

1. How long have you been receiving *Lion&Lamb*?

over 5 years	71	56.8%	
2 - 5 years	26	20.8%	
Less than 2 years	15	12.0%	
first time receiving	10	8.0%	
no answer given	3	2.4%	

2. How do you get the magazine?

by post	121	96.8%	
in a bookshop	0	0.0%	
from a friend	2	1.6%	
online	0	0.0%	
no answer given	2	1.6%	

3. How much of *Lion&Lamb* do you usually read?

all	33	26.4%	people reading most or all 72.8%
most	58	46.4%	
	2	1.6%	
just dip in	26	20.8%	
none	3	2.4%	
no answer given	3	2.4%	

4. Is your copy usually read by more than one person?

yes	40	32.0%	
no	78	62.4%	
no answer given	7	5.6%	

5. What words best describe the magazine, in your opinion?

relevant	79	63.2%
interesting	68	54.4%
irrelevant	2	1.6%
controversial	13	10.4%
intellectual	41	32.8%
unique	16	12.8%
stimulating	79	63.4%
important	35	28.0%
encouraging	40	32.0%
inaccessible	4	3.2%
valuable	41	32.8%
user-friendly	22	17.6%
no answer given	5	4.0%

Responses using the word “intellectual” used in conjunction with other words... n=41

relevant	25	60.9%
interesting	26	63.4%
irrelevant	1	2.4%
controversial	7	17.1%
unique	4	9.7%
stimulating	22	17.6%
important	14	34.1%
encouraging	7	17.1%
inaccessible	4	9.7%
valuable	12	29.3%
user-friendly	3	7.3%

6. Do you use or have you used the magazine as a resource for the following?

	have used it		occasionally		often	
References for further reading	76	60.8%	66	52.8%	10	8.0%
Prayer	64	51.2%	55	44.0%	9	7.2%
Bible study	47	37.6%	45	36.0%	2	1.6%
Sermon preparation	46	36.8%	45	36.0%	1	0.8%
Leading a 'Difficult Conversation'	30	24.0%	29	23.2%	1	0.8%
Groupwork/teaching	32	25.6%	27	21.6%	5	4.0%
no answer given	11	8.8%				

7. How would you rate each section of content?

	very good	good	fair	poor	rate as good or very good
Comment	33	51	14	0	67.2%
Director's Page	39	49	7	1	70.4%
Interview	54	46	4	0	80.0%
Articles	47	52	4	1	79.5%
Bible Study	24	54	16	3	62.4%
Reviews	21	54	18	1	60.0%
Difficult Conversations	29	49	11	3	62.4%
no answer given	16				

8. How would you rate the look of the magazine?

			rate as good or very good
very good	64	51.2%	88.8%
good	47	37.6%	
fair	9	7.2%	
poor	2	1.6%	
no answer given	3	2.4%	

9. When you've finished reading your copy do you

keep it for reference	75	60.0%
pass it on	21	16.8%
dispose of it	28	22.4%
no answer given	3	2.4%

10. Would you recommend the magazine to others?

yes	102	81.6%
no	38	30.4%
no answer given	5	4.0%
depends	4	3.2%

11. Would it benefit your church to have copies available?

yes	54	43.2%
no	38	30.4%
no answer given	17	13.6%
n/a	5	4.0%
not sure	9	7.2%

12. Would you still read *Lion&Lamb* if it were only available online?

yes	40	32.0%
no	67	53.6%
no answer given	7	5.6%
less so if I had to not in the same way probably not	11	8.8%

Reader profile information

13. Gender

female	33	26.4%
male	89	71.2%
no answer given	3	2.4%

14. Age range

under 25	1	0.8%
25-39	15	12.0%
40-64	78	62.4%
65+	30	24.0%
no answer given	1	0.8%

15. Location

Northern Ireland	97	77.6%
Republic of Ireland	11	8.8%
other ... (UK)	14	11.2%
no answer given	2	1.6%

16. What contact do you have with the Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland?

attend events	42	33.6%
use resources	42	33.6%
receive P.S.	29	23.2%
supporter/PfC	39	31.2%
visit website	33	26.4%
other ...	5	4.0%
none	26	20.8%
no answer given	5	4.0%

17. The strapline of the Centre is 'biblical faith for a changing world'. How well do you think this is reflected in the magazine?

109 gave a response to this question:

Quite well. That is a very broad theme. *Lion&Lamb* addresses aspects of it.

There is a definite attempt to be anchored in both places, with each engaging with the other.

Very Well

Well.

Very Well.

Very Well.

Accurate.

Very well. I find it topical and challenging.

8/10

Very good

Very well

Well

Pretty well

Well

Very variable

Pretty well

Essential

Not bad

Well

Very well indeed

Not enough Biblical faith and also not enough about the Bible's relevance and power in today's secular culture.

Well. Perhaps needs to reflect more cultural critique/analysis than a reconciliation-based perspective.

Well reflected

Fairly well. CCCI has a clear understanding of modern Ireland.

I think it perfectly reflects your purpose

I think the magazine represents a wide spectrum of views which are helpful – this is probably what I appreciate most about it.

Good

I am only able to judge on this one issue that I have read, but I felt it reflected it very well. I found it relevant and thought-provoking.

Very well

Excellent contributions by all concerned.

Generally very well.

Sums it up well.

Very well

Sometimes very well.

Relevant

Very good

Very well

The magazine successfully delivers on its main aim.

Good

Very well

It challenges us to reflect biblically in considering contemporary issues.

Clear

Very well

Well

Quite faithfully

Very well. Thanks!

Very Well!

Very well, especially the interview of Father Paul Symonds and Rev John Dickinson by Derek Poole.

Quite well

The commitment of the magazine to the supremacy of Scripture seems somewhat doubtful.

Very good

Make sure you stick to a biblical faith and don't change it just to get in step with what currently passes for wisdom.

I think the issues are topical and relevant.

I would put it the other way round! The reference to biblical faith is playing to one gallery – I think it is too narrow and serving a narrow interest - the content however reflects a more realistic and mature idea of faith.

Very well

Very well

In the variety of interviews and articles ie spirituality, theology etc. the challenge of the fresh and new ie Prayer 24/7.

Have been very impressed by the present issues. Its articles are thought-provoking and informative and forward-looking.

No. I think you target a very specific group.-

I think it is well represented

Well represented.

Well done

Very well

Very well

Well – but sometimes not in a way that those not already of a biblical faith can comprehend.

Good

Appropriate

Very well

Somewhat

Very well indeed – as in very few other magazines

Very well

Yes, on the whole it is well represented in the magazine.

Well, in terms of Northern Ireland

It is well reflected through a good diversity of researched articles and opinions.

Well reflected

Very well

The magazine always attempts to reflect this

Very well

Reasonably well reflected – ‘biblical’ is heard differently by so many people; could it be more attractive to a younger group?

Good

Very well

Very well

I think the whole balance has been tilted a bit too much towards the ‘intellectual’ rather than the developing of ‘faith’ and outworking of it.

Very well

Quite well

Very well – though perhaps only a relatively small section of community are really aware of those changes.

Spot on

Well reflected

Very well

It has been a resource for teaching and personal reflection

I know this is a priority objective but the extent of this, I think, would exclude many readers. (I am sure you will receive an opposite opinion).

‘Reflective biblical faith’

Very well

Good

A ‘middle-class Christianity for a changing world’ would be more accurate.

Very well

Very well

Yes

You apply the Scriptures in a challenging way; sometimes to difficult cultural, political and religious situations.

Appropriate

Very well

Fine

Very well

Very well

At times I have questions about how ‘biblical’ is biblical faith’.

Fine

Probably don’t read enough to make a significant comment.

Very well.

18. Have you any comments about the way *Lion&Lamb* has developed in recent years?

74 people gave comments, as follows:

Very attractively presented; nice layout. Level of my interest is quite dependent on the theme of the issue

I think it looks great but content hasn't changed much.

Positively, in both looks and content.

In my view the magazine has become much too academic and does not relate to the challenges of everyday Christian living in our society.

The growing appeal to a wider constituency is a great improvement.

Continuing to improve on what was an already stimulating magazine

I have appreciated it being a little less wordy and a little more understandable.

Much progress. Not restricted to the evangelical community – good!

Maintained progress

I appreciate the broadening of concerns for the Northern Ireland situation to a wider perspective

I think it has markedly improved

Better. Interviews and hard questions are good

Am pleased with it

I feel it has improved but has a long way to go. it is still hung up on ecumenism and not on one-ness in Christ.

Looks much better!

Measured. Not dramatic.

You have kept it readable

I think it has reflected a broader range of views in recent years which reflects the diversity within our society.

If it was 'easier reading' it may have a broader uptake – a bit intellectual for some.

I have only started recently

Cannot comment

I welcome the wide diversity of things tackled

Good, contemporary feel

I enjoy the very varied perspectives presented in the articles and the all-Ireland dimension

Glad more open to RC contributors

I support the breadth and stimulation from beyond the original ECONI base.

I sincerely feel it was good and getting better.

More Bible study would be great

It has been a source of stimulation and encouragement to me

'Confronts' sectarianism and narrow denominationalism.

Presentation is attractive

Keeping up to date

It has always endeavoured to deal with the issues of the day

It is becoming more relevant to the real world.

Good to have input on the issues facing us today in Northern Ireland

No – I have received it only recently

Beneficially

The magazine seems to be more ecumenical than evangelical
The content could be more accessible
As our context changed the issues are less 'life and death' and the magazine is now taking a more broad, yet pedestrian path.
Has become more accessible. I admire the way it has adapted to the changing 'scene' in the province.
All for the better
Growing
Up to date topics tackled
Improved during time I have been reading journal
I think it has become much more inclusive of women, Catholics and young people.
Since conflict stopped, struggling to find a home
It is very good
Addition of colour has 'lifted' the publication. The layout is attractive, if a little confusing at times. Print of main text is just too small for me.
Encouraged by the diversity of interviewees – makes magazine interesting to all traditions
Good clear presentation of articles that are relevant to our society
Improved
The magazine format is easier to use
Commendable
Recent changes have been encouraging
Format has improved
I believe one of the major difficulties is relatively easy to solve – change your designer and possibly publisher. Make your type font larger by at least two. Have more bold paragraph headings/breaks in the text. No need to leave largish sections near the top of the page blank, the presentation and the format that has been used over the years makes it a chore and painstaking to read as a result there are some pages that I just give up on. if you don't believe be take your magazine to a few outside 'unbiased' people who are prepared to give you an honest unbiased opinion.
Very attractive
Like the thematic approach
Too highbrow. Little popular appeal.
I found lion and lamb more fascinating in its early first years. It helped me along the way I was thinking that we are all equal in God's sight and there must be a 'plane' where we can unite politically and spiritually. Thankfully we have moved forward but...
Good, as much as I have read
For the better
Very good
More inclusive
Layout and design have improved, even over the short time I have been receiving it.
Broadening its scope has fitted with the broadening of the Centre
The quality of the magazine has been progressive. I am involved in publishing and your production is very attractive.
Improved and improving
Colour helps but the page layout has too much 'white space'.
Making good connections
Improved
Good progress
As a newcomer I cannot comment but to say 'keep up the good work'

19. What issues would you particularly like to see addressed in future editions?

66 people gave a response to this question:

Don't know

Communities in our inner cities throughout Ireland unreached by our middleclass church membership

Engagement, if possible, with fundamentalist Protestants

Tackle issues of biblical research and interpretation: greater understanding by 'evangelicals' of the other Christian positions

Sexuality

The acknowledgement of frailty and weakness in the building of fellowships. Our 'strengths' keep us apart.

More on cross community activities and emphasis on where we agree and can work together

Destruction of moral values by the media. Orwellian 'Newspeak' – evil described only in euphemisms and P.C. terminology.

Is it possible for a sexually active homosexual to maintain 'biblical faith'? How do churches be both inclusive and welcoming to all and true to Gospel standards?

I would like to see articles by more fundamentalist Evangelicals to make us think and stimulate correspondence. At present the converted speaking to the converted: quite a few need to be converted to seeing social responsibilities of believers.

Practical stuff that has been tried – smaller and larger

Keep up the good work!

How church engages with multicultural increasingly secular (officially) society

Social justice issues from religious perspective

Homosexuality, paramilitarism, creation vs evolutionism, drug culture, binge drinking, intolerance of Biblical stance by society.

Faith in a post-Christian society, engaging with new forms/expressions of church, other religions

Co-existence of North/South church cultural differences-

The lessons learnt from peace and reconciliation movements in other parts of the world

Perhaps more debate/conversations with more extreme ends of the theological spectrum

More practical to everyday lives

'Gay' leaders

Human and social issues eg family breakdown, alcohol related abuse, human sexuality etc

Interfaith issues, continue to relate theology to politics

More short testimonies particularly from church leaders as to how they came to biblical faith and what it means in their lives and how it helps in living Christian life in Ireland. What biblically based events/resources are actually working in Roman Catholic Church of Ireland Methodist, Presbyterian and other churches and why?

Dealing with the past

Something similar to the interview between Fr Paul Symonds and Rev John Dickinson and Derek Poole.

Outreach, Christian lifestyle

Spirituality, counselling, history and development of Bible etc

Engaging with God in liturgy and prayer

Voter apathy amongst youth

How we can befriend and integrate foreigners

Church post-Christendom

HIV/AIDS in Northern Ireland and in Ireland

What is a Christian? What is the church? What is the gospel? Is scripture the final authority? The sacraments/ institutes.
 Illegal immigration
 What about a more direct addressing of faith in contemporary society – have a look at ‘radical faith’ website
 Climate change and the Christian’s obligation to set an example of stewardship of God’s creation
 RC ‘One true church’ mentality, women for ordination, gay church leaders
 Climate change, globalisation, poverty, family and marriage issues, prayer, immigration/integration, justice
 Please keep the ‘difficult conversations’ material coming
 Hope, what is Christian hope especially in the light of conflict in the world, comments on thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven’ is the kingdom already present, on ‘love your enemies’. What is the image or images of God that most people in Northern Ireland have?
 Materialism, sexuality, alcohol abuse, co-habiting vs marriage
 Controversial social issues and a Christian response to them eg homelessness, refugees, homosexuality, sectarianism (which you do cover well)
 Other faiths being contrasted to Christianity
 Environmental issues
 A broad apologetics needed How do I live my faith in this fast-moving world which asks big questions but marginalises faith.
 Positive aspects of Islam
 Individualism in church and society – more about post modernism impact on society and church
 Just as you are doing
 Women in ministry
 Needs to be a realisation that for many churches the age profile reflects that the financial/material needs often require 2 parents working and weekends are catch up times with gradually for some ‘worship’ etc getting squeezed out. Seeking to make corporate worship relevant reviewing and highlighting bible study resources for midweeks reviewing ways in which some churches have helpfully taken initiatives in engaging with local communities eg Fisherwick Presbyterian.
 Faith in action, influence of culture v faith, interfaith
 Have stuff on creation /environment/ ecology/ theology, spirituality, greater global aspect
 Education, pastoral care
 I welcome articles thinking about the relationship of biblical thinking being reflected in the interface of faith communities and (local) statutory authorities
 Main features and beliefs of other religions we may encounter in Northern Ireland ie non-Christian
 Christianity at the coalface – evangelism among the poor and working class
 Cross-community efforts
 What does it mean to be a peacemaker?
 Technology vs spirituality, emerging church, evangelicals and Catholics in a post-Christendom climate
 The pros and cons of evangelicals and Catholics worshipping together
 Climate, energy, ‘modern’ slavery, racism
 Environment, poverty, health, integration
 Progress for peace in Palestine, second coming of Christ
 Continuing discussion of interchurch dialogue and understanding of our historical attitude to allegiances to North/South.

20. Any other comments or suggestions you'd like to add?

37 people gave further comments/suggestions

Please expand you list of contributors – the current pool seems pretty narrow ie people from your council of reference or conference participants.

Keep up the good work!

Nothing jumps to mind, happy to let you folks get on with it.

Keep up the good work

Why not include an order form for your publications – better than having to visit website (which I didn't find that easy) also make available the reviewed books for that edition on the same order form.

We need to know that the Bible says about the above Homosexuality, paramilitarism, creation vs evolutionism, drug culture, binge drinking, intolerance of Biblical stance by society) in order to be salt and light in this changing world.

A book review on Harry Smith's book 'Heal not likely'

Overall I found it very good and particularly enjoyed the interview. I can also see ways I could use the magazine to inform my groupwork/Bible study facilitation

Used to enjoy the evening sessions held in the YMCA – very good to be exposed to different viewpoints.

I am grateful that although I do not have the same opportunities for use of material I get a lot of personal benefit.

More about what the different Christian denominations hold in common.-

Good to see a more ecumenical spirit and journey being embraced.

Your contribution to church and community is much appreciated

A section for children – I see this as being used by the entire family

Lion&Lamb seems to be aimed at ministers/pastors. A similar publication for a more general readership might be useful

Its good to have a relevant Christian magazine – I probably should use it more than I do!

Thank you for what you do. It is important. Try to challenge more and don't be too much in hock to one sector of Christian experience. I don't relate to some of the perspectives of some of your contributors for this reason.

The print is rather small and thin. It wasn't always so.

Thank you to one and all. I really appreciate all the work that goes into *Lion&Lamb*.

I am pleased to see new protestant/catholic balance in the magazine. This reflects the 'contemporary' social context and makes your material more accessible to a wider readership. You have important insights that all can benefit from. Bishop Donal McKeown is good but there are also some great thinkers in the religious orders in Ireland, people who can think outside the box. It would be great to hear a variety of voices from that source.

I like the name *Lion&Lamb* – the Centre's strapline seems to be represented in it.

Could risk more modern language – some contributors do – in order to be accessible to young people and those outside the churches.

Thanks for your free copy

A section on cultural reviews and commentary. a 'Sigh of the Times bit. Become more lay friendly

The length of articles is mainly about right now but the interview is very daunting in its length. The one in this issue is worth the effort.

include something light hearted.

I would be grateful if you would remove my name from your mailing list as I am no longer in a position to use the magazine or support your work Thank you.

While the Catholic view is always given a place yet the magazine is from a protestant background could the other churches views be presented differently? A good beginning made.

I think the emphasis on intellectual approach to Christianity today is not helped by some article which frankly are unintelligible. There needs to be more editorial oversight to make sure some are not actually pseudointellectual.

Why do some evangelicals condemn or not approve of your work?

I use *Lion&Lamb* to provide material for our Northern Ireland prayer group so I find most useful articles which show us what is really happening in Northern Ireland. What the churches are doing towards reconciliation, so we can back you in prayer.

Helping fairly traditional congregations engage imaginatively with other communities.

I feel I must confess that I have not been reading *Lion&Lamb* as conscientiously as I used to and have considered cancelling it. Once can be on overload and perhaps that is my problem. I shall try to do better this year and review the situation. I would be interested to know the results of the survey.

I like the magazine when I read it – I know I should be more diligent.

The magazine seems to have a focus on middle class, professional, 'intellectual' Christianity and seems to be no more than a talking shop for it. I have a postgraduate qualification yet I feel it is far too highbrow for the ordinary Christian. Even the likes of Christianity Today is more accessible to most Christians.

When you are examining your findings I would take it for granted that those who don't reply don't actually read it!

Congratulations

Some regular 'debate' pages vigorous exchanges from different perspectives.

Keep it up

Perhaps one more 'journal' type article?

I have read and used some of the Bible study materials which I have found helpful in a personal context and in the church.