

The United Benefice of Peasedown St John with Wellow

The Parish of Wellow

St Julian's Church Plan

2005

1. Background

1.1 General description of the Parish

The Parish of Wellow covers more than just the village. To the west, near Peasedown, is the hamlet of White Ox Mead, to the south it includes part of Stony Littleton and, to the north-east, Twinhoe. Wellow itself is a small, ancient village (population 511) nestled on the side of a river valley some 4 miles south of Bath. It is among the prettiest villages in Somerset. It has changed substantially over the last 20 or 30 years from a predominantly farming community to a mainly professional one. There is a thriving C of E Primary School and active village hall in addition to the magnificent and dominant church. The village has a shop run mainly by volunteers and a playground, sportsfield and village pub, the Fox and Badger, in the centre. The village is on a bus route into Bath. Recently many young families have moved into Wellow. Manor Close includes some warden controlled sheltered housing. There are plenty of good walks from and around the village including one to the nearby Long Barrow. The village has many visitors.

1.2 St Julian's Church - A brief synopsis

The present church is adjacent to the main road and was believed to have been built by Sir Thomas Hungerford, first Speaker of the House of Commons, and was consecrated in 1372 but it is likely that there has been a church on the present site since Roman days. Pevsner described the church as a "proud little altered stylistically very uniform church, masculine rather than refined". It consists of a nave, north and south aisles, western tower, two chapels and a modern (1890) chancel and vestry and a fine tall tower.

A major restoration took place in 1952 following an appeal launched by the Dean of Westminster and the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Particular noteworthy are:-

- the broad nave with four bays of beautiful octagonal piers, the clerestory above and the magnificent arch braced tie beam roof carried on corbels carved as angels;
- the rood screen was completed in about 1430 but later the rood loft and gallery were removed to be replaced by the present replicas in 1952;
- the Hungerford Chapel in the north-east corner of the church with its superb gilt embossed timber roof, the ornate 1614 tomb of Dorothy Popham and memorials to the Hungerford family and traces of a 15th Century fresco;
- the font which dates from about 1250 with a rare Jacobean cover raised above it dating from 1623;

- the tower has a bell chamber with a fine toned heavy peal of six bells, cast between 1725 and 1838; the tenor weighs 21 cwt.;
- a new pipe organ was installed in the late 1980s and located on the roof loft.

The building seats up to 200 and is in good condition for its age. Thanks to a recent appeal the church is now warmer than it was but medieval pews provide rather uncomfortable seating for the congregation. There is no lavatory at present.

The churchyard is closed and the present cemetery is about a mile out of the village on the road leading to Peasedown St John.

There are no longer any chapels of other denominations within the village.

2. Current Situation

2.1 How would we honestly describe things in Wellow Parish at the moment?

- Strong Community - evidenced by:
 - Village Shop - run by volunteers
 - A monthly newsletter
 - WADS (Wellow Amateur Dramatic Society)
 - Horticultural Society
 - Monthly meeting of the Women's Institute
 - Regular Quiz nights held in the Pub (The Fox and Badger)
 - Art Club
 - Mums and Toddlers Group (Wrigglers)
 - Magic Box
 - Monthly Lunch Club for the older members of Wellow
- Active Parish Council - currently putting together their own Parish Plan
- Well attended Parish School - Many coming from Peasedown St. John
- Influx of new young families into the village

2.2 How would we describe things at St Julian's at the moment?

- A small (10-12) loyal core but with a large (30-50) potentially interested fringe.
- The fringe consists of people who live in the Parish:
 - But worship elsewhere.
 - Come to Occasional Services e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance.
 - Come to special Children's events e.g. Mothering Sunday, Summer event, Christmas and Easter
 - Come to Baptism and Wedding services.
 - Come to special events held in the church e.g. Concerts etc

- Help the church financially but who do not worship regularly
- Ring the Bells.

- Sense of Expectancy
- 2.3 What are the current issues?

- Encouraging the fringe to become core.
- Making the church more user-friendly and accessible

3. Key Lessons Learnt

3.1 What has worked?

- Special Children Events e.g.
 - Mothering Sunday
 - Christingle
 - Summer Journey
 - Easter Journey
- Festivals e.g.
 - Flower Festival
- Special Events e.g.
 - Wellow Weekend
- Other village activities hosted by the Church.
- Getting more people involved in services e.g. School Choir and Benefice Choir
- Short interactive Sermons
- Prayer Rota for the Sunday Services

3.2 What has not worked?

- Peasedown and Wellow Churches working together
- Formal Family Services
- Stereotyped services with no imagination or variety

4. Key Factors for Success

4.1 What do we have to have in place for the Church to grow

- i. To have regular Sunday Worship that is both accessible and promotes individual spiritual growth and development.
- ii. To develop and grow a ministry towards families.
- iii. To help promote Christian community in the village
- iv. To provide pastoral support and training
- v. To have a comfortable environment in which to worship:
 - a. Improve the seating
 - b. Provide loos and a kitchen

- c. Provide an area for Children's Ministry
- d. Provide a sound system

5. Major Challenges

What are our one or two major challenges for this year?

- To start the process of encouraging the fringe to become core
- To start a process of engagement with the wider not yet believing members of the village
- To produce a comfortable environment in which to worship

What are our one or two major challenges for the long term?

- To develop a vibrant Christian Community within the village - where Christian values are seen to be at the core of individual lives.

6. Objectives for 2005

What do we plan to achieve in 2005?

- To introduce a new pattern of Sunday Worship that is both accessible and promotes individual spiritual growth and development.
- To grow the number of regular attendees at our Sunday Morning Worship from 12 to 30.
- To introduce initiatives that will actively encourage families to participate in Sunday Worship
- To significantly improve our worship environment
- To Increase our covenanted giving.
- To encourage regular tax efficient giving
- To pilot a newcomers/home group
- To introduce a least one initiative that will seek to draw the not yet believing members of the village into Christian Community.
- To improve communication of church activities within the village

7. Plan for 2005

7.1 Introduce a Prayer meeting on Tuesday's and Wednesday's from 12.30pm - 1pm in the church at which the vicar will be present and members of the parish are invited from w/c 6th March 2005.

The format of this time will be a short 3 minute thought on a verse of scripture followed by a time of prayer.

7.2 To significantly improve the worship environment in St Julian's

In close consultation with Alan Hardiman (Church Architect) to look at ways:

- Of improving the seating comfort of the medieval pews.
- Of providing a sound system
- Of providing toilet facilities
- Of providing kitchen facilities

7.3 Introduce a new pattern of Sunday Worship from Sunday 6th March 2005

Sunday Of Month	Old Time	Old Format	NEW TIME	NEW FORMAT
1st	11.15	Family Service	11.00	All-age Worship - Child friendly Children stay for the whole service 45 min in length
2nd	11.15	Mattins	11.00	All-age Worship -10 min Sermon Activities provided for the children Circa 1 Hour in length
3rd	9.30	Said Eucharist	11.00	All-age Worship - 10 min Sermon Activities provided for the children Holy Communion Just over 1 hour in length
4th	11.15	Sung Eucharist	11.00	All-age Worship - 10 min Sermon Activities provided for the children Circa 1 Hour in length
5th	11.15	Said Eucharist	11.00	All-age Worship - 10 min Sermon Activities provided for the children Circa 1 Hour in length

Other changes will include:

- Formation of a new first Sunday All Age Worship Committee, who would meet monthly to evaluate the previous first Sunday service and to plan the coming first Sunday service. This committee would attempt to get representation from families and different age groups
- All services to be held in the Nave (dependent on numbers).
- Cassalb and Stole to be worn for Holy Communion but otherwise dog collar, jacket and trousers.
- Introduction of a monthly Birthday Spot at the first Sunday All-age Worship
- On the 1st Sunday an Action song will be included for the children and the

talk will be child friendly and no longer than 5 minutes.

- Sermons on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays to follow a series rather than the Lectionary.
- Sung Worship will mainly be focused on traditional well known hymns although new worship songs will be added to the repertoire slowly.
- Holy Communion to be celebrated on the people side of the rood screen in the Nave.
- Coffee to be regularly offered at the end of the service.

7.4 Organise a number of social events so that the new incumbent can get to meet a large number of the Parish

Each member of the PCC will be asked to host a social event e.g. a coffee morning, a drinks party, a supper party inviting their geographically close neighbours to meet the new vicar. These social events will run between February and June 2005

7.5 Continue to build a Christian Community

Encourage these same people to host a Summer and Winter Event e.g. Maybe a picnic in the Summer and an opportunity to sing carols with mince pies at Christmas.

7.6 To pilot from September 2005 a newcomers/home group

7.7 To ensure that the incumbent regularly takes school assembly at the Primary School

7.8 To make a special effort to encourage members of the Parish to come to:

- Mothering Sunday Service
- Easter Services
- Christmas Services
- Harvest Service
- Remembrance Sunday

7.9 To encourage regular tax efficient giving

To introduce a Budget Sunday at which the plan and budget for 2005/6 is shared and a short talk on giving is delivered.

7.10 Meetings with the Incumbent present

- To hold an annual AGM

- To hold a bi-monthly PCC Meeting
- To hold a monthly SC Meeting
- Jo and Matthew to meet fortnightly.

Other Committees e.g. Fabric Committee to meet regularly without the incumbent but to report back to the PCC.

7.11 Improving Church Communications in the Village

To ensure that the current communication of Church activities in the village is effective and to present to the Standing Committee and PCC where necessary new initiatives to improve church communication in the future.

7.12 Improving Communication within the Church

- To pilot from January a Monthly Notice Sheet
- To pilot from June a Church Family Directory

7.13 Incumbent's Day Off, Holiday and Retreat in 2005

Day Off: Friday

Holiday:

1. Easter - Monday 28th March to Monday 4th April - Cover required for Sunday 3rd April.
2. Summer Half term week - Saturday 28th May to Saturday 4th June - Cover required for Sunday 29th May
3. Summer A -Wednesday 13th July - Wednesday 27th July - Cover required for Sunday 17th and 24th of July
4. Summer B - Saturday 6th August - Saturday 13th August - Cover required for Sunday 7th August
5. Christmas - Monday 26th December - Saturday 31st December

Retreat: April 20-21st. A further retreat of two to three days will be booked for October 2005

7.14 Visiting

- The incumbent to visit church members who are ill or infirm either in their home or in Hospital.
- The Incumbent to visit key members of the community as agreed by the Standing Committee by June 1st 2005

7.15 Wedding and Baptism Preparation

- To offer an annual Wedding Preparation Day
- To offer a Baptism Preparation Course