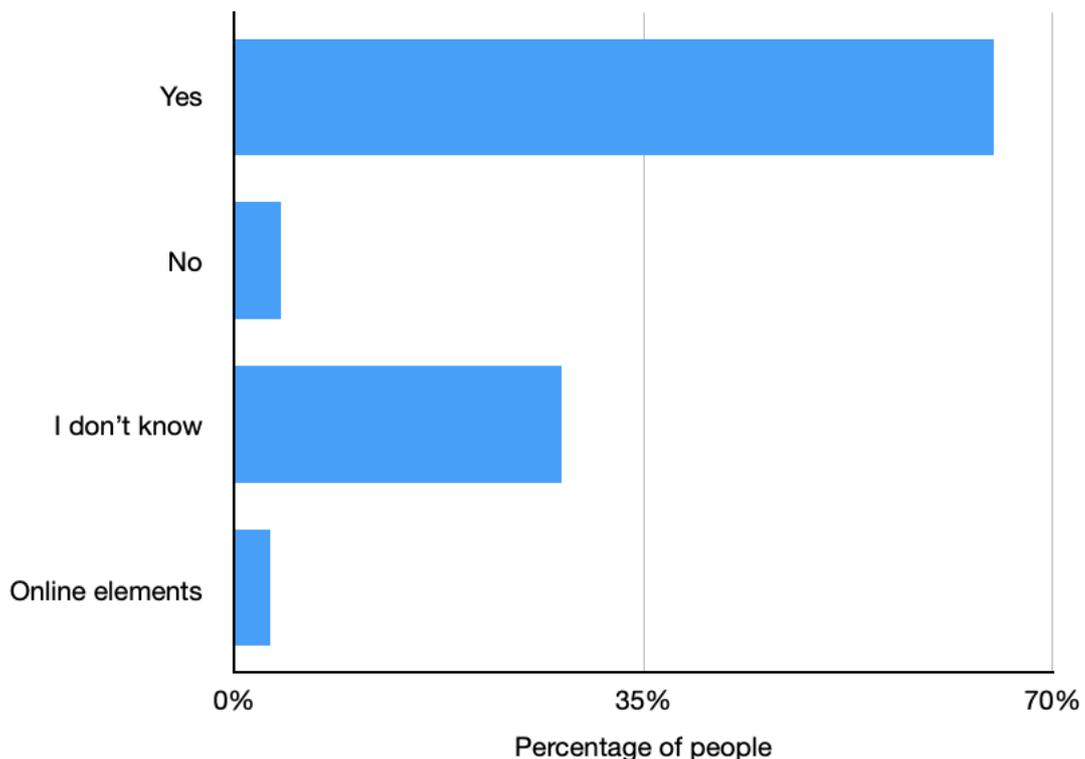
If we're going to have Presidents then they should have a fuller opportunity to contribute to assembly.

CRITICISM

I hated every moment of Saturday and I am ashamed to be a part of Baptists Together. If we carry on like this, my church will leave the union and I will resign from Baptist ministry.

Are you planning to attend Assembly in Telford next year? (6-7 May 2023)

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
Yes	67	65%
No	4	4%
I don't know	29	28%
Online elements	3	3%



BU Assembly 2022 Online Feedback

There were **45** replies to the face-to-face feedback survey.

Hometown or postcode

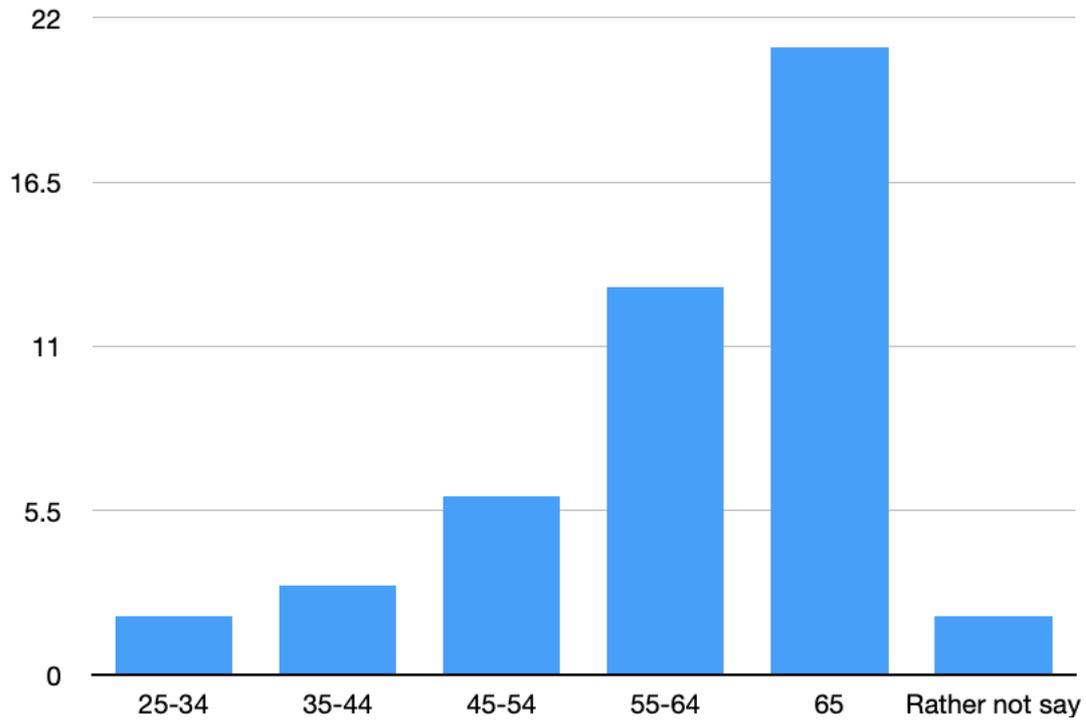
This map shows online respondents' hometowns. An online version of this can be accessed at

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1eRWI79osLz8e2_xPqFXFNK3WFABxgN0&usp=sharing



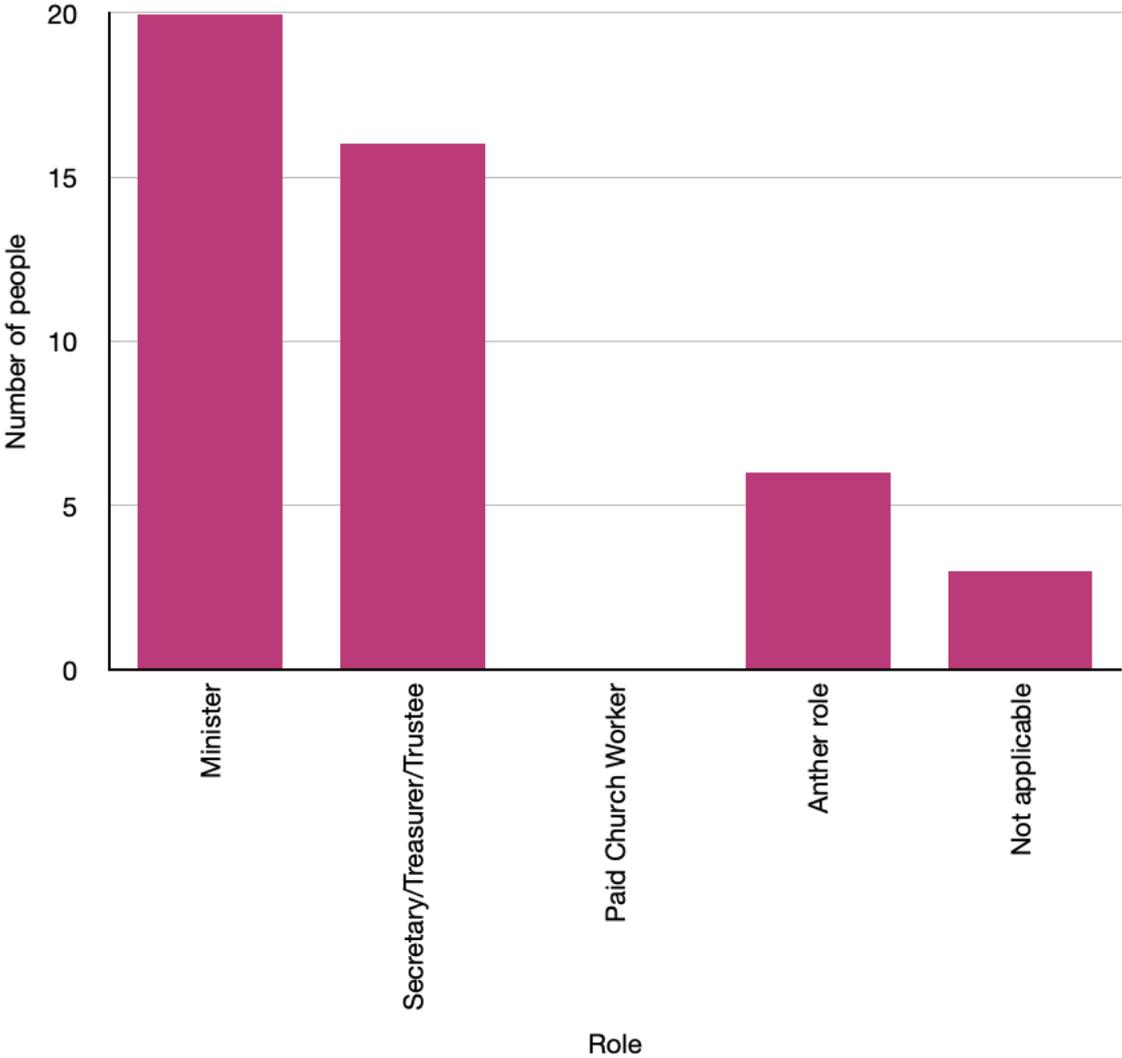
Age

Age range in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
25-34	2	4%
35-44	3	7%
45-54	6	13%
55-64	13	29%
65+	21	47%



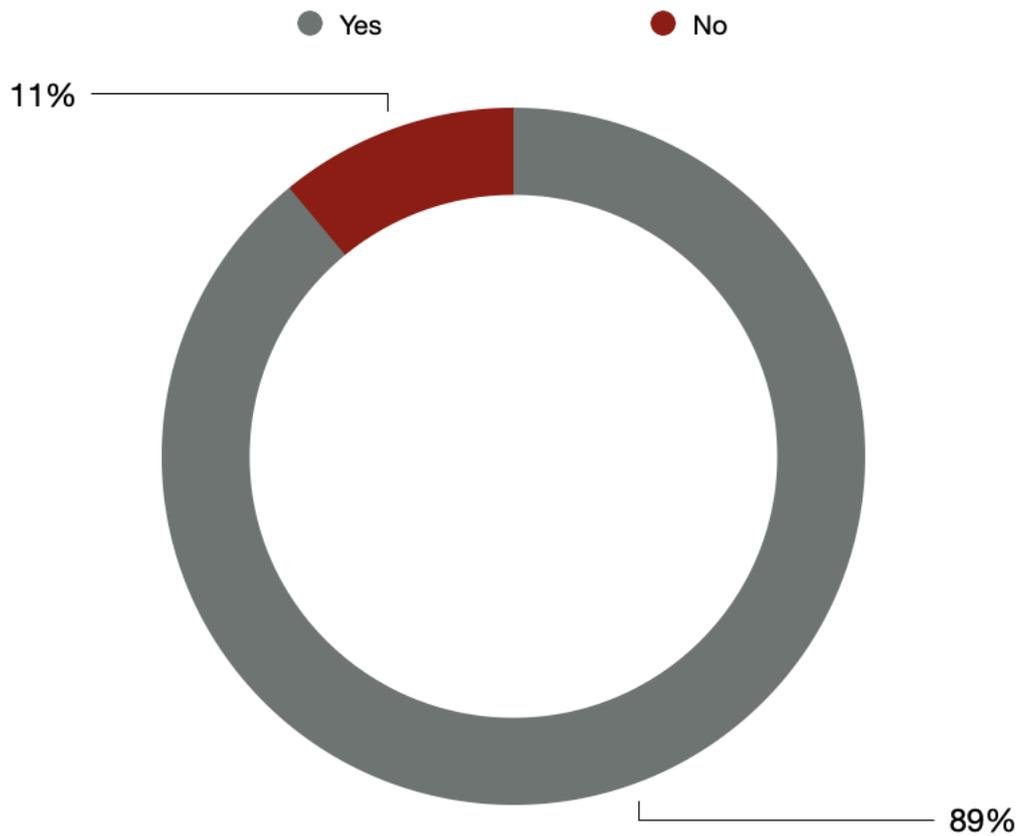
Are you a Minister/paid church worker or do you hold a particular role within your church?

Role	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Minister	20	44%
Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee	16	36%
Another role	6	13%
Not applicable	3	7%



Have you attended Baptist Assembly before?

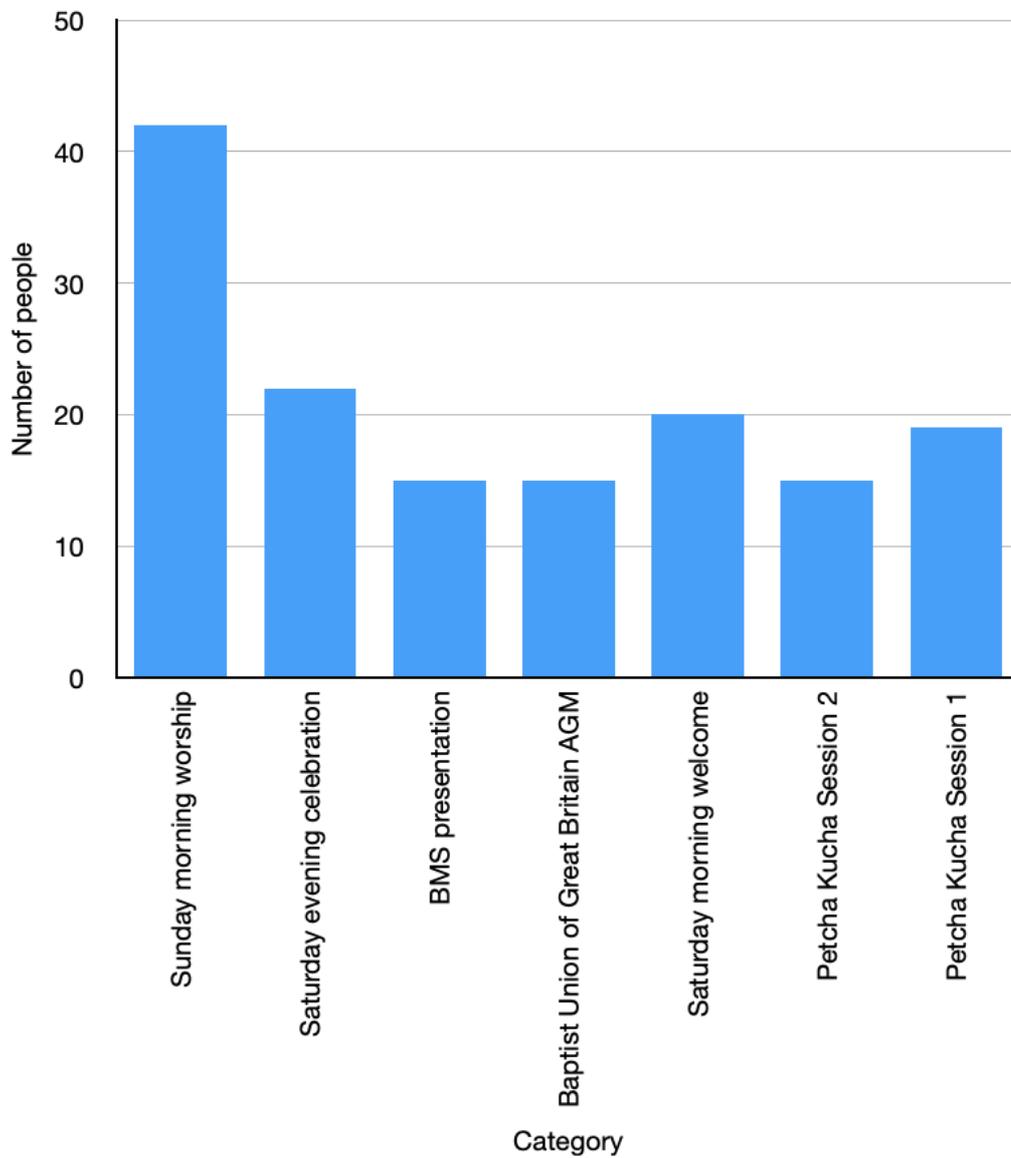
Response	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Yes	40	89%
No	5	11%



Which parts of Baptist Assembly 2022 did you join?

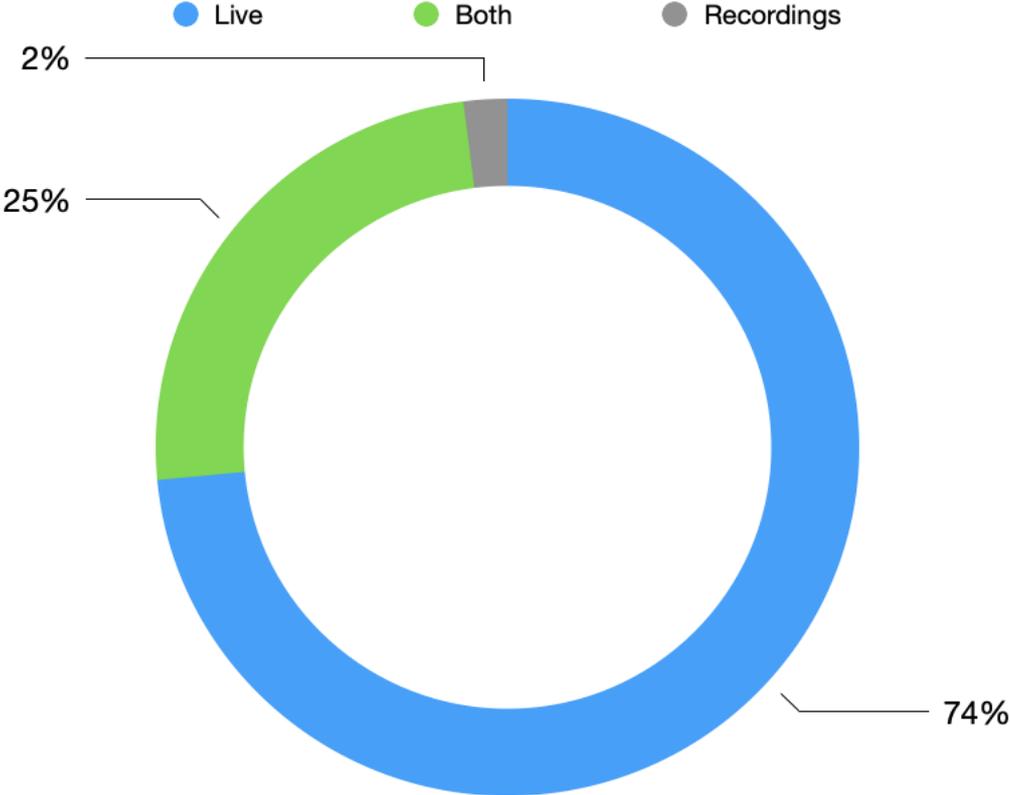
Category	Number of respondents selecting category
Sunday morning worship	42
Saturday evening celebration	22
Saturday morning welcome	20
Petcha Kucha Session 1	19
BMS presentation	15
Baptist Union of Great Britain AGM	15
Petcha Kucha Session 2	15

NB: 16 people ONLY attended Sunday morning worship.



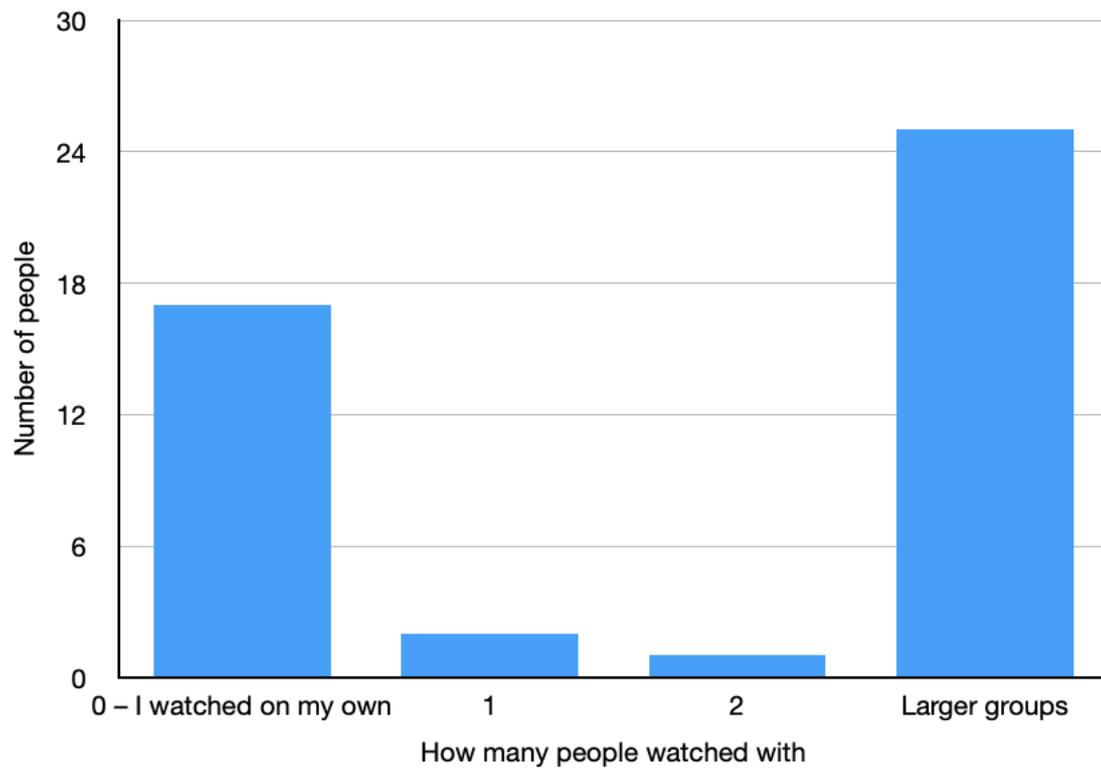
Did you watch these sessions live or have you used the recordings?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
Live	33	73.5%
Both	11	24.5%
Recordings	1	2%



During Saturday and Sunday of Baptist Assembly, how many people were watching with you? (If different amounts for each session, please select the most number of people at any session)

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
0 – I watched on my own	17	38%
1	2	4%
2	1	2%
Larger groups	25	56%



If you answered "Larger group of people" for the question above, please indicate how many people viewed Saturday and Sunday sessions of Baptist Assembly with you.

The answers to this question fell into the following categories:

- Saturday only
- Saturday and Sunday
- Sunday only
- Didn't state when watching
- Other

SATURDAY ONLY
Saturday sessions on my own after the event.
Saturday: 2
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
Only 3 Saturday, 50 or so Sunday, we had it as our service
I watched all the Saturday sessions on my own, and the Sunday worship at Whitehouse church., where there were about 30 present.
On Saturday evening just two of us watched the session at home. We relayed the Sunday morning service to our congregation, and there were twelve present.
On Saturday my husband (the Minister) and I watched the sessions. On Sunday we watched it as a church congregation - about 34 people. We had also sent the link out to our whole church to enable those who normally watch our live stream to be able to join in. I do not know how many of them were watching.
Saturday - on my own at home Sunday - at church with 30+ others
Saturday - 2 Sunday - 50
Saturday sessions just one other. Sunday morning we live streamed the service in the building approx 50 people.
Saturday I watched alone. Sunday morning we streamed the service. Approx 40 were present
SUNDAY ONLY
18 people on the Sunday morning only
Around 40 on Sunday morning.
20 of us watched an edited version of the Sunday worship, not live. The rest were just me.
We watched the Sunday session instead of our morning service and the number of people watching was 35
Maybe 50 watching the livestream in the church on the Sunday morning.
Church Congregation - 30
Sunday Morning Worship - 10
Our church used the zoom for our morning service but I was at my own home. There were quite a number at the church building.
18 viewed the Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday morning worship only - approximately 25 to 30
We only watched the Sunday morning session.

DON'T STATE WHEN WATCHING

About 25-30

about 40

25

50

c.30

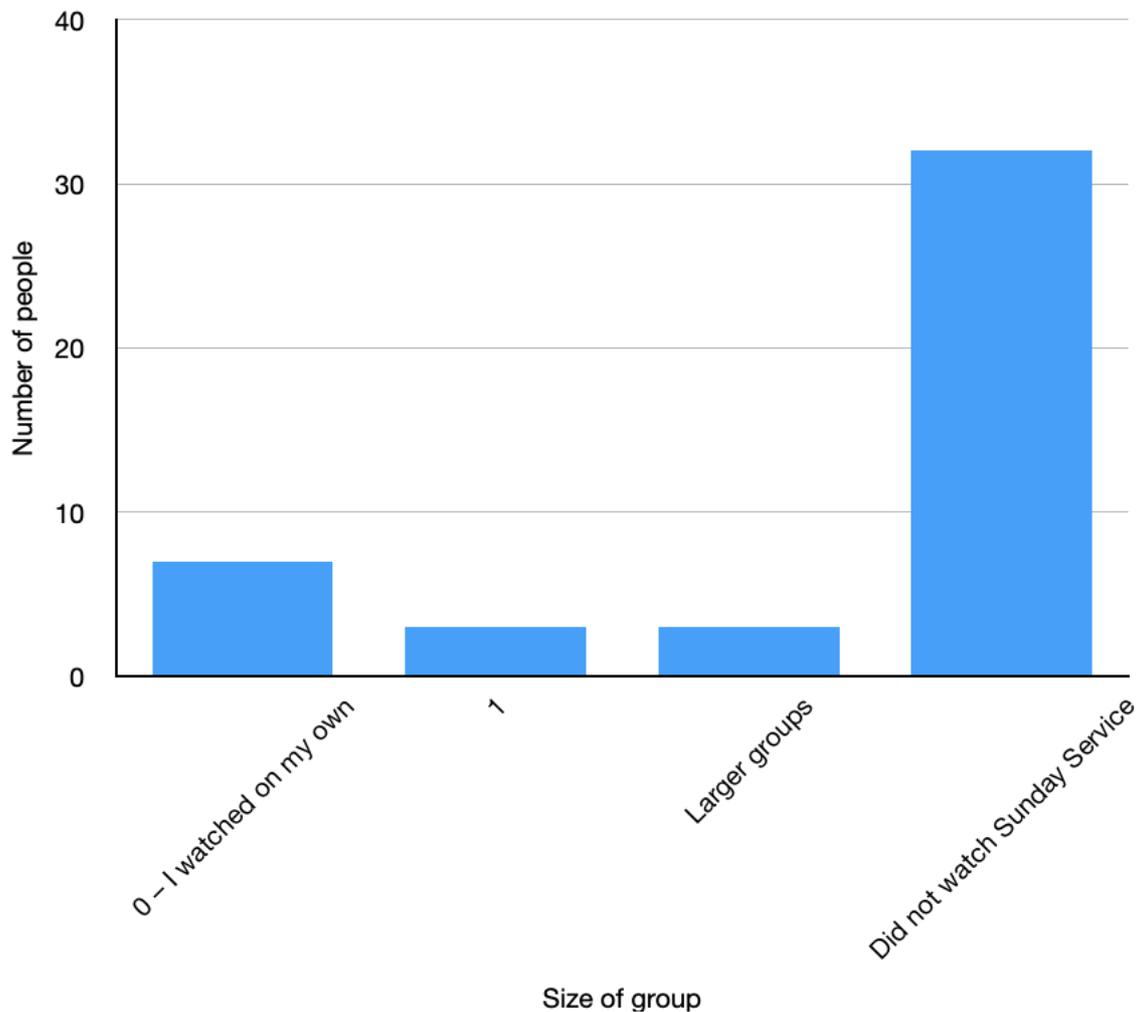
OTHER

I was at the Assembly

I could not see number of people attending on zoom

During the Sunday Service of Baptist Assembly, how many people were watching with you?

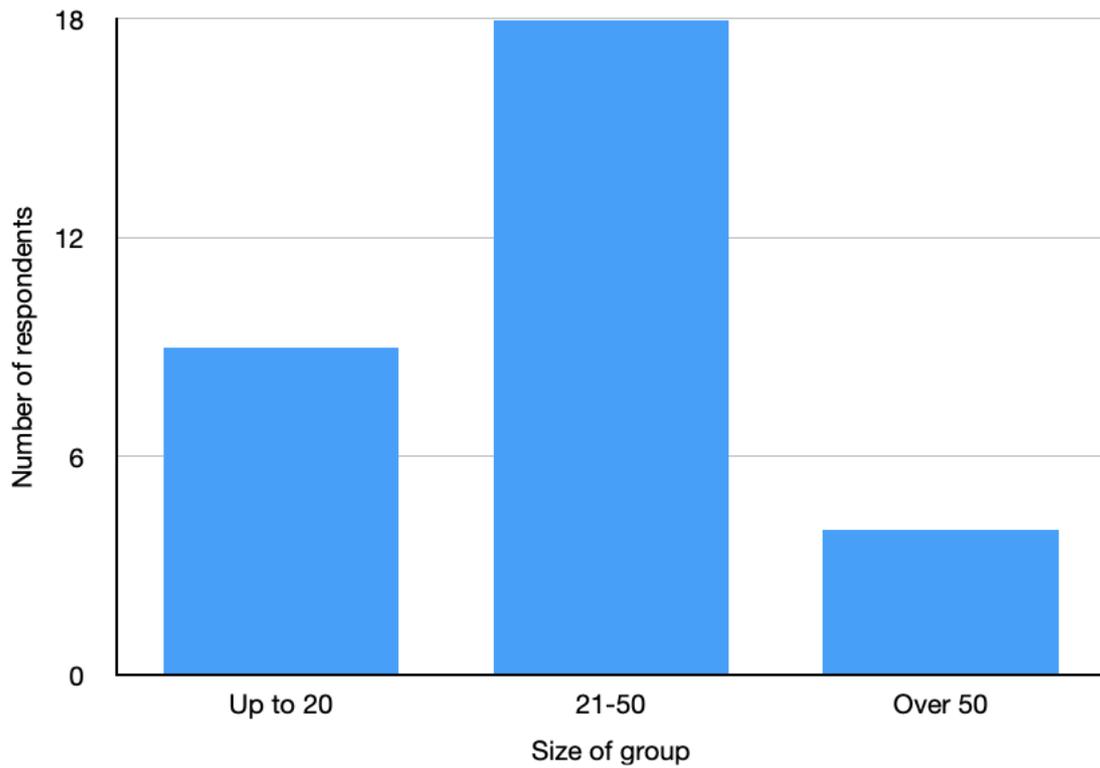
Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
0 – I watched on my own	7	15%
1	3	7%
Larger groups	3	7%
Did not watch Sunday Service	32	71%



If you answered "Larger group of people" for Question number 11, please indicate how many people viewed the Sunday service of Baptist Assembly with you.

The answers to this question fell into the following categories and numbers in brackets indicate how many people said that answer:

- Up to 20 (9)
- Between 21 and 50 (18)
- Over 50 (4)

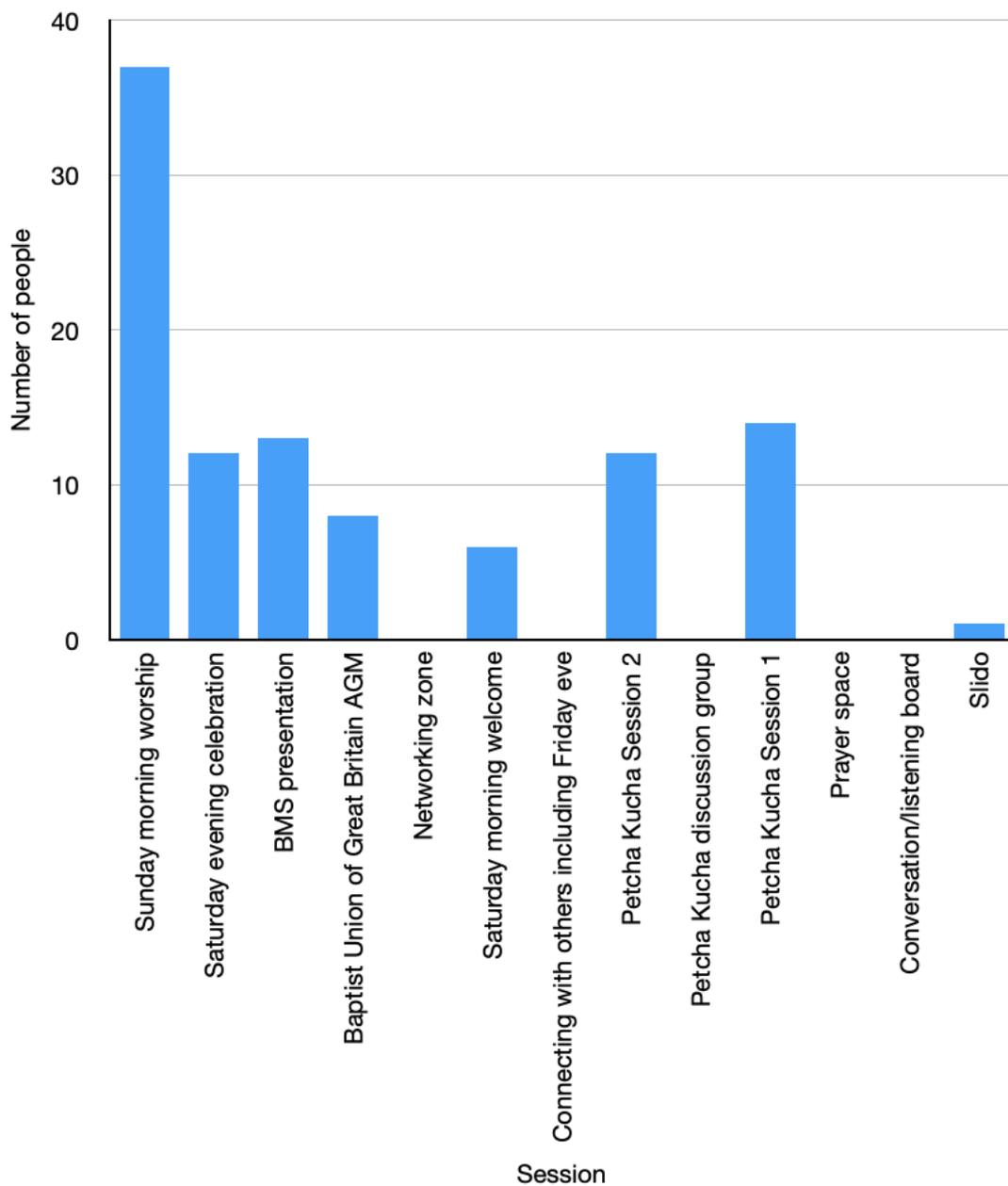


UP TO 20. TOTAL = 9
10
Twelve
About 12 people at the maximum, plus two watching remotely.
14
Approx 20 watched the live link
18 viewed the Sunday Morning Worship
18, as stated in Q10
20
20
BETWEEN 21 and 50: TOTAL 18
25
25-30
25 to 30
Church Congregation - 30
About 30
c.30
30+ others
On Sunday we watched it as a church congregation - about 34 people. We had also sent the link out to our whole church to enable those who normally watch our live stream to be able to join in. I do not know how many of them were watching.
35
40
40
As above, approx 40.
50
The whole church live streamed instead of our normal Sunday service - approx 50 people.
We livestreamed the service in my church (whilst I was there in person) there would have been about 50 or so in church.
Maybe 50 watching the livestream in the church on the Sunday morning.
About 50
50
OVER 50. TOTAL: 4
50+
60+
about 100
Approximately 130
OTHER
Our church used the zoom for our morning service but I was at my own home.
There were quite a number at the church building.
I could not see number of people attending on zoom
I was at the Assembly

**Which aspects of Baptist Assembly did you appreciate the most?
(Please tick as many as you wish)**

Category	Number of respondents selecting category
Sunday morning worship	37
Petcha Kucha Session 1	14
BMS presentation	13
Saturday evening celebration	12
Petcha Kucha Session 2	12
Baptist Union of Great Britain AGM	8
Saturday morning welcome	6
Slido	1

The most popular single choice was Sunday Morning Worship (20).



Further comments on the question above:

Most people commented on the Sunday Morning worship and, despite the question being about what you appreciated, most used it as an opportunity to share their niggles! So, I've outlined the general appreciative comments at the start, highlighted the specific appreciation for Alan Donaldson's sermon and then detailed the gripes about the Sunday morning service under the categories:

Timings, disjointed, subtitles, not feeling part of it, In Memoriam, order of service and general – sorry!

GENERAL COMMENTS
I have not been to an Assembly for a few years and wanted to re-connect with Baptist life. I was very impressed with the general spiritual life and relevance to what is happening in other parts of the UK church life.
Some kind of interaction for on liners was helpful. Especially like the BMS presentations.
1. Entire event was well timed 2. Enough before-hand preparation by the resource personnel
Although I am shielding and was watching on my own, I know my church also shared the morning service too
The Saturday evening celebration was especially significant as being at the end of my NAMs period I was part of the group of those being affirmed in their calling to ministry and mission
Thank you, Mike Lowe, for letting me have access to the programme for the assembly line up it would have been good to send this out to all ministers and churches ahead of the day.
I have not managed yet to watch the BMS presentation or conversation starters 2.
I enjoyed the conversation starters more than I thought I would! A little disappointed by the BMS presentation, which I thought maybe didn't show the full extent of their work. I did also enjoy the You tube chat. Good to see names which I knew and join in.
I liked the serious nature of both the AGM and the conversation starters. It felt that the Assembly was addressing issues that matter to many people. There was less froth and razzamataz than at some Assemblies - a good thing! I was impressed by the passion, courage and commitment shown by President Hayley (NOT 'Madam President', please!) and by the diversity of speakers in the afternoon sessions
Good to be able to dip in and out of the others ((around FA cup final etc))
While it was great to join online and I am very grateful that this option was provided, I think there is a long way to go to make this a real live/online event. (see later for detail)
I would say there were some good elements to it and I appreciate everyone worked hard but the Saturday sessions didn't really grab me. As a leader who has been, like everyone, through Covid I was hoping for something that really uplifted and fed and watching a live church meeting on Saturday didn't inspire me. I was really worried that Sunday was going to be like Saturday as this would have tough for the church congregations watching it but thankfully it was a lot better.
This was the only part I attended – Sunday morning worship
Sunday morning was the only part we joined with.
I only joined for the Sunday morning worship
The worship was more modern and upbeat than I was expecting, which was good.

SUNDAY MORNING - SERMON

I really enjoyed the Sunday morning service

Excellent address

I appreciated Sunday morning service particularly the worship songs, the sermon from Alan Donaldson, and prayer time that was easy to access for live stream in the church building

We watched the live stream service. The best thing about it was Alan Donaldson's address (see later for details of niggles)

Alan Donaldson was an engaging preacher

Alan Donaldson was good.

On a positive people have commented to me how much they enjoyed Alan's preach on the Sunday and the theme of abiding in Jesus has really spoken to people.

Sadly there is no option for none although I did appreciate Alan Donaldson and found his talk to be very encouraging.

I only watched the Sunday morning worship so cannot comment on the others. The message was well received.

As a church we enjoyed being part of the Sunday morning worship via live stream and there were very favourable comments re the speaker and sermon.

SUNDAY MORNING NIGGLES

Timings

It started late, delaying our service (and presumably many others) and kept people waiting in their homes. It finished much later than notified to us, and was far too long for online participation. I question the value of 10 minutes of in memoriam for a broadcast service. We deliberately sent our children out beforehand (i.e. quite early in the service); that of course meant that because of the length of the service they were out much longer in their group than usual - too long. I suggest it should be kept as part of the Assembly, but not broadcast as part of the morning service.

some found it a bit long. A bit less music, perhaps?

The preacher's sound quality was better, but he preached 10 minutes longer than we were advised and too long for an online audience.

The whole thing was also overlong.

Disjointed

Although there were parts of it that were really only for those who were in person and as it overran we had to stop it - it felt like no one really knew what was happening.

There were gaps between the parts of the Sunday service with people rearranging music stands and lecterns etc.

A minor niggle was that we were introduced to heads and other body parts of people who were shifting platform furniture between sections of the service.

The presentation could have been slicker, especially near the beginning - there were pauses with no one speaking.

It did feel very disjointed with too much standing-up-sitting-down that did not enable us to get into it. There were too many "pregnant pauses" that left those of us watching online wondering what on earth was going on and not a part of proceedings.

Subtitles

It was also noted that the subtitles were sometimes incorrect with some odd words which were found to be a little distracting.

YouTube subtitles produced their usual delayed rubbish!

There was also some dreadful automatic voice recognition subtitles which often were wrong and later than the spoken words. Don't know if BUGB or YouTube were responsible for this, but it was very distracting.

The sub titles text was very laggy and was often totally incorrect which was very distracting.

Not feeling part of it

Putting people into groups to pray after the address doesn't really work for people watching (alone) online.

The leading of the Sunday morning worship took almost no account of the wider audience viewing remotely. Comments were made that it was not inclusive worship for those remotely.

I didn't really feel part of it and felt I was simply watching a live event as opposed to it being a hybrid event.

If I had not been watching in company with my congregation I would have stopped the livestream as soon as Alan had finished. One thing that I have learnt over the last 2 years is that if the viewer at home is not engaged or does not feel included then the livestream is pointless.

In Memoriam

One other comment was about the "In Memoriam". As churches are joining via live stream for their Sunday services, could this be done in another part of the Assembly.

There was no explanation of the in In Memoria names of who they were to make any sense to the remote congregation.

The In Memoriam was somehow dis-jointed.

Order of service

As we only joined for the Sunday morning session, it would have been helpful to know what specific songs were going to be sung during the worship as the words on screen were too small to see for many of our church. It would not have been practical to print words for all songs used during the Assembly.

The published "order of service" was devoid of any detail which made it very difficult to make it what we had intended to be an inclusive worship service with the Baptist Community both at Assembly and with churches worshipping remotely.

General

The sound quality was very poor at times, most notably for the prayers during the in memoriam session. In fact sound was so poor generally that people, not used to a Baptist Assembly, would not have realised that the names displayed related to deceased ministers. Even the pre-recorded poetry video had comparatively poor sound quality.

I'm sorry to say not a very satisfactory way of worshipping God on a Sunday morning. In all honesty I cannot recommend that WPBC repeats the experience next year.

I also feel the content needs to be more imaginative as it felt very dated. I would encourage you to watch the LC22 (Alpha leadership conference) which was a hybrid event as this was done very differently and included those who were 'in the room' and those 'online' at the same time with the same presenters and speakers. Plus it captured where the world and Christian church is with speakers like John Mark Comer, Nicky Gumbel, Christine Caine and so on. I am really sorry but the Baptist Assembly feels tired and very similar to when I first went back in the late 1990's.

Personally, I found the BMS bit at the end to be completely unnecessary, having just heard a very uplifting talk and what appeared to be a very rousing closing prayer. I must confess that several of my congregation left well before the end and I can't say that I can blame them.

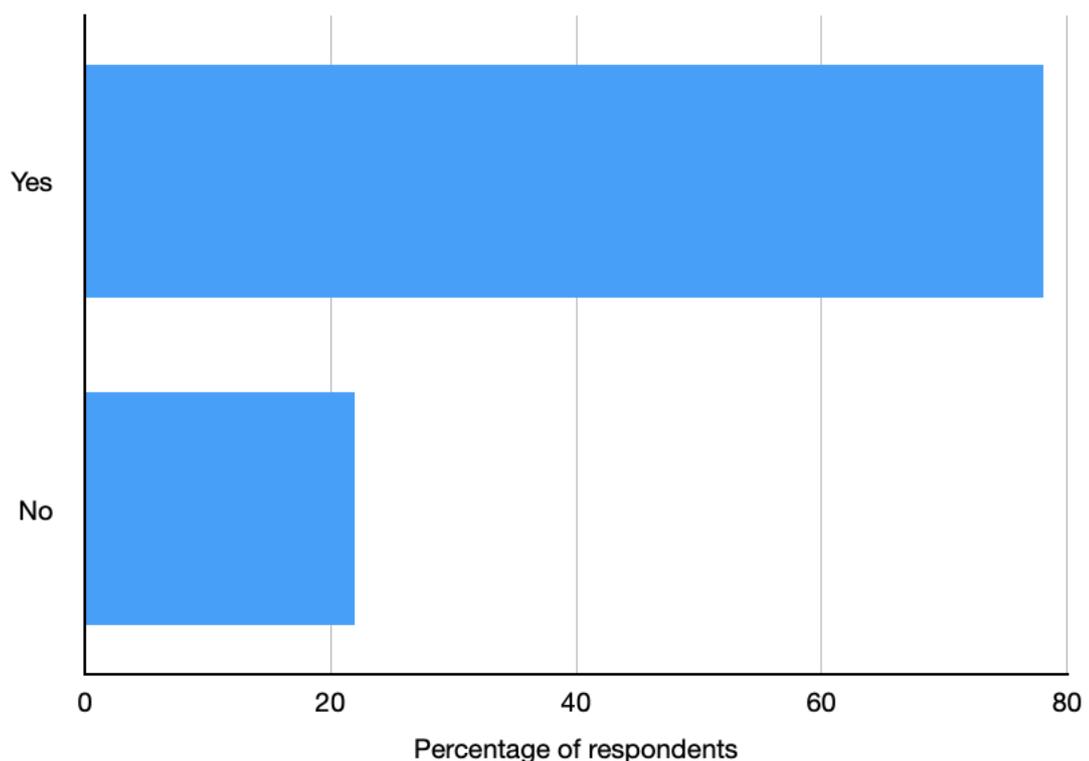
We hope that we might be able to bring more of our church to Telford next year, now that they have experienced some of the Assembly online.

It would have been good if the cameras could turn to give an idea of the audience.

There was a lot of "commercial advertising" slides immediately before the start of the Sunday worship session which was really inappropriate for gathering for worship.

Did you feel the format of the weekend worked well ?

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
No	10	22%
Yes	35	78%



Please feel free to comment further on your answer to the question above:

Those who answered YES said:
But I only attended one session.
Really only watched on Sunday.
I can only comment on the Sunday morning.
I was very grateful to be able to join in online as not able to be present at the Assembly. I do hope that you will continue this next year.
Yes it was quite accommodating to suit all delegates
Yes overall it was good to feel part of it through YouTube.
It was useful to have options to watch live and at a later point.
Very good to be able to pick up the u-tube if I missed any part.
It worked well watching at home, especially the morning and afternoon.
The evening session was less successful watched from home. The welcoming of ministers and mission personnel was disappointing because we couldn't see them. I suspect they were not visible in the hall either. This was partly because of where they stood - why not on the platform? And partly because it was all so dark! (Why is Assembly always so dark?)
Cannot rate anything other than the Sunday worship; which was generally very good.
The memoriam section needed an introduction for those of us who are not regulars - who were these people: past ministers? members of committees? What is the relevance of mentioning these people as opposed to all of the Baptist Church members who died in the past year?
The Saturday was a long day but I think the content was good
There were some technical problems with sound or microphones but not too much.
I had questions which I took up with the office and was helped with the greatest of kindness and courtesy.
I would prefer to answer - don't know

Those who answered NO said:
From an online point of view, there was little chance to converse and at times we were not thought of. It was really a "login and watch" rather than real participation like being there in person. Which was OK for not being able to attend, but I think the intention was hoped for more. It is hard to know if slido was / will be taken into account at all.
Not really - apart from the Sunday.
To many interviews/conversations
One of my congregation watched some of the sessions on Saturday but commented to me that the sessions started late and did not run to time. Although it was good for our church to watch the Sunday worship online, it sadly did not take into account those of us watching online beyond a simple acknowledgement at the beginning. It was very much focused on those present and watching online felt awkward and disjointed. Personally I did not feel part of it.
I wondered about opening the Assembly with an AGM, but I did enjoy it.
From a remote attender point of view, the discussion sessions were obviously irrelevant.
Online viewers were very much an afterthought

If there were any parts of Baptist Assembly you think we could have improved on or changed, please indicate which part this was applicable to.

You asked about improvements to any part of the Baptist Assembly but people mostly spoke about the Sunday Morning Service. Therefore, I have collated comments at the start about aspects other than the service. Below those are the comments relating to the different elements of the Sunday Morning Worship.

GENERAL COMMENTS
Please encourage those hosting spaces in the Hub to have at least one person around over the lunch period as I had some time to have a look around on the Saturday and there were hardly any people around on the various stalls. I wasn't the only one around so this could have been a prime opportunity for networking.
The Pecha Kutcha talks were a good idea, but the intense amount of information provided by the number of presenters felt overwhelming and made taking the conversations further much harder, when we were only allowed to converse once all the talks had been presented. Perhaps having access to some bullet points from each talk via Slido maybe could have helped to those present to recall what had been focused on.
Difficult to say as I wasn't there, but I wondered whether there should have been fewer Pecha Kucha talks with more time for conversation.
I could not find the individual items about the newly accredited ministers which Lynn mentioned.
It was quite satisfactory and up to the mark
To have something other than the business meetings as the opening session.
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
IN MEMORIAM
Was totally irrelevant to 98% of the Baptist Family and took far too long. On an occasion when the Baptist Union was able to share the message of all it's mission and ministry with churches across the country it is a shame that we spent so long celebrating dead Baptist ministers rather than the life of Jesus in his church.
The 'In Memoriam'' section in the Sunday service was too long
The In Memoriam.
The in memoriam section wasn't applicable in a local church context and took too long - it also wasn't explained who the names were (those in ministry). Feedback from my church was that it had too solemn a feel and they would have wanted more excitement and praise.
Sunday morning worship for online viewers needs to be made much more user friendly eg better explanation of the 'In Memorial' element
I felt that the "In memoriam" section that was included in the Sunday morning worship would have fitted better in the Saturday evening celebration, as this was a moment for reflection and remembrance rather than an act of worship.
Sunday morning if you are doing this hybrid service for the local churches in the future I think you need to make this stand-alone from the whole Assembly. In memorium on Saturday or Sunday morning before the service is live streamed.
In the Sunday service, it would have been helpful for the online watchers to have some form of explanation as to the fact that it was Ministers being remembered in "In Memoriam"
The reading out of the long list of names of people who have died in the last year should not be repeated from now on - maybe only those who are generally known throughout Baptist churches should be mentioned.

When watching as a congregation the memorial part was very long and not very relevant to many/most of the people watching with us. Although I agree with honouring the Pastors, Ministers and Missioners that have died I wonder if that could be done at a different part of Assembly (eg on the Saturday).

Memorial of all those names that we did not know went on too long.

I don't think the obituaries included in the Sunday Worship felt relevant to congregations watching from their own contexts. I think that would've been better placed elsewhere.

Whilst appreciating the inclusion of the memoriam part in the weekend, i am not sure that the Sunday morning service we entirely the best time for this

BMS

A shame that this came at the end of the service as it didn't flow with the rest of the service and detracted from Alan's great message. Instead of finishing with the message of abiding with Jesus, we finished being 'challenged' to give financially which whilst important should never be our main message.

I think when the preacher has preached and the benediction is prayed that is the end of the service. I am afraid the BMS appeal was rather lost on us, it would have been better earlier in the service

LENGTH OF SERVICE

The length of the service was too long. We had a number of people have to leave well before the service had come to an end.

It was too long, non-child friendly, same-y style music, and the message itself was also too long for an event inviting people to watch in churches online. streamlining would be good if this happens again.

The Sunday morning service went on for far longer than advertised.

Sunday Morning Worship was a little too long.

We felt 1 1/2 hr would be enough time for the service aiming for 1 hour 20 mins would be better. This was a long time for our children's leaders to have our children in their groups. Better indication of where the children were going out would be good too.

HYBRID/LIVESTREAMING

It didn't seem like the online viewers were authentically included... instead we just got a window into the main session, which whilst good, would have been more powerful if we were more directly addressed and even welcomed rather than just those in the room.

There was no way of knowing how many people were there nor any chance to see them. That would have been good, to feel more a part of it, rather than just seeing what was happening at the front.

The frame around the livestream was pointless and made it look as if we were watching through a window, enhancing the feeling of being disconnected. The powerpoints shoved to one side with the speaker on the other also didn't help - it would have been much better to show the PowerPoints full screen which would have allowed us to read the text or see the pictures much more clearly. The whole thing felt disjointed and even my 10 year old daughter mentioned that it felt awkward. There were no video shots of the congregation/attendees which again made those of us watching online feel disconnected.

I think the idea of doing the Sunday live across our churches is great but the session needs to cater more for being a streamed service. For example, It was shame we didn't do much sung worship in this time.

Technical issues of live streaming.

Sunday morning if you are doing this hybrid service for the local churches in the future I think you need to make this stand-alone from the whole Assembly. Better sense of closure in ending the live stream e.g. shut live stream/tell churches thank you for joining before your 'thank yous'

Also to have had a few more mentions at the beginning and during the service about "those watching online", to help us feel more included and welcomed.

Subtitling - led to a lot of chuckling at times in the many misunderstood pronunciations. That made it difficult to follow, or ignore.

We had newcomers at our service and a number of members who are not 'institutionally' Baptist. Whilst we tried to wrap a warm welcome around the live stream and cross some of this divide, it would have been nice to see this addressed from the stage in Bournemouth too.

SONGS/MUSIC

Sorry to say, but this is an annual, perpetual criticism, the music was SO disappointing. All the songs, mostly unknown, were unsingable. I found myself praying that God would call up some composers who can actually write a good tune! And why not draw on other traditions and cultures' music? Also I had no impression if any congregational singing which was a shame. Perhaps people in the hall didn't know the songs either or found them as boring as I did

Choice of songs - Sunday am OK, most known to congregation here.

Saturday morning and evening - too many unfamiliar songs (though maybe all gathered at conference knew them?)

I was disappointed that the music seemed to be so much of one genre. There is a breadth in some of the classic hymns which most modern songs do not reflect, being properly, but excessively focussing on 'me, me!.

I also thought it regrettable that having such a talented organist as Paul Lavender (who played the organ at my most recently attended Baptist Assembly, there was no organ accompaniment of some hymns

LOGISTICS

One of my congregation who works in stage production pointed out that putting people of colour against a black background is not a good move and that proper stage lighting would have made a big difference.

Background too dark when projected onto a larger screen

A little more info on the timing and content of the programme for the live link would have helped planning ahead for the service we joined as a congregation.

The Service did not start exactly on time.

GENERAL SUNDAY MORNING COMMENTS

Overall the service was cracking!

It is absolutely great that the service was available to churches again this year and I believe that our church benefitted from being part of the bigger picture of the Baptist family.

Turning around and praying in small groups in our church which is not particularly used to this came across as somewhat uncomfortable.

I really think the morning worship needs to be re-thought. The invitation urging churches to join the worship was strong, but it was not very suitable to actually join in with. There was little introduction of who's who, and in memoriam would be puzzling to most outsiders. I suggest doing this at a different time, and having a much shorter bespoke Sunday worship that fully takes account of churches joining online.

Sunday morning if you are doing this hybrid service for the local churches in the future I think you need to make this stand-alone from the whole Assembly. Show case the Baptist Union e.g. new President, introduce General Secretary, snapshot of what BU about (barring in mind your average person in the pew doesn't know much about the Baptist Union).

Is there anything we could have done better to enhance your experience of Baptist Assembly 2022?

Responses to this question thoroughly fell into the following categories:

- Logistics/communication
- Timing
- Music/songs
- Interaction
- Other

LOGISTICS/COMMUNICATION

Pre-service guidance (Sunday Morning) – It would be helpful for people hosting Baptist Assembly in their churches to be given more detailed and clear guidelines of what is coming up and when. For example sending Children out for over an hour put a huge strain and burden on our Children and youth volunteers with very little notice.

It would also be good if we could prepare some resources for our children and young people who are leaving in churches screening the assembly too so they are not just put on the stage but included more holistically in their provision.

It would be helpful to know the content of the Sunday morning in advance. If we had known In Memorium was going to be included we would have made alternative arrangements.

Provide confirmations and receipts for donation - I have not recd either and need a receipt provide online connection details much earlier - 2 to 4 weeks before the event - same week is much too late

As a NAM I appreciated the Saturday evening reception - I had expected some light canapes, so a one course main meal was a bit of a surprise, especially as it was at 5.30pm! It would have been nice to have had a more formal welcome to everyone there, and it would have been helpful to have had an explanation of what we were to do during the event. In addition, please can all those making the promises have sight of these beforehand - it felt very strange making promises that I had never seen before the moment when they came up on screen. Also, it was made very clear that we were NOT to take photos at the venue, (though a number of people still did so) on the proviso that there was an official photographer. However, I now have no photos of my own of the event because I respected this request and have yet to see any official photos - if there is a link to these then please

could this be published. I am extremely grateful that the event was hybrid as it allowed friends and family to watch from afar. However, the live stream recording was very dark and whilst it was nice to see Lynn and Kan Sang reading the names and having the names on screen, but those watching from home didn't actually see very much of those who were being affirmed and that was a shame for such a significant moment in our ministry journeys. A formal photo of us all would have been nice gesture as well.

TIMING

Start on time.

Keep to time!

I did a "dry run" connection on Saturday morning and would have stayed on for the BMS section, but was not prepared to wait a further 20 minutes beyond the scheduled time before it started.

MUSIC/SONGS

A few more "older style" hymns, that shows my age (83) !

The African music was very well received.

As said above, varied /different camera positions would have been nice.

Nothing you can do, but I hope I may be able to attend in person again next year. The networking aspect is important.

INTERACTION

More facility for online interaction with what is happening at assembly / discussion etc. shorter worship if joining online.

Not asking too much to facilitate involvement in the chat room in the future please

To have facilitated online conversations. it was great to watch the conversations starters but unless I was there I wasn't able to join a conversation

OTHER

I felt the 'in memoriam' element was a bit too long.

If it started, for example, on Friday afternoon it could be better spread out with more time to meet others, reflect and explore.

We thought it went well. These comments are only to make the remote experience even better.

We were using automatic captioning on YouTube for the benefit of people who are deaf but can't lip-read or read BSL. This mostly worked surprisingly well, although sometimes the accent of the speaker caught it on the hop! Not that I'm complaining, as a fellow-Scot. I was very happy to see BSL inset through most of it.

The lighting on the speaker was dim, it was hard to see him sometimes.

The gaps, particularly when rearranging the stage equipment, could be covered by someone providing continuity, either in the venue (though that's probably less important), or by adding their voice over the video stream in real time. I jumped in and added a few comments at that point myself, as the congregation was getting restless.

The ability to time-slip was good, but our IT person found it hard to locate the start of the service. Some kind of marker on the timeline would really help! Our service started at 11 a.m. so we were a bit behind.

I was told that the link was very efficient and easy to get into.

Are there any other comments you would like to pass on relating to Baptist Assembly 2022?

Responses to this question fell into 5 categories:

- Great and grateful
- Presidential address?
- Logistics/technical/timing
- Content
- Other

GREAT and GRATEFUL
On the whole the team had clearly done a great job pulling together the online option and the tech and production worked really well although there will undoubtedly be lessons that can be learnt for future weeks.
Thanks for trying to include people online. Grateful for YouTube chat responses from the assembly.
As a person who was watching from home/church, I thought the tech team did an amazing job. Please thank them.
Great to do hybrid for those unable to travel, and congregations wishing to join on the Sunday. And great to make available to the sessions for those who want. The technology etc seemed to work really well, and the whole thing was very well conducted - and a good balance. Thank you
I did really enjoy what I have watched/ participated in so far.
Having it available to join remotely was good, I hope this becomes a permanent feature.
It was a pleasure participating in the online service on Sunday morning. Be great to do that each year and we can programme it into our diary.
Commendable leadership by Gen Secretary Lynn Green and BMS Director Kang San tan
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS?
I valued the sessions I attended, but missed the opportunity to hear more from Hayley. Her theme resonated with so much else that was said, and with much current thinking that it would have been really good to hear more from her. Is the Presidential Address a thing of the past?
It would be good to think of the Sunday as a standalone event - maybe with some content summarised from the conference - what are the highlights of Baptists in the last year, who is the president and what is their focus - and avoiding items such as conference thanks or in person prayer groups.
LOGISTICS/TECHNICAL/TIMING
The stage where the musicians were was a bit dark, also the sound levels were variable. For most of Sunday we had max volume, but the recording was of the bible reading was much louder, so a slightly higher volume on the feed from the hall would have been better. Lynn Green was very quiet initially
Some in our congregation did not appreciate the way the music group worked. We have a music group of our own, so it is not that people were anti-music group but they felt it was not up to the standard of some years ago - the David Peacock era.

Because we were using the Sunday session as our morning service, we were not able to watch the full broadcast which lasted for 2 hours 15 minutes, so we had to log off after an hour and a half. In future years could a shorter separate Sunday morning session be provided for churches like ours who wish to use it instead of their normal service.

CONTENT

Sermon was excellent. Enjoyed/ thought provoking by the congregation. Hymns were excellent too.

This is the second year we have joined for the Sunday morning worship and it was much appreciated by many in the church. It was good to join in with the singing and prayer, which gave more of a 'together' feel.

Children joined us for the first half.

The In Memoriam item was in the wrong session. I appreciate that it had to be longer this year, but when watching remotely it is not something that joins us together. That item may be more appropriate to another session. When I have been present in previous years this item has always seemed misplaced in the Sunday morning worship.

I attended both this year and the last in-person Assembly with my husband. His observation is that the assembly, perhaps particularly the networking hub, felt quite heavily focused on those serving in ministry/mission rather than the lay person.

OTHER

It was good to hear from the EBA President how promptly the churches had responded to the Ukraine situation.

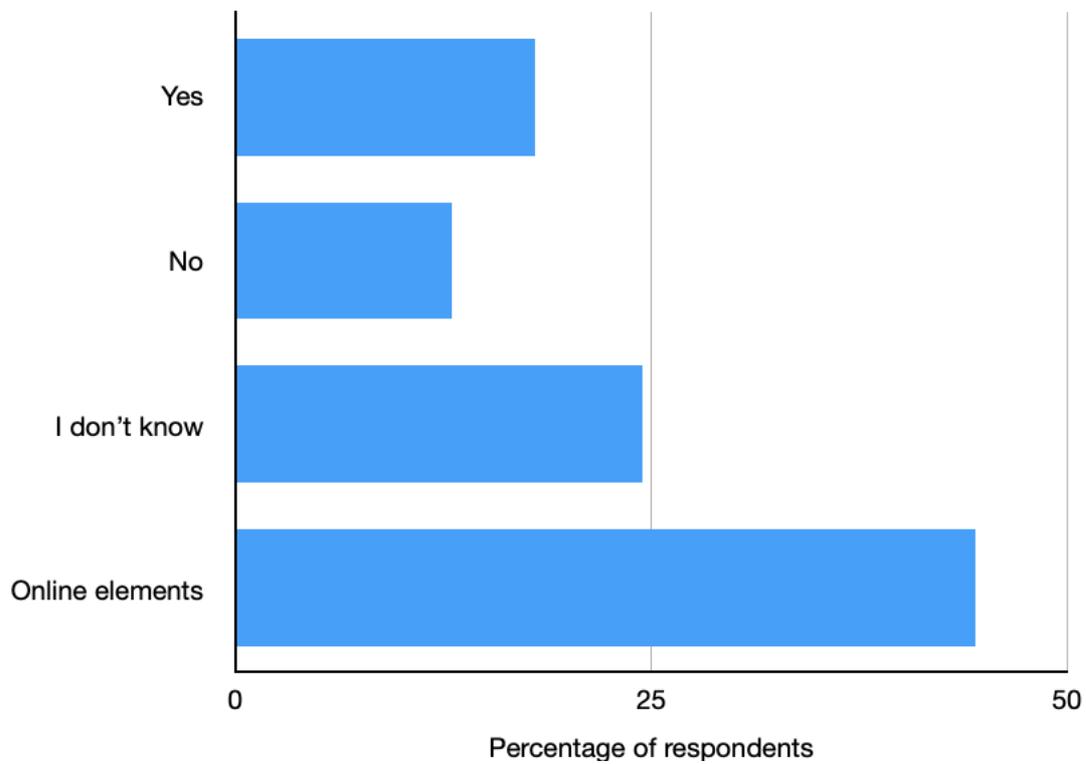
While offering the option of livestreaming has been invaluable and much appreciated, saving the hassle of travel and accommodation for what amounts to a very costly day and a half (see below), I personally do not look forward to assembly. My experience of Baptist Assembly and other Christian conferences, particularly those organised by New Wine, is that the assembly is not an uplifting or valuable experience that helps to support me as a Baptist minister. In all honesty I have only attended because there are older, more traditional, members of my church for whom attendance by the minister is expected.

In relation to costs a breakdown is as follows:

The cost of mileage, based on 45p per mile, for travelling from the North West to Bournemouth is in excess of £250. Accommodation for 2 nights is in excess of £150. Meals and the cost of the conference itself are then on top of that. This makes the total cost for attending conference somewhere in the region of £500 which, for a day and a half (or even for a whole weekend) is an extortionate cost for any church to bear. And although Telford next year is closer that still equates to nearly £100 for mileage meaning the cost of the conference will be in the region of £350 which I find to be an unjustifiable expense, especially considering the other options for Christian conferences and events that are available.

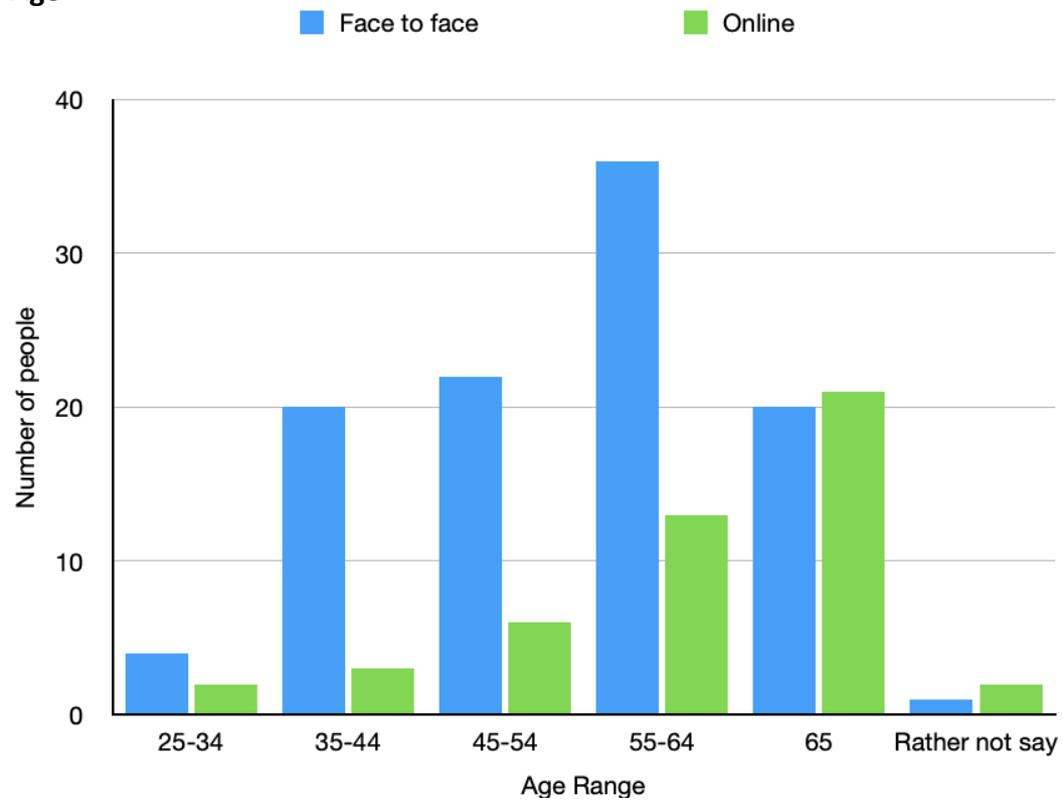
Are you planning to attend Baptist Assembly in Telford next year? (6-7 May 2023)

Category	Number of respondents selecting category	Percentage of respondents
Yes	8	18%
No	6	13%
I don't know	11	24.5%
Online elements	20	44.5%

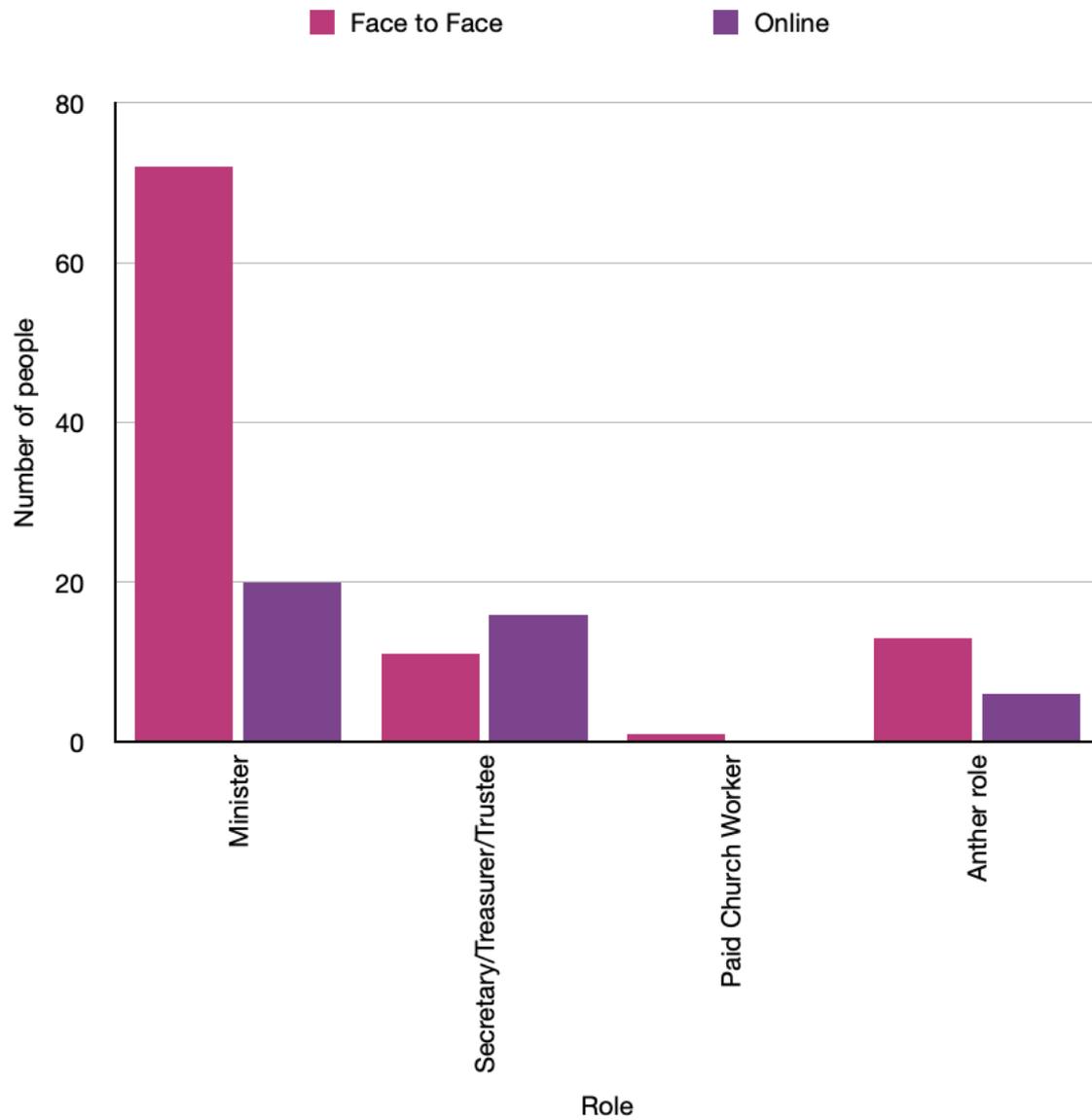


Face to Face and Online Graphs together, where applicable

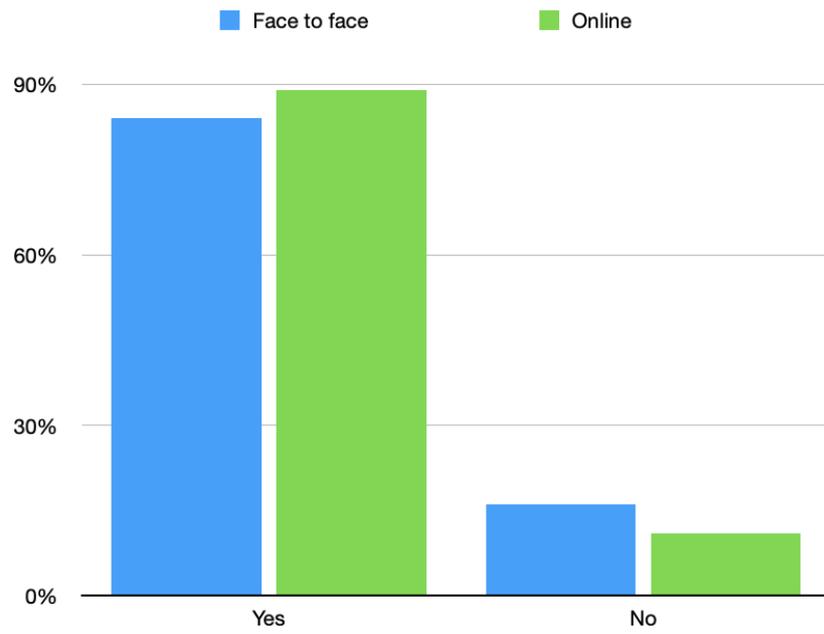
Age



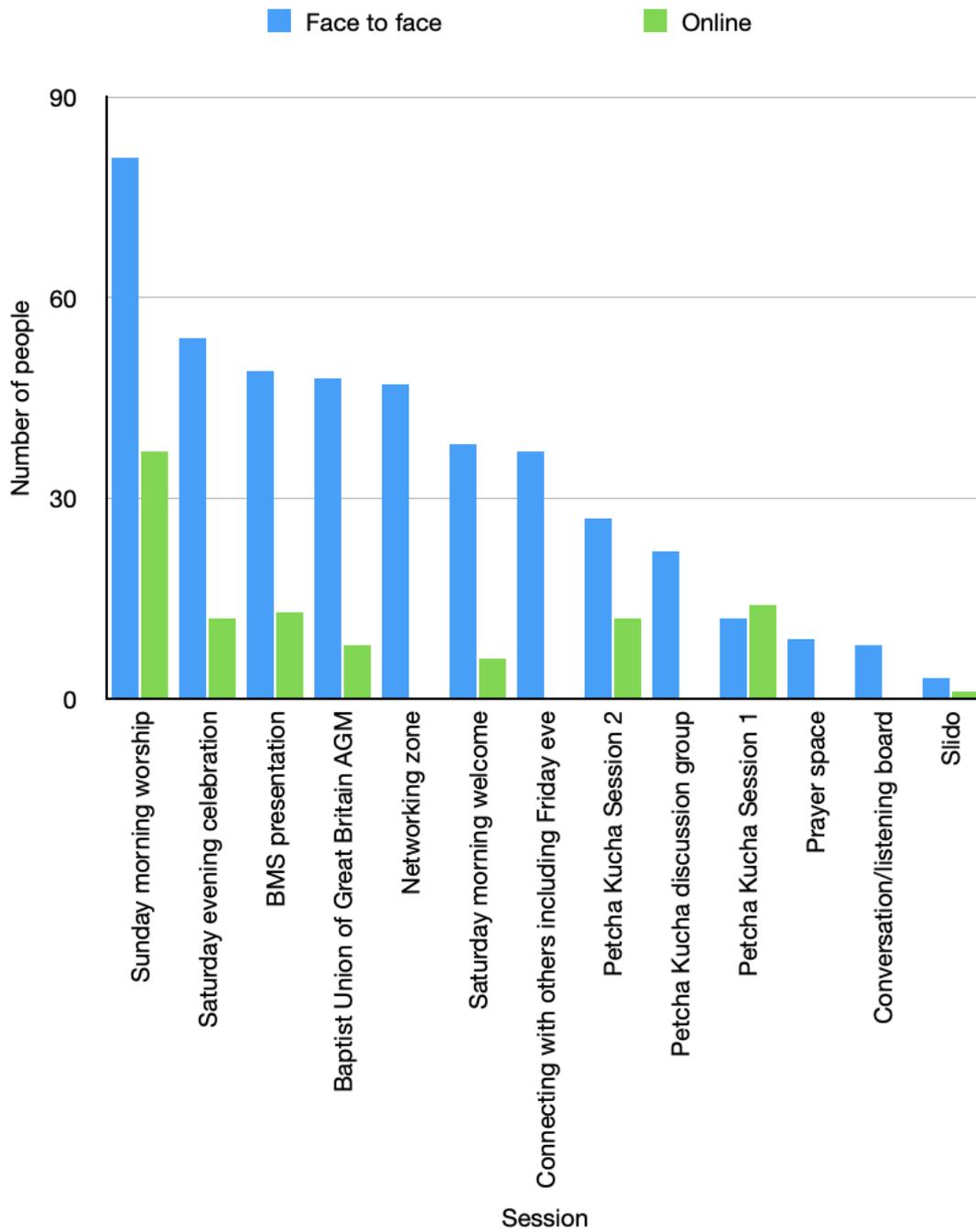
Are you a Minister/paid church worker or do you hold a particular role within your church?



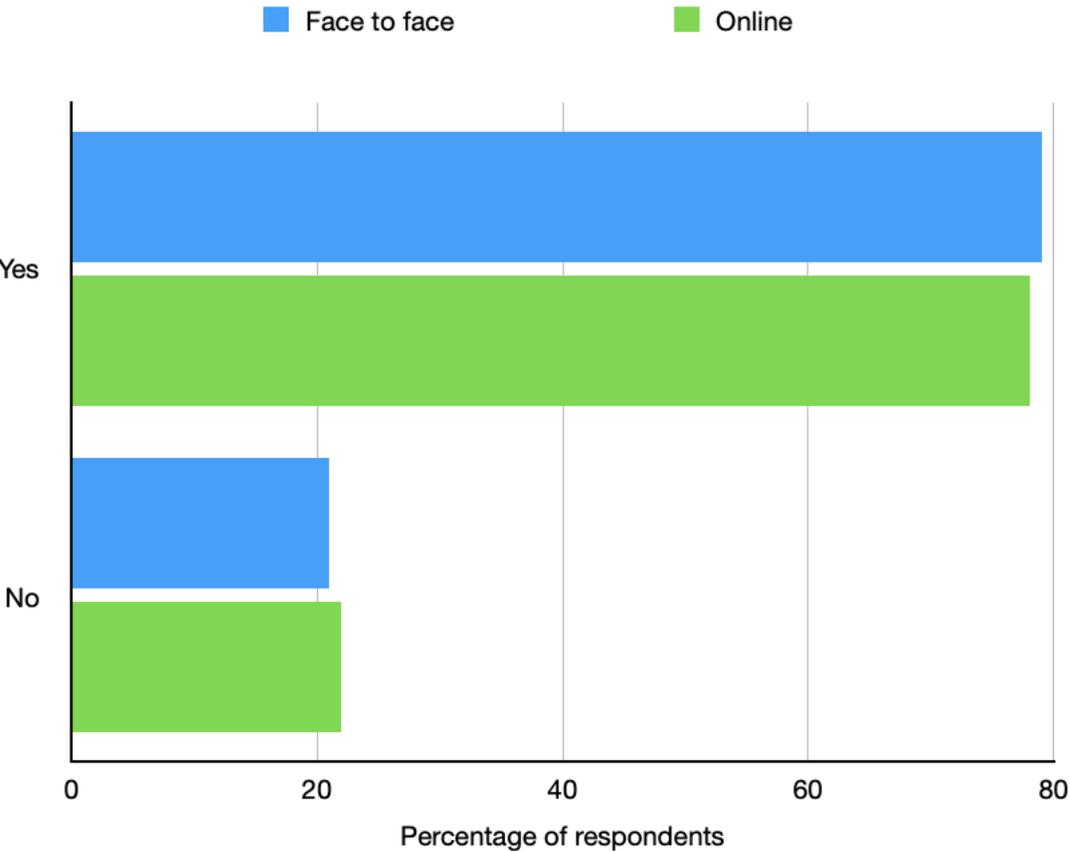
Have you attended Baptist Assembly before?



Which aspects of Baptist Assembly did you appreciate the most?



Did you feel the format of the weekend worked well?



Are you planning to attend Assembly in Telford next year? (6-7 May 2023)

