

St. Peter's, Worfield

The Church of Worfield is said to have been founded by the great Mercian Earl, Leofric in the 12th Century. Additions to the original building, of which little remains, have taken place over the centuries. The Church will seat over 300 people.

The Church building itself is something of a reflection of the make up of the worship in that it is a striking and attractive combination of both the ancient and modern.

Ministry at St. Peter's, Worfield

The Church has historically been a traditional rural Anglican Church but during the last 15 years it has become more evangelical in orientation.

We have welcomed and continue to welcome people from diverse Christian traditions.

There has been a significant and appreciated emphasis on bible based preaching and teaching.

Recently the views expressed by the congregation were that we want our church to be a church that:

- Worships God and encourages all people to come to know Christ and grow in faith
- Makes room for everybody, especially in worship
- Actively encourages families and young people

In our church, over the last ten years, a ministry team has been developed with responsibilities including pastoral matters, young people's work, house groups, mission, music and leading services and giving talks. The ministry team of 6 church members has recently been reappointed. This team supports the vicar in the wide variety of services held at St. Peter's, from the traditional to the informal.

The RSCM musical tradition of the parish, including a robed choir, has been maintained. The music group has also enriched the life and worship of the Church, contributing to morning services twice a month and to evening services.

In October 2003 we completed the re-ordering of the West end of the Church re-ordering provided a reception and book store at the entrance, and disabled access. The "Madeley Rooms," incorporate a meeting room, crèche, kitchen and toilets, which were developed for community as well as church use. This has and will continue to facilitate a new chapter of growth and outreach in which we can serve God's purpose more fully. A state-of-the-art sound system, with multi-channel mixing desk has just been installed, to enhance worship lead by the choir and the music group.

There is a Mission Hall in Ackleton, where occasional services are held, which has just undergone major refurbishment.

Services

We provide services for a congregation of differing church backgrounds. The styles of services vary, following the patterns of Common Worship, BCP, as well as more informal services.

On Sundays there are weekly 9am BCP Communion services.

10.30am services alternate between Morning Praise, Holy Communion (Common Worship), and Worship Together (Family Service).

Sunday evening services taking place each week are of a more reflective nature, in the form of Worship and Word, Prayer and Praise, Coffee, Cake and Bible Study and Holy Communion. There are periodic Cluster Services and Choral Evensong services.

“Mission Praise” and “Worship Today” are both used, as well as our own song book.

Pastoral work

We have house groups and fortnightly prayer meetings, and there are monthly Men’s Breakfasts and “Bus-Pass” lunches, and a banner group. There is a large Mother and Toddlers group, Toddlers and Co, which meets weekly.

There is a healing Ministry as part of the 10.30am Communion Services.

Several Alpha courses have been run, an Emmaus course continues and recently we have put on a Freedom in Christ course.

The growth of the fellowship has been helped by events such as, Passover suppers, Harvest suppers, and Lent lunches.

Youth work is at present focused on Pathfinders. Also, children’s activity days, held in the church, have been particularly popular with local children.

A good relationship exists with the Worfield Church of England village school, and, two years ago, “Open the book” was introduced. As well as being on the Governing body, the Vicar is expected to take a weekly assembly.

There is a long tradition of annual Flower Festivals, with themes that have encompassed both our Christian faith and village life.

For a number of years there have been parish weekend retreats. In recent years the weekends have been held collaboratively with the cluster churches of Claverley and Alveley. Groups of church members from Worfield have also gone to Spring Harvest, New Wine and the Keswick Convention as well a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Visits are made to the two local Nursing Homes and communion taken to residents.

There is in the parish a branch of the Royal British Legion, which plays a significant part in the annual Remembrance Day service.

Deanery and Diocese

We are part of the Bridgnorth Deanery, which is divided into three clusters. With Alveley and Claverley we form a cluster on the east of the River Severn. There are joint services, and we have collaborated in inter-denominational evangelical events in Bridgnorth area, such as “Lifting Jesus Higher”, with visiting speakers from Canada.

Links with the Church in other Countries.

We have had links with CMS and over the years have supported a doctor in the Congo, and now a doctor and his family who have recently moved to Pakistan

We have regularly supported a number of local and overseas charities, particularly CMS, Tear Fund, “Love Russia”, Send a Cow, Crusaders and a local youth project, the Bridgnorth Dry Bar.

WORFIELD PARISH.

Location.

Worfield is a large rural parish on the eastern borders of Shropshire. The village of Worfield, including St. Peter’s Church and the Vicarage, lies four miles to the east of Bridgnorth and 10 miles to the west of Wolverhampton. Telford lies to the north and Kidderminster to the south.

The parish covers some 20 square miles with a population of 2,500 people.

The Local Community

Worfield parish continues largely as an active farming community. In addition, there are four centres of population, Worfield, Ackleton, Hilton and the Hobbins, each with over 100 homes, as well as twenty small hamlets.

Local Facilities.

Within the parish there is a post office, three shops, and a garage. There are several pubs, notably the Davenport Arms (The Dog Inn) in Main Street, which also has a restaurant, and the four star Vicarage Hotel and Restaurant. The Worfield Cricket Club has its own clubhouse, and there are also tennis and bowling clubs, two golf courses and a number of garden centres. The Swancote fitness center has squash courts, an outdoor swimming pool and a restaurant.

The village hall, known as the Recreation Room, is at the opposite end of the village to the church and can be used for larger church events and social occasions.

Davenport House, a country estate adjacent to Worfield village, is presently run as a high-class function, and catering business.

The Worfield Walkers and other groups explore the 100 miles of footpaths in the parish.

Worfield Endowed School.

Worfield Endowed School, a Voluntary Aided Primary School is situated close to St. Peter Church, Worfield, in a central village location. At present there are 200 pupils, including the nursery and pre-school. As a Church of England aided school, it has strong links with St. Peters

Bridgnorth

Nearby Bridgnorth is an attractive market town, situated on the River Severn. There is a cinema, a theatre and a Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre has a swimming pool and provides swimming clubs and has facilities for several other sports. There is a non-league football club, as well as the cricket, rugby, tennis, rowing and hockey Clubs.

The Severn Valley Railway has restored a number of steam trains and runs from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster.

The Shropshire hills, such as the Long Mynd and Clee Hills are easily accessible from the Worfield and Bridgnorth area.