

**VICAR
ST PETER'S CHURCH, WELLESBOURNE
WITH ST JAMES, WALTON D'EIVILE**

PARISH PROFILES



Wellesbourne



Walton

BISHOP'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this Profile of these parishes set in the heart of England.

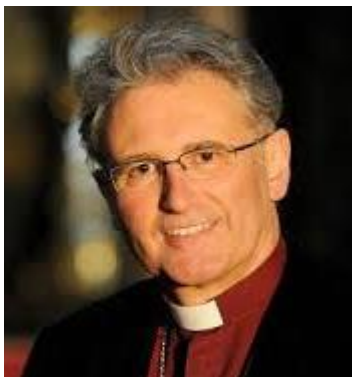
The new incumbent will have the chance to build on the excellent ministry of the previous vicar who, working with a great team of clergy and lay colleagues, built up the life of St Peter's Wellesbourne and also developed an imaginative ministry at St James's Walton.

They are the sort of parishes where the vicar can play a leading role in the community and build all sorts of connections to grow the life of the Church and increase its impact on the wider community. St Peter's has a wonderful combination of fairly traditional – though enlivened – worship and all sorts of creative ways to engage people. It's showing some impressive levels of health and a real determination to address others that need more attention. As well as its regular patterns of worship, St James also has all sorts of outreach opportunities through its location in the estate of Walton Hall.

You'll see that 'empowering leadership' is an area of strength, and we are looking for a new priest to continue to empower the people of God and to build on the very good foundations that are already in place.

In a Diocese with a long commitment to reconciliation through the remarkable ministry of our Cathedral, it's very heartening that St Peter's is committed to being 'Inspired by Jesus to forgive, encourage and serve'. If you are the sort of person who longs for people to know that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself' and wants to love and encourage Christ's people into their full stature as disciples so that they can serve God's purposes in the world, then I would be so glad if you felt called to apply this post.

+ Christopher



DEANERY SUMMARY

Wellesbourne sits in the centre of Fosse Deanery, which is largely rural. There are currently 9 stipendiary clergy posts, several self-supporting and retired clergy and curates serving 8 benefices containing 25 parishes:

The leadership of the deanery has changed significantly recently, with the appointment of two Joint Acting Area Deans. I am responsible for the parishes around the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, including Wellesbourne and Walton d’Eivile; Reverend Barry Jackson leads the eastern rural benefices. We see the role of the deanery as supporting and enabling mission which takes place in different ways in each parish. Significant new housing developments coming across the deanery mean there is great potential for outreach to new residents, alongside that already going on amongst well established communities.

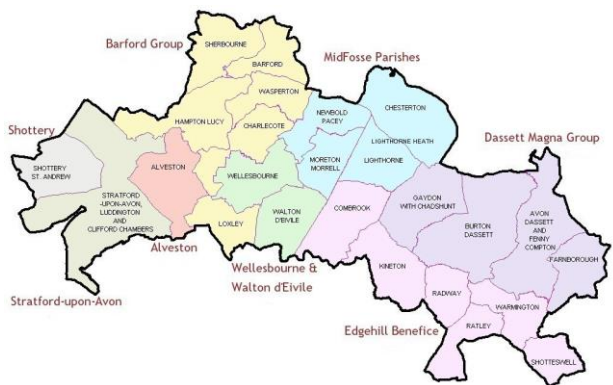
We have a vision of the love of God sweeping across the Deanery, transforming lives and communities. We are fully committed to the Diocesan Mission Purpose of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities.

There is a genuine depth of friendship among the clergy and a number meet together weekly for quiet prayer. We support one another through;

- chapter meetings over a shared lunch
- co-operation and generosity in sharing resources, including via our website www.fossedeanery.co.uk
- trying new ways of doing things as we re-imagine rural and town ministry for today

In this appointment we hope for a priest who will join us in discovering God’s good purposes for Wellesbourne and Walton d’Eivile and our diverse Deanery.

The Revd Patrick Taylor
Joint Acting Area Dean of Fosse



BACKGROUND TO POST

Wellesbourne is a large and growing village, the size of a small town (about 7,000), in mid-Warwickshire, very close to Warwick, Leamington Spa, and Stratford-upon-Avon. Some of the areas surrounding the village have been identified as prime new building land, which has brought new housing and some unrest to the village recently, but overall it is an attractive semi-rural post, with everything contained within this one large village, with a small church in Walton d'Eivile. The village has a single Cof E school, with which the church has excellent links which it would like to build on.

St Peter's Wellesbourne is in good health. They have conducted 4 congregational surveys which show a church improving in its health, morale and growth, to the extent that it is now in the top 15% or so of churches nationally in regards to health in relation to the Natural Church Development 8 Essential Qualities. The details of this are outlined below.

St Peter's have initiated and continue to support youth work in Wellesbourne (not just for the church), created two differing styles of morning services to cater for differing preferences in worship style, run ALPHA courses with people coming to faith, initiated prayer for healing in services, and created a link with the Amasango School in Grahamstown, South Africa.

Walton d'Eivile is a very small village with only about 80 people. The church is primarily used for weekly services, weddings (in conjunction with a neighbouring hotel and conference centre, and which help provide much of their revenue income), and a place of quiet (much appreciated by comments in the visitor's book). Walton has a traditional charm about it, and this is reflected in the traditional BCP approach to worship, and how they approach church life.

This post has arisen after our previous vicar of thirteen years (Reverend Kate Mier) decided, as part of a growing sense of call to support spirituality development, to spend a year at Scargill House in Yorkshire. On announcing her departure to the churches, she said: 'This is a great place to be a vicar!' We hope after reading the parish profile that you will agree with her and be prompted to apply!

ROLE SPECIFICATION

The role of this post is to lead the churches in fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose of:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities.

This will be achieved by developing eight essential qualities in the life of the church:

- **Empowering** Leadership
- **Gift-oriented** Ministry
- **Passionate** Spirituality
- **Inspiring** Worship Service
- **Holistic** Small Groups
- **Need-oriented** Outreach
- **Loving** Relationships
- **Effective** Structures

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We would welcome someone who is committed to living and delivering the eight essential qualities mentioned above, and who is:

- **Prayerful and passionate about Jesus, and a ‘pastoral evangelist’.** With Passionate Spirituality as our weakest quality, which also affects our confidence in sharing our faith, we would welcome a priest who can help us become more passionate in our relationship with Jesus and in sharing Him appropriately with others.
- **An empowering leader.** In order for the church to grow further, more leadership development will be required.
- **Enthusiastic and inspiring to the next generation.** This will include a heart for ministry within a C of E school, and also for the wider youth work in the village as a whole.
- **Open to leading a variety of worship styles.**
- **Good at forming positive relationships with a wide range of people.**

This post would be suitable for both experienced and first time incumbents.

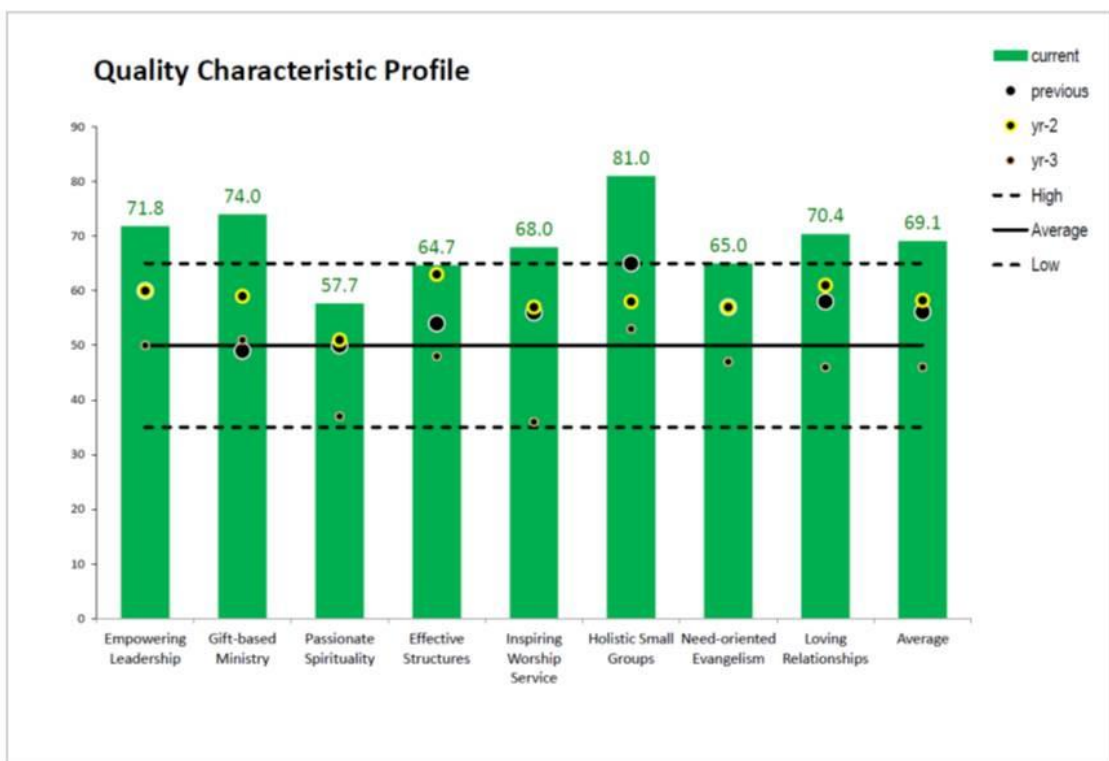
ST. PETER’S WELLESBOURNE AND THE DIOCESAN MISSION PURPOSE AND EIGHT ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF HEALTHY CHURCHES

The mission purpose of Coventry Diocese is:

- Worshipping God
- Making new disciples
- Transforming communities

St Peter’s is fully committed to this mission purpose and looks to fully develop the eight essential qualities of healthy churches. We have carried out 4 annual surveys since 2014, the latest being on the 14th June, 2017. After each survey the strategy team, a sub-committee of the PCC, has met to develop actions in response to the results. As mentioned in the ‘Background to the post’, our current results place us in the top 15% of churches nationally who have completed surveys. One of our Associate Ministers is a Healthy Churches Mentor who supports churches across the wider Diocese in applying these principles.

A brief resume of St Peter’s results is shown below:



Empowering Leadership

Empowering leadership is one of our strengths. Many lay people participate actively in St Peter's worship services and other aspects of church life. ALPHA courses have been lay led. We are currently however finding that there is a shortage of laity for some leadership roles, including Church Wardens (we only have one). We are finding it difficult to motivate lay members to accept some leadership responsibilities within the life of the church when they are often busy with various responsibilities and interests outside of church life.

Gift-based ministry

This was our weakest quality in 2016 so we have worked hard to improve it. People have been encouraged to see tasks in terms of 'teams' rather than simply 'being on a rota'. We also gave a 'Thank you!' tea for all members of these teams, sitting in their teams. This was much appreciated. We also adapted the Carlisle diocese SHAPE course, ran it in small groups and offered it to those church members who were not in small groups. One-to-one conversations following the course up with individuals on their unique giftings was offered to all participants with a positive response. Members have been encouraged by these developments, and are also now encouraged to share their testimony. This has become an important feature of the informal 'Connections' service (see sections on Inspiring Worship and Services below). Members have also shared thoughts and responses to bible passages through texts and emails within small groups.

Financial response to need has also been very positive, with voluntary giving increasing by 6% in 2015 and 10% in 2016.

Passionate Spirituality



Despite our best efforts this category has remained weakest, although the improvement over the years has been significant. We have bought another 100 bibles, and have included a weekly bible reading plan in our pew sheet. We have also given opportunities for personal testimony and have encouraged people to share thoughts on bible passages electronically. 60 people took part in our two 'Breathe 24' events, where prayer stations were set up around the church. This quality remains our weakest but in the context of overall growth in all of our qualities.



Inspiring Worship

In 2014, this was our weakest quality. It is now one of our strengths! We identified weaknesses in aspects of our worship which needed attention. We offered microphone training for readers and have installed a new audio visual (AV) system. A period of stillness for spiritual preparation after the first hymn in the Sunday 10.15 communion service was introduced.

A parallel Connections Service was started in the hall at 10.15 with bible teaching taking place largely through discussion and modern guitar led worship songs. Around 20 people attend.

Finally, the 8 a.m. communion service moved from the nave into the choir stalls.

Although the AV system has been dogged by teething problems, and there are lingering doubts in some quarters about the wisdom of offering parallel services of differing styles, there has been an overwhelmingly overall positive response to these changes.

Holistic Small Groups

Holistic Small Groups has consistently been one of our strengths. In 2014 there were only 24 people in small groups. There are now around 60 members meeting fortnightly in 7 groups. These include some from other denominations. They also serve as a next step for people completing our Alpha courses. Groups are based on the 5 “W” s of Welcome, Worship, Word, Witness and Well-being. The group coordinator hosts termly meetings to share and develop practice.



Need-Orientated Outreach

This is one of our lower scoring qualities.

In terms of its social action outreach, the church supports 3 charities on a rolling 3 year cycle:

- The Amasango School for street children in Grahamstown, South Africa.
- CMS missionaries in the Lebanon
- The Stratford upon Avon street pastors.

Church members link with many local people in need, through sheltered housing residents, the local Fosse Foodbank, Wellesbourne Youth Services (WYS) and through Christians Against Poverty (CAP). As a result needs become known and the church responds both with practical and financial support.

3 church members are leaders on the CPAS young people’s Falcon holidays each summer.

The church significantly funds Wellesbourne Youth Service (WYS), which employs a part time youth worker and some sessional workers and runs 2 youth club sessions a week which provide support for some of the most disadvantaged young people in the community.

Clergy and laity hold school assemblies in the local primary school. Another team run “Open the Book” and have acted out over 60 bible stories over the last 3 years. Our youth worker goes into the school to years 5 and 6 to make links before the children disperse at 11 to a variety of secondary schools.

We have also started a few Messy Church sessions on Saturday afternoons which have brought some different people to the church hall.



We share our good news with the community at large with pub carols and open air worship at Christmas and Easter in the shopping precinct and around the village, and a ‘songs of praise’ style Service at the Street Fair. New residents to the village are given welcome packs.

We run 2 or 3 Alpha courses a year and there are usually a couple of participants who become Christians or have their faith renewed. We have also run 2 Youth Alpha courses.

Other outreach activities include:

- Welcome Lunch
- Men’s and Women’s curry nights
- Little Angels
- The Going Out Group
- Community fund
- Children’s Society
- Friends of St. Peter’s
- Baptism visitors
- Marriage preparation
- The church administers, and is a trustee for ‘The Boyse Foundation’ which is an educational trust
- Mothers’ Union and MU2



It is felt however that despite some individuals having a gift for evangelism, overall as a church we are not good at sharing our faith openly either within or outside church. It would be helpful if our next vicar had a gift of nurturing us to be more confident in sharing our faith and helping people into Christian faith.

Loving Relationships

The church motto is: 'Inspired by Jesus to forgive, encourage and serve'. We have tried to live this out in practice. Our 2017 survey reflects a church with more joy and laughter than average, which is encouraging! We think we are a fun place to be!

More people are meeting in small groups. More people are sharing their togetherness.

We aim to be a welcoming church with a broad spectrum of Christian belief and practice. We are genuinely 'Anglican' in attempting to provide for the whole village. We are still however primarily elderly and white, though our outreach work through Messy Church, Foodbank, CAP and the WYS has led to some younger and less affluent families coming to church.

Effective Structures

St Peter's is well-organised. There are 2 core teams organizationally - the PCC and the MST (Ministry Staff Team). The PCC meets 8 times a year and manages finance, fabric, relationships with the school and Youth Services, and responding to the eight EQs surveys. PCC meetings are undertaken well, with differences of opinions expressed but not harshly.

The MST (vicar, 2 self-supporting Associate Ministers, 2 lay leaders) meets weekly sharing pastoral information, progress and planning the next week. 2 members share the progress in their areas and talk about their own journey with God.

Our organisational weaknesses lie in explaining goals to the whole church, and ensuring that volunteers are trained for their roles. Some may view us as slow to innovate, but we think, given our attempts to be inclusive and be for the whole village, that we have actually made several important changes to how we do things and are willing to continue to make further changes which will help the church be healthier and grow.

THE PARISH

History of St. Peter's Church

It is thought that a church has existed on this site since Saxon times and the first recorded reference to the village is that in 802 a Witan was held in "Walesburnam" by king Burgred of Mercia. While it is assumed that any Saxon church would have been wooden, the first stone church was built here in the late eleventh or twelfth century and is attributed to Henri de Newburgh, one of William the Conqueror's knights, to whom the Manor of Wellesbourne was given. St. Peter's was the mother church of Walton and Charlecote.

Wellesbourne was once two villages – Wellesbourne Mountford and Wellesbourne Hastings, divided by the River Dene. In 1947 the two parishes were merged and are now considered to be a single village.

Location

Wellesbourne sits on the A429 in the county of Warwickshire in the West Midlands region of England, and is located around seven miles south of Warwick and five miles east of Stratford-upon-Avon. Nearby are the villages of Walton and Kineton. It is 5 miles to Junction 15 of the M40.

The parish is in the southern part of the Diocese of Coventry bounded by the Mid-Fosse Parishes and the parishes of Charlecote, Hampton Lucy, Loxley, Walton D'Eivile, Alveston and Wasperton.

Population

Although many still like to think of Wellesbourne as a large village, with the increase in new housing and industrial development, it is increasingly regarded as a small commuter town servicing its larger neighbours such as Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Leamington Spa and Banbury, and a little further afield the cities of Coventry and Birmingham. Its current population is approximately 7000.



The core demographic is predominantly white British, with an increasing number of retired and elderly as well as young families.

The village has a dental practice and medical centre. The work on a new and larger medical centre is due to start soon. There are several sheltered housing establishments for the elderly.

We are well provided with shops, with a bank, post office, chemist, two supermarkets (the Co-op and Sainsbury's), as well as many smaller local and family run businesses including barbers, hairdressers, hardware store, butcher's, baker's and a weekly fish van.

There is also an outdoor market, held weekly on the Wellesbourne Airfield.

There are two pubs, a variety of sports club and a newly opened Sports and Community Centre.

There is a Church of England Primary School which has close links with St. Peter's (see Section on School Links below) and secondary schools in Kineton, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick and Leamington Spa.

Local Issues

In June, St. Peter's Church was notified that the Coventry Diocese was considering selling glebe land on Kineton road, currently used for allotments, and relocating the allotments to two new sites in the village together with facilities such as water supplies, toilets, car parking and a perimeter fence. The sale of this land for new houses would enable the diocese to continue to support the work of churches and clergy in the Coventry Diocese. However, the allotments have been in use on this site for 175 years and not surprisingly this news has been met with some local dismay and hostility, which received national media attention.

St Peter's was given an opportunity to make representations on any 'pastoral considerations' related to this proposal and in view of the current climate favouring new housing, Wellesbourne's emerging Neighbourhood Plan which allows for the concept of housing on the allotments and the offer of the two replacement sites, the PCC have decided, after careful and prayerful consideration, not to object to this development, in principle, as long as the needs of the current allotment holders are fully met. This potential development is on hold pending further investigation by the Diocese, including the potential financial benefits against the other less tangible benefits to the community. This is expected to take some months.

St Peter's PCC published a press release in June and was quoted extensively by the media.

BUILDINGS

The Church



The church is in good condition, apart from a problem of damp along the west wall, which is being addressed.

The church of St. Peter's is within the Wellesbourne conservation area and is grade 2* listed. It underwent a major restoration in 1848, in memory of Sir John Mordaunt. Hewins of Stratford made the organ in 1885. In 1981, two more bells were cast to make a full ring of eight and a west screen was erected in 1972 to provide a ringing chamber.

The Church consists of a nave with North and South aisles, chancel and a vicar's vestry with a choir vestry over. There is a porch on the south side and a cellar with an external access. The roof is of plain clay tiles with some slate over the south aisle and has recently been re-roofed. The Lady Chapel roof has been recovered in Evlon as a result of theft of the lead. The walls are in a variety of stones and the floor is stone apart from the South aisle being timber boarding and the chancel having Victorian quarry tiles.

In the last few years, in response to the need for a more flexible space, the North Aisle pews have been replaced with upholstered chairs. The North Aisle has been carpeted in the same blue colour as these chairs and the rear of the Nave and the Nave and Chancel Aisles.

There is a toilet, a large store cupboard and a kitchen at the back of the church. In recent years new lighting and heating systems have been installed and in 2016 the installation of the new AV system was completed. This year a new cupboard was constructed near the organ to house music stands etc.



Following an identified need to bring the church building into greater use, and to connect more with the community, the church has been used for a variety of purposes: Tea and Taizé services; work groups; prayer and bible study groups; community concerts; U3A monthly meetings; Parish Council consultation meetings; Bible exhibitions; art exhibitions and flower festivals as well as the normal church services.

The Church Centre



Completed in the 1980s, as a result of a legacy, a new Church Centre was built comprising a large room and a smaller room on the ground floor together with a Parish Office, kitchen and toilet accommodation. The upstairs include two small rooms with skylights.

The Church Centre is in good condition and very widely used. It provides a wonderful resource for both the parish and the village community. The church office is based at its hub. Well over 30 activities take place there on a regular basis. Ten U3A groups meet there ranging from local history to Pilates. There are at least 7 groups whose primary purpose is encouraging fitness and a further 4 /5 musical activities. The Youth service meets there twice a week and the mums' and toddlers' play group, "Little Angels". The Friends of St Peter's hold their fund raising brunches on the premises and once a month there is a community film show. It is a very well utilised and much valued facility!



The Church Centre is a valuable asset, providing an important source of income for St. Peter's and is kept to a very high standard.

Graveyard

In 2011 the graveyard was extended to the west to provide burial space and further space for cremated ashes to be buried and a Garden of Remembrance has since been created. This was in response to the urgent need to cope with the requirements of a much larger village.



A Memorial wall on the north boundary of the churchyard had also been erected, where ashes of those cremated have been buried. Whilst there is space for the names of partners of loved ones to be added, there is no room for new names.

There is a Crematorium about 3 miles outside Wellesbourne.

Since it is understood that the new churchyard extension must remain a 'countryside graveyard' which does not allow for the planting of flowers on the graves, families wishing to bury their loved ones or their ashes are given a leaflet explaining these conventions to avoid any misunderstandings that may arise.

Vicarage



Built in the 1980s, the vicarage is an attractive, modern family house. On the ground floor there is an entrance lobby leading to office/study and through a separate door to a hall and living accommodation of cloakroom, dining room and through sitting room, with open fireplace, which can be separated by sliding doors, kitchen and utility room.

Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, 3 double and 1 single; a family bathroom and separate toilet and basin.

Outside: garage; pleasant garden and adjoining paddock leading down to the river.



The vicarage has been used to host home group(s), alpha, youth alpha, welcome lunches, summer teas and other activities.

SERVICES

The pattern of worship and prayer at St Peter's seeks to cater for a wide range of people.

Sundays

- 8am quiet traditional Communion
- 10.15am Family Communion, with prayers for healing (or non-Eucharistic 'Faith in 50 Minutes' once a month, where church building worshippers experience less formal worship)
- 10.15am Connections: an informal, contemporary worship in Church Centre (Café style family worship on first Sundays, which is particularly attractive to baptism families and other young families)
- 10.15am 5th Sunday: Together Celebration Worship events to gather all our congregations together
- 6.00pm Traditional evening prayer/choral evensong occasionally replaced by a topical discussion series, with healing on 5th Sunday



Midweek

- Thursday 9.00am morning prayer and fellowship
- First Friday 6.00pm prayer hour then pub meal

Home Communion is taken monthly to residents at a sheltered housing complex as well as the housebound and frail elderly people at their request.



Our worship is supported by a Director of Music and organist, who leads the St Peter's Singers, and also by groups of musicians and singers.

Prayer for healing is offered at most 10.15am Sunday services in Church throughout the year, with at least one person receiving prayer most weeks. It has been offered occasionally at 8am and monthly at 6.00pm and was the focus of one Faith

in 50 Minutes service.

Many people contribute to our worship as sacristans, sidesmen, welcomers, refreshment servers, readers, intercessors, healing prayer ministers, chalice assistants, flower arrangers and church cleaners.

A Prayer Chain comprising about 20 members of St Peter's is well used.

In 2016 we conducted 12 baptisms, 3 weddings and 28 funerals (20 at the crematorium, 8 in church).

Electoral Roll

At the end of December 2017 St Peter's Electoral Roll stood at 146.

SCHOOL AND YOUTH LINKS

C of E Primary School

A page summarising the work of the DBE with schools can be found here: http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document_library/UDR01414.pdf.

St. Peter's has a strong positive relationship with the local C of E primary school through its many two-way interactions: clergy led assemblies; monthly prayer meetings at school for parents; displays in church from school; 'Open the Book' team from church performing bible stories; shared planning and evaluation of the impact of Collective Worship; Christian Foundation Group; Fayres and Fetes to name just a few.

As the Head says:

“Our Christian values and links to St. Peter’s are an integral part of our school life and vision. Our ‘Outstanding’ SIAMS judgement is testament to the support the vicar has given to the spiritual, moral and social development of the pupils and the wider community, where worship and faith are celebrated and valued.”

“Our children say that a vicar:

‘needs to be trustworthy and understanding,’ ‘considerate, kind, helpful and loving because no one wants a vicar that is mean and grumpy!’”

The incumbent will hold the ex officio Foundation Governor position.

Wellesbourne Youth Services



St Peter’s Church Wellesbourne Youth Services was formed by St Peter’s Church in April 2012 when Warwickshire County Council ceased to provide youth services in the village due to funding cuts. The services are managed by a management committee made up of local professionals who share a common desire to deliver the aims of WYS - to help the young people of Wellesbourne (age 9 – 18 years) grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society through the provision of a range of activities that develop their social, physical, mental and spiritual capacities, promoting self-worth, independence, a sense of responsibility and respect for others, and are delivered with an underlying Christian ethos.

- WYS has grown by 31% since February and has record numbers on its books.
- This year, work has included setting up and implementing a successful young leaders programme
- During the Summer break we shall be holding a Survival Skills residential for our older members and a two day Summer holiday programme for our younger members
- Warwickshire County Council's Cyber Crime Team are piloting a Cyber Crime Youth advocate scheme with WYS due to start in September



ECUMENICAL LINKS

St. Peter's has strong ties with the Methodist church in Wellesbourne often coming together in shared worship in each other's churches and joining in Courses and Talks. As their Local Preacher says:

"The Methodist Church in Wellesbourne has welcomed increasing opportunities to share in Sunday Worship with St Peter's. We have also been happy to be included in House groups and Lent groups and to do what we can for Christian Aid week. We are an aging congregation and find the support and welcome of our local Parish Church a great encouragement."

Churches Together in Wellesbourne (St Peter's, Methodists and Roman Catholics) shared the following worship and outreach together:

- **Taizé-style services** offering a time of quiet prayer, music and reflection on alternate months. St Peter's Church is now the venue for all services.
- **Sheltered Housing Worship Services** An enthusiastic team from all three Wellesbourne churches led a simple worship service in Lawrence Mackie House once a month.
- **Christian Aid Week:** The Methodist Church and St Peter's Church delivered giving envelopes to all homes in Wellesbourne, and held a joint Christian Aid Service.

ADMINISTRATION

Much of the work of the Church is done from the Church Office at the Church Centre. The administration is overseen by our Parish Administrator over 14 hours a week.

St Peter's uses a number of communications tools:

- A weekly pew sheet, reflections and forthcoming activities
- The Church website **www.stpeterswellesbourne.org.uk** which is updated regularly and new information added. The website gets 10-15 visits a day.
- **The Wellesbourne and Walton News (WWN)**, which is delivered monthly by a team of volunteers to every house in Wellesbourne and Walton. The WWN web pages have 30 visits each month.
- **Facebook pages:**
 - Connections www.facebook.com/connectionslink
 - Jesus in Wellesbourne www.facebook.com/groups/1656009834672588/
 - Breathe24 www.facebook.com/Breathe24/
 - ThyKingdomCome www.facebook.com/tkciw/

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

The table below summarises our financial situation in 2016. The full sets of accounts for the last three years are available on request.

General Income	£72,933
Planned Giving	£54,331
Gift-Aid	£13,353
Fundraising (e.g. fetes)	£5,684
Grants	£5,732
General Expenditure	£105,011
Parish Share Contribution	£54,693
Unrestricted Reserves	£84,120
Restricted Reserves	£81,611
Any special considerations, future expenditure etc.	none

General income includes £18k Church Centre Rental Income and £26k bequests.

Grants received in 2016 are £1,200 for WWN and £100 towards Clock service from Parish Council (should continue in 2017). £2,500 Rural Dean Admin support (will not continue in 2017). WYS received grants of £1,932 in 2016 from Warwick County Council and Stratford District Council.



General expenditure in 2017 includes £13k on the AV system (final instalment) and £6k on draining and resurfacing the church path by the War Memorial.

St Peter's Friends fundraising paid for the repair of one of the stained glass windows.

Early in 2017 St Peter's received a large bequest (£67k). The Church is prayerfully considering the best way to use this money for the mission of the church.

St Peter's clergy expenses are met in full.

Wellesbourne and Walton together contribute £61,043 as their parish shares to the Diocese (Wellesbourne £54,693, Walton £6,350) Net clergy cost (after fees) - £49,032 (per 2016 budget). Therefore the benefice is a net contributor to the Deanery and Diocese to the tune of approx. £12,000

St James Walton d'Eivile

PARISH PROFILE



Empowering Leadership

We are a very small community and an even smaller collection of regular churchgoers joined by a number from other parishes who like the Prayer Book services, average attendances matching up to those in churches in larger communities. Evensong on the first Sunday in the month is particularly popular with attendances at the last two being 25 and 31. Walton Hall does have a license to hold weddings but we find it encouraging that a number of couples opt to be married in the Church, holding their reception at the Hall. 25 are booked to be married in the Church in 2018. They attend services beforehand and are appreciative of the welcome they receive.

Fortunately, we have volunteers who help in different ways – some are willing to do anything practical, but don't want to take responsibility and vice versa. In the past the farmers, a retired bank manager and surveyor would act as churchwardens and treasurers who served for a long time and Sir Richard Hamilton who was the patron and a deeply committed lover of the Church and the BCP, served for about 30 years. Ken Olorenshaw, the carpenter, lived in the village and gave his life to serving the Church as Churchwarden, Server, general maintenance man, fund raiser etc. for 27 years and since he retired a band of women in the sixties to eighties range has rallied round to take on his many roles.

One Churchwarden is sadly moving from the area but our very busy hon. Treasurer who already does so much in other ways, including carrying out an exacting job, has agreed to take on, so with Elizabeth Hamilton still serving after over twenty years, we do still have two Churchwardens. However, because there are so few of us, discussions often take place 'after Church' in between PCC meetings.

If new people come to share our worship, they very often, in the fullness of time, volunteer to help 'the team' but we are wary of approaching them too soon for fear of putting them off.

Gift-Oriented Ministry

Some years ago we had a Festival of Talents when members displayed their skills and achievements - a carpenter, a garage owner, a photographer, two book writers, a maker of eighteenth century costumes, a confectioner and florist, a (male) embroiderer. Most of these have used their talents unstintingly to help the Church in a number of ways.

Passionate Spirituality

We do our best to live the Christian life. Two or three have carried out the intercessions at monthly evensongs, but this has now come down to just one person. People have their private prayer life but the Sunday services crystallise our feelings and give us strength for the coming week.

Inspiring Worship

All services are carried out according to the Book of Common Prayer. The readings are the same as at Wellesbourne for the benefit of ministers who are taking services at both Wellesbourne and Walton. The regular churchgoers are unanimous in expressing their preference for the BCP and some join us from other parishes for this reason. It does just seem to fit in with the building and its traditions. There are printed sheets for the Communion services and the Minister gives out page numbers when prayer books are used for Evensong and Matins. We are anxious that services (and sermons) are not too long mainly for the sake of the young couples but also for ourselves.

We are not altogether averse to change and experimentation – a previous Rector did experiment with standing behind the altar and facing the congregation at Communion but this did not seem right in the setting of our Church.

The organists choose the hymns and sometimes these are not familiar to the young couples who come prior to their wedding and this is something we will work on. Occasionally if an organist is not available we have to sing unaccompanied, and have been complimented on our efforts – because there are few of us we do all sing out and speak out well in the responses – none of the C of E mumbling!

We have some visitors from Walton Hall Hotel and on the whole they react well to the BCP saying they enjoy participating in it, even if they would not necessarily like to have it in their churches at home.

As far as we know the wedding couples do not complain about the form of service and although they mostly do not come back regularly after the day, some do visit us from time to time, and bring their children back for baptism – one couple who emigrated to Australia immediately after their wedding, brought each of their children back to be baptised here. Another couple who are passionate about the Prayer Book have continued to come from time to time from Solihull for services with their now teenage sons and they still support our money raising concerts and Fairs and come to the Carol Service. Sometimes the wedding couples bring their children and we have a box of toys available and it is good seeing the children brought up to the altar rail for a blessing.

Our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols is very popular and this Christmas we have had to turn people away for safety reasons. We had a full house with over 26 for Communion next day when we were joined by visitors staying at the Hall.

Holistic Small Groups

We have found that in the past that small groups do not work too well in our case but we are lucky in that anyone who wants to can join in groups and activities in Wellesbourne.

Need-Oriented Outreach

We find it more difficult these days to make contact with local residents and we would welcome a Minister who could help us with this. All the farms and cottages are owned by the Walton Estate and are let out. Many have had a 'make-over' and attract a higher rent. Whereas in the past tenants have tended to settle down and become part of the community, nowadays they often come for only a short stay while house hunting. We do try to bring people in by giving tea parties in the Old Rectory garden, but although these seem to be appreciated and enjoyed, sadly they don't lead to churchgoing. Modern life seems to militate against it – the pattern of Sundays has changed so much and there are so many other attractions, sporting events etc.

Loving Relationships

It was agreed that we have a good deal of laughter in the Church and we are very lucky that everyone in our small team gets on well. We make a point of welcoming people, particularly the young couples who come to be married and we have had compliments from them in this respect, but we are wary of being over effusive.

All of us are motivated by a common love of the very special building and its rural surroundings and luckily that there don't seem to be any resentments. We are very independent, and would resent too much interference but we do get a great deal of support from Wellesbourne and its ministering team, also from the Parish Administrator.

Functional Structures

We have four PCC meetings a year held in the afternoons and the atmosphere is amicable with few disagreements, and the agenda covers more than financial issues.

THE PARISH

History

Walton's history dates back at least to the Iron Age. As in Wellesbourne, there were originally two villages on either side of the river, Walton Mauduit on the site of the present day village and Walton d'Eivile, which had thirty three houses in medieval times but is now a lost village site. The Walton Estate with its farmlands, small village and magnificent woodlands is owned by descendants of the Mordaunts who first came to the valley in the sixteenth century, and passed into the Hamilton family through Sir Charles Mordaunt's daughter Irene who married Sir Robert Hamilton early in the 20th century, both baronetcies dating back to the 17th century.

The present day village, which consists of sixteen Victorian cottages, a farm, Old Agents' House, Old Forge, Old Laundry, Keeper's Cottage, was built on the site of the old Walton Mauduit and was occupied mainly by Estate workers until after World War II. Walton Hall, a Victorian mansion built on the site of earlier manor houses to the design of Sir Gilbert Scott, was the scene of much social activity and was notorious for a scandal involving Sir Charles Mordaunt's first wife who had an affair with the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. It was occupied by the widow of Sir Charles Mordaunt until 1947 when all the furniture was sold. She had lived in a wing of the house throughout the war when it was commandeered by the army but after her death in 1947 the army took over the whole house. In 1961 when Lady Mordaunt's grandson inherited the Estate, the army lease came to an end. The house was leased by a girls' school which used the Church for its assemblies, and was subsequently taken by a time share concern. It is now run as a hotel and conference centre, and receptions are held there after the weddings which take place in the Church.

The parish church of Walton d'Eivile is situated near the Hall on the site of an older building of which only a Norman font remains. After the village became deserted the Church fell into disuse, but was rebuilt on the same site in 1750 and extended in 1843, there being large congregations of Estate employees and other local people throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The parish continued to have its own Rector until after World War II and in the war army chaplains helped with the services.

After the death of Sir Richard Hamilton in 2001 the Estate was put in Trust for members of the family and his son Andrew inherited the baronetcy. He lives in Walton and runs the Estate and is on the PCC, taking a particular interest in maintenance of the building. The Church is situated in the Sir Richard Hamilton Will Trust land and the Trustees, who include Elizabeth Lady Hamilton, are the patrons – it was presumably for this reason that she carried out the presentation at the installation of Kate Mier, although the right of presentation alternates with the Lord Chancellor who is the patron of Wellesbourne.

Location

The parish is adjacent to Wellesbourne and remains 'unspoilt'. The last cottage was built in 1890 and was always referred to by older residents as 'the new house'. There is a good round walk past the village and Walton Hall – it is only partly a right of way. This is much appreciated by residents of Wellesbourne, especially dog walkers.

Population

Population: about eighty including outlying farms.

Schools: well rated C of E school at Wellesbourne. One child there, two at Ettington School, one at Stratford Grammar, another at a private school.

Pubs etc: A nineteenth century parson writing about Walton Parish in glowing terms stated that he was thankful there was no 'ale house' and so no drunkenness as in Wellesbourne and as a result no open sin 'nor, brethren, should there be ...'. In past times when only a handful of people owned cars, Walton had its Post Office and village shop, but now there are two or three cars outside every cottage with easy access to the two supermarkets in Wellesbourne. In the past century Walton Farm employed over twenty people. Now it is just the farmer and his family and occasional workers.

Walton Hall Hotel: this has been through various guises since the army lease ended. It was a girl's school and then a hotel and timeshare and it has now become a hotel and conference centre. The Church has enjoyed a good relationship with the various managements and we have been able to use the lawn in front of the Church for our functions. Visitors do come to services but not so much as in timeshare days when it was popular with Americans who loved the old service.

BUILDINGS

The Church (see above in the history section) was built in the eighteenth century on the site of an older church and was extended in 1843 with a sanctuary and gallery. In the sanctuary there is a magnificent stained glass window of the Crucifixion by Clayton and Bell installed by Lady Mordaunt in memory of her husband, Sir Charles, in the early 20th century. The building was re-roofed and redecorated in 1989 and re-wired soon after with overhead lights installed in the ceiling and new electric radiators. Since then there has been only minor maintenance, with a problem of damp in the sanctuary which has improved with better ventilation in the summer. The stonework could prove to be a problem in the future, but on the whole the building is in good repair.

The old pews have been replaced with more modern chairs, which apart from looking better and being more comfortable, give a wider aisle for weddings and make the Church more flexible for concerts, quiet days and Fairs. Railings have been installed by the sanctuary step and up to the gallery and by outside steps and hard mesh was put down under gravel for wheelchairs. There is a portable ramp. As there is only one exit we have to limit numbers to 120. A storage hut and toilet has been built in the shrubbery alongside the churchyard by permission of the Walton Estate Will Trust.

The St James's Singers, who perform in St Mary's Warwick and elsewhere, use the Church for rehearsals. A summer concert is given by the Coten Singers and Ensemble followed by tea and a Sung Evensong at 5.50 and the afternoon is popular for the music, the setting, the tea and the evening service. There are other concerts, and occasional lectures – and history groups have tied in a visit to Chedham's Yard in Wellesbourne. The Christmas Fair in November with stalls ranging from books to cosmetics, jewellery etc. and refreshments served by the Church which also runs a raffle, goes very well in the setting.

When there were more children in the village we put on dramatic performances for several years – one with a Harry Potter theme, one an imaginary journey to Santiago de Compostela which involved the Larkins family and tied in with *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and another based on D.H.Lawrence's *The Rainbow*. We were helped in this by Cicely Berry who lives in village – she is a renowned speech expert based at the RSC.

The graveyard: there is still some room in the churchyard but new plots are limited to those who have a close connection with the place, and there is also a section for interment of ashes with a few allowed who were very involved when Walton Hall was timeshare. There is a plan of the graves. The mowing and strimming is carried out by the Old Rectory gardener as part of his contract there.

The graves say something of the history, with Mordaunt and Hamilton family graves and those of past agents and Bird the butler, faithful servant of the family including the time of the great scandal, and other estate employees.

The history is well documented, Elizabeth Hamilton having written several books about the family including *The Warwickshire Scandal* and it is one of the attractions of the place that the link with the past is very real. It is a place, as T. S. Eliot put it “Where prayer has been valid”.

Vicarage

The Vicar lives in the Wellesbourne Vicarage and the Walton Rectory reverted to the Estate and has been the Hamilton family home, although Sir Andrew now lives in the Dene House with his family and the Rectory is now lived in by Elizabeth Hamilton. PCC and some social events are held there.

SERVICES

The services are as above with lay readers usually taking Matins and Evensong. Services and weddings are taken by a rota of the Vicar, associate Minister and retired clergy – sometimes a bit of a rush if they are officiating beforehand in Wellesbourne but it is a good team and we are very grateful to them.

There are usually two or three baptisms, usually the children of couples who have married here and a few funerals of local residents or people who have been connected with the estate and village in the past.

The average congregation for morning services is 14 – 18 and for evensong 20.

SCHOOL LINKS

At present we have no representative on the Wellesbourne Governors (although Sir Andrew has been a governor until recently and others have also served). Only one child in the village and two from the Jubilee Lodge attend the school. The Walton School closed down in the twenties in the last century.

ADMINISTRATION

The Parish Office is situated in the Church Centre in Wellesbourne with a Parish Administrator who is very helpful and carries out the administrative work for the weddings. We do not have a web site but greatly value the **Wellesbourne and Walton News** which is excellent and effective medium for publicising our services and money raising events.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Full sets of accounts for the last three years are available on request.

General Income	20,653
Planned Giving	(1,247)
Gift-Aid	----
Fundraising (e.g. fetes)	1,659
Grants	----
General Expenditure	20,166
Parish Share Contribution	6,350
Unrestricted Reserves	20,634
Restricted Reserves	----
Any special considerations, future expenditure etc.?	----

Clergy expenses are met in full.

The above table shows that we are in a good financial state at present and we realise there is a need to help others in a less happy state. We are very much helped financially by the weddings but if this source should dry up we could be in trouble ourselves like other small parishes. For fifty years a successful Village Fete was held at Walton Hall, the ideal location, but this was recently discontinued for lack of enough helpers and we rely on weddings, Christmas Fair and concerts.

Following the departure of our Rector Kate Mier in search of new challenge after thirteen very successful years in the parishes of Wellesbourne and Walton we have given considerable thought to her successor who we hope will be able to follow up her work in keeping the weekly services going, encouraging young couples to be married here and maintaining the peaceful atmosphere of the Church itself which as the many comments in the Visitors' Book tell us, is very much appreciated.

FURTHER DETAILS

Further details and application form are available from http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/vacancies/current_vacancies or Assistant to the Archdeacons, matt.robinson@covcofe.org (024 7652 1342).

Informal conversations welcome: Archdeacon Missioner, The Venerable Morris Rodham on 07506 731 892 (morris.rodham@covcofe.org), or Acting Area Dean, the Reverend Patrick Taylor on 01789 508 155 (patrick@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Closing date for applications: Noon, Friday 23rd Feb 2018
Interviews: Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th March 2018
Wellesbourne is a Lord Chancellor's appointment.
Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.