

THIS IS A DRAFT DOCUMENT OF THE 'STATEMENT of NEEDS' FOR THE PARISH of WELLINGTON, IN PREPARATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICAR of the BENEFICE.

Together with the Statements from the other parishes in the Benefice, it will be discussed with the Archdeacon of our Diocese at an Open Meeting on Saturday, 29th April at 09.45 in Canon Pyon Village Hall.

The Statement can be read in the Village Stores, in the Church, or on the Village website. If you have any comments, please come to the Meeting or give them to one of the Church Wardens in writing.

The new appointment is not just about the churchgoers, it is about the whole parish as a Community.

Saint Margaret of Antioch, Wellington

Wellington, - A welcoming Community. We have an active Anglican congregation, who seek to be caring and extend warmth and fellowship to all in the village.

St Margaret of Antioch Church, with its Norman origins and Grade 1 listing, sits in an elevated position to the eastern side of the linear Saxon village. The Tower boasts a well restored peel of 6 bells which are rung regularly, both to call to worship and in celebration.

The Vacancy offers an exciting opportunity and we would warmly welcome a new incumbent to share and build on our desire for reinvigoration and fresh mission. We long to see our congregation of regular worshippers increase, and to reach out to those who profess a faith in order to help and encourage them on their spiritual journey. We would wish to support our new vicar in pastoral care in the village.

Our worshipping tradition is Modern Catholic using the book of Common Worship and, occasionally, the book of Common Prayer. There is a Reserved Sacrament kept in the church. We have our own set of Vestments. A few of the congregation are licensed to administer the Chalice. There is a facility to 'light a candle' in the Dinmore side chapel.

We are fortunate to have an Associate Vicar(non-stipendiary) for the benefice who lives in Wellington, as does a retired Priest who is happy to be of assistance if required.

Our congregation is always well represented at beneficejoint activities, - Lent and Advent discussion groups; a joint benefice service on 5th Sundays, rotating round the six churches; special celebratory services in other parishes; 'ride & stride' etc. The 'Zoom' services during lockdown brought a positive of worshipping and meeting more often with fellow worshippers in the Benefice.

The regular worshippers offer considerable support to their clergy. Recently three members have attended the 'In Spirit and in Truth' course for Lay led worship. Currently, one service each monthis a Lay led Morning Praise for which there is a team of 7, -leaders, readers, and intercessors. Usually, members of the congregation read the lessons at services. Once a month there is an hour to 'Be Still' in church in quiet reflection.We have a regular, dedicated organist and would like to improve the musical aspect of our worship.

The village primary school is opposite the church and we have been able to increase interaction between church and school. Currently, we offer a few 'Open the Book' sessions in school, as well as running 'Experience' days in church for the major Festivals. A clergy member occasionally takes an Assembly in school and the school use the church for some of their special celebrations. It is our hope that our Christian relationship with the school children and their teachers will increase and flourish. We have much to learn from each other!

Building for the Future we hope will soon be quite literal, as we are currently tendering for the work on the 'West-end' project in order to provide a toilet and a serving area to enhance the use of the space west of the Transept. Our hope is that these changes will encourage more people to cross the threshold of St. Margaret's more frequently, and enable a more diverse use of the church.

The Bat roost in the church includes two rare species, and we have recently completed a project with the Bat Conservation Trust to help Man and Bat live in harmony!

There is an urgent need to increase church fund-raising in the village. Wellington has a reputation locally for 'putting on a good do' for fund-raising and celebration in the village. The annual church fete is the major fund-raiser

and always draws a good crowd. In addition, the Christmas Tree Festival in church has become a regular event. Concerts are run in the church; the busy Social Club runs a Quiz Night periodically to support the church; and much more goes on!

Funds are also raised through the Parish Giving Scheme and we would wish to encourage many more in the village to join this.

Wellington is a proper, living Village easily accessed from the A49 and on the Hereford – Leominster bus route, and with many footpaths for energetic dog walkers! The village is recorded in the Domesday Book, boasts a good number of 'black & white' houses, and still has a working farm in the heart of the village. There is an adopted Village Development Plan which has already seen two modest sized developments during the last 10 years and brought fresh faces and new energy into the village.

The village website at www.wellingtoncommunity.co.uk provides a good deal of information, and every new resident in the village receives an information pack and also welcoming information from the PCC. The bi-monthly village magazine, 'WELCOME', is well subscribed and edited by a very dedicated and able volunteer.

The flourishing Shop and Post Office is in the heart of the village and within the same building is a Parish Room which includes a Library. The busy Social Club with its large screen attracts all ages. The Primary School complex also houses a shared use Community Room which is very well equipped, and there is a nearby Nursery. Behind the school are excellent and well-used Sports facilities, including a football club with a good youth programme. The ever industrious volunteers who form the Wellington Community Association run the Hall, Sports field etc. and organize the village Fun Week every other year.

There is a small Evangelical Chapel in the village which serves a wider area. Orchard End is a small, residential home for Special needs adults and we enjoy seeing some residents and carers at church services quite frequently.

All these facilities enable the village to support a large number of Clubs and Societies, from Bowls to a Wildlife group and the WI! So much activity involves many dedicated volunteers, - community minded people who make our village of **WELLINGTON** so **Welcoming**.