

QUALITY OF LIFE

8. The Church in the Community

THE PRESENT SITUATION

Two Anglican churches serve the Parish – St. Peter’s in Arley and St. Andrew’s in neighbouring Button Oak. No other denominations are represented, and some residents travel to Bewdley or Kidderminster to other churches. St. Peter’s is part of the Kidderminster Team Ministry and does not have a resident priest. However, the Rev. Chris Allen has special responsibility for Arley. Pastoral support in the community is provided by members of St. Peter’s Church and other clergy within the Team Ministry.

St. Peter’s contributes to the community through close links with the School, the Social Club and the Parish Council itself. Clergy and Church members serve the community through membership of boards, councils and communities. The Church is a focal point for local families at important times of the year as well as an important activity within the church and the community.

St. Peter’s Church is also a tourist attraction; future development plans include the addition of a kitchen and toilet, and a more flexible area within the Church for exhibitions, works with young people. Etc. The Church’s business plan is titled “St. Peter’s Church – Preserving the Past, Building the Future”.

Issues

- Preservation of historic building and organ.
- Developing appropriate features for a 21st century community building.
- Development of tourism to bolster local trade.
- Continuing links to local organisations and service providers despite limited capacity.
- Civil and ecclesiastical parish boundaries do not coincide.

Actions

Stakeholders

Timescale

Preserve the historic building

Trusts, Community,
Church Council,
Diocese of Worcester

Ongoing
Medium term

Development of facilities

Short term.

Development linked to tourism

Ongoing

Continue links with local organisation
and service providers.

Ongoing

Continue provision of pastoral services.

Ongoing

Policy Statement

The Parish Council will work with the local churches and those further a field to provide relevant services to the community.