ST PETER’S CHURCH
WESTFIELD

PARISH PROFILE

Final Version
DATE: 10 January 2016
MISSION

“To take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Westfield through our witness and involvement in the community”.
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ST PETER’S CHURCH WESTFIELD  
(In the Diocese of Bath and Wells)

PARISH PROFILE

Introduction

We are delighted that you are interested in the post of Priest-in-Charge at St Peter’s Westfield and Deanery Mission Enabler.

We are a happy band of Christians, who enjoy worshipping and socialising together. We have a mixed congregation with members in employment, some families with children and many active retired people. We have many established families whose children have grown up with us over the years and are now returning with their own children. Although we are diverse, we listen to one another and complement each other well. For many years we had a full time priest, but our last priest was part time. During our vacancy we have begun to realise we need a change of culture, but we want to make sure that this is done gently and graciously, taking care of all our members’ needs.

We are looking for a special person of faith to come to guide and enable us both as individuals and a congregation to grow spiritually and numerically. We would like to see larger congregations each Sunday. We know we need to attract new, younger families into our Church, but are unsure how to do this. We are convinced that with the right leader and the help of God, we can go forward and make St Peter’s a lively church – spreading the message of God’s love to the people of Westfield. Could God be calling YOU to come and help us?

Mission and Vision

We would like to reach out, through our witness and our involvement, to God’s wider family in Westfield, so that St Peter’s church can become a place of fellowship and worship for all those hungry for God’s word.

Our Priorities:

- To be faithful witnesses of the Love of God in our church and community.
- To grow the church.
- To reach out to young people.
- To increase and nurture our knowledge of the scriptures.
Key Tasks:

➢ Outreach to children:

  o Children were a major talking point during our “Vision Evening” with our congregation. Everyone wants to increase the number of children and young families – though the reasons for this are varied. We recognise that encouraging children’s participation may be a bit of a challenge for us, but we have thought about trying some of the following ideas:

    ▪ Forming a children’s group.
    ▪ Having all age informal patterns of worship - maybe not on a Sunday.
    ▪ Setting up Messy Church.
    ▪ Strengthening our links with the local schools and nurseries.
    ▪ Talking to the Diocesan Youth Advisor.

➢ Keeping everyone on board:

  o We don’t want to lose what is good. We recognise that we have different needs so we want to make sure that we honour and encourage one another.

➢ Being a visible presence:

  o We want to find ways of being a more visible presence in our community.
  o We want to continue to show our love and care in our community especially in times of trouble and bereavement.
  o We would like our vicar to be a visible presence for us too: someone who would participate in key social and fundraising events.

➢ Growing our involvement and understanding:

  o We know that we need to grow and we want to find ways to encourage commitment.
  o We would like to nurture our understanding of the Faith, perhaps through Bible Study, prayer groups and from preaching.
  o We would like to foster personal and spiritual development.
We would like to experiment with new forms of worship and would also like to retain the worship we currently have.

**Key Skills and Qualities:**

We are looking for someone:

- Who will be with us in body, mind and spirit.
- Who has warmth, can be light hearted, down to earth, and approachable.
- Who can encourage and nurture the gifts of individuals, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church.
- Who values everyone and each person’s experience.
- Who can help us to learn more about faith.
- Who is able to communicate with and relate well to all age groups including the younger members of our community.
- Who has experience of growing churches.
- Who is comfortable with a range of worship styles.
- Who has experience of working with young people.
- Who can help us move forward sensitively with our vision.

**What we can offer You!**

(and you can read this in more detail further in the profile):

- A very friendly and cheerful congregation who celebrate our differences and care for one another.
- A willingness to listen and to engage.
- A willingness to try new things.
- Humility.
- A beautiful modern church which can be used flexibly.
- An adjoining church hall, with kitchen and toilet facilities.
- A fully paid Parish Share.
- New opportunities as new estates are built in our area.
- Established groups including Mothers’ Union Branch, Brownies and Model Railway.
- Experienced and helpful churchwardens, together with an enthusiastic and hardworking PCC.
- A range of enjoyable social events and many featuring good food and drink.
- A willing congregation who work well together to make things happen.
- Good schools.
- A large Vicarage with garden.
- A supportive Deanery and Diocese.
- Respect!

**General Description of the Parish**

The Parish of Westfield was created in 1952 and lies approximately midway between the historic city of Bath and England’s smallest city – Wells. Bristol is also within easy reach (about 15 miles), whilst Westfield is adjacent to the towns of Radstock and Midsomer Norton. There has been a significant increase in the Parish population and Westfield now has around 6,000 residents and is growing, with new housing developments under construction. A short distance away are the Mendip Hills, designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty, which attract many visitors during the summer months. The coast is about 25 miles away.

The Parish built up around the coal mining and shoe making industries, but since then printing, packaging and other specialist light industries have featured in the area. Many of the local enterprises operate from the Westfield Trading Estate. It is not a particularly wealthy area – there is quite a mix of housing, including a fair amount of “social housing”.

5.
The Parish of Westfield extends to within a radius of one mile from the Church. The present church built 28 years ago and is the second church to be built within the grounds of the site. The former church was consecrated in September 1953 but was closed to the public in September 1985 due to becoming unsafe for the public to use because of ‘Concrete Cancer’ in the structure. Eventually the building was demolished a year later. After many trials and tribulations the present church was built and was consecrated in March 1988. The current place of Worship is a far cry from the first independent meeting place that was established for Westfield, using an old redundant Somerset and Dorset Railway Carriage in 1905.

Local Amenities
Within the parish there are a variety of local shops, various takeaways, petrol station and a 4 star hotel. The hotel offers a fitness centre with facilities including a swimming pool, 9 hole golf course, restaurant and spa treatments. Banks, doctor’s surgery, dentists, care home, libraries, large supermarkets and a wide variety of specialist shops can be found in Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Paulton. Midsomer Norton being a short drive or 10 minute (downhill) walk, whilst Radstock is about a 20 minute walk. We are fortunate to have a hospital at Paulton (approx. 3 miles) which has a minor injuries unit, x-ray and physiotherapy departments and a maternity unit. There is a sports centre with swimming pool in Midsomer Norton and nearby there is a children’s play park and skate park. There are also children’s play parks in Radstock and Westfield. Radstock has its own museum which exhibits artefacts from the days when coal mining played a major part in the area. The nearest cinemas are located in the towns of Bath, Bristol or Wells. There is a good bus service to the towns of Bath, Bristol and Wells and other local areas.

Schools

Westfield Primary is opposite the Church and is a larger than average primary school with pupils aged between 4 and 11. It also has attached nursery provision. The OFSTED inspection in 2015 rated the school as “Good”. The previous incumbent visited regularly to take assemblies and also welcomed the children into the church for services during the year. During the vacancy we have been maintaining these links – with the pupils holding Harvest, Christmas and Leavers’ services in the church and one of our retired clergy visiting the school to take part in some RE lessons. For further details see the website: www.westfieldprimary.com

Fosse Way School next to the Primary School, caters for 200 pupils from 3 – 19, with a wide spectrum of Special Needs. It has a small residential unit attached, which caters for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. It also has a swimming pool which is an asset shared with Westfield Primary. OFSTED rated the school as “Outstanding” in 2014. There is a café /gallery onsite, which provides work
experience for the older students and a place to display student’s art work etc. The café is open to the public during the week and is a popular meeting place. The school website is: www.fossewayschool.co.uk

**St Benedict’s Primary** is a medium sized Catholic Primary School with 170 pupils on the edge of the parish. It has a nursery on site. It serves a wide catchment area with many pupils coming from outlying villages. It was rated as “Good” by Ofsted in 2011. The school website is: https://slp5.somerset.org.uk/webs/stbenedicts

**Norton Hill School** is a highly successful, oversubscribed secondary school. It caters for pupils from 11 – 18. It always achieves excellent GCSE and ‘A’ level results and was rated “Good” by Ofsted in 2013. The school website is: www.nortonhillschool.com

**Norton Radstock College** is just down the road over the parish boundary. It has recently been merged with the larger Bath College and is now known as “Bath College (Somer Valley campus)”. It offers a wide range of Further Education courses including hairdressing, animal care and accountancy as well as a range of GCSE and A Level courses. The college website is: www.bathcollege.ac.uk/college-information/campuses/somer-valley-campus

Relations are particularly close with the first two schools and we would like this to continue and to grow. Both Schools have used the Church for special services and the staff of Fosse Way use our Church car park to ease the shortage of on street parking around the schools.

**Churchwardens**
Lynne Waton & Adrian Manley
Maps

Map Showing the St Peter Westfield Parish Boundary

- Westfield Vicarage
- St Peter's Church, Westfield
St Peter’s Westfield – Aerial View of Church, Hall and Grounds

St Peter’s Westfield – Street View of Church and Grounds
Map Showing the location of St Peter’s Church Wesfield and surrounding area
Worship

We practice traditional Common Worship with a Sung Eucharist Service every Sunday except for the first Sunday in the month when there is a Family Communion Service. In addition, there is a Said Holy Communion Service every Thursday morning. Vestments are worn by the Clergy for all services but Incense is not used.

Service Times:

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>Sung Eucharist (Normal Sunday Service – Common Worship).</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Family Communion (First Sunday of each Month).</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Thursdays – Said Holy Communion.</td>
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Church members play an active role in the services, delivering lesson readings, preparation and delivery of intercessions, acting as Sidespersons and administering the chalice. Younger members of our Church community are encouraged to take an active role in services; particularly the Family Communion where they typically take it in turn to read the lessons and intercessions.

We have a Sacristan and an enthusiastic team of Altar Servers, currently ranging in age from eleven to almost eighty, who assist the Celebrant during services. Duties are arranged on a rota basis.

Several members of our congregation have been licensed to assist with Administration of the Chalice. There are always two Sidespersons on duty at services, to provide a welcome to our congregation as they arrive and to carry out various duties.

There is a team of highly skilled flower arrangers within our congregation, who ensure that there are always beautiful floral displays within our Church.

There is a small but very enthusiastic Choir and an accomplished Organist to lead the worship. The Family Service often benefits from the addition of a guitar accompaniment.

After each Sunday service, refreshments are provided by a
team of volunteers including tea, coffee and biscuits in the Church hall for those wishing to stay for fellowship.

St Peter’s is fortunate to have two retired but active members of the Clergy within our congregation, who frequently celebrate, preach or both during services. They were a great help to the previous Incumbent and have been an invaluable and much appreciated asset during the current vacancy.

Average attendance at services over the last twelve months, the number of Baptisms, persons Confirmed and the number of funerals are shown in the table below. This year there has not been any weddings. It should be noted that attendance numbers increase significantly at festivals and when the Brownies and their families attend services. In April 2015, there were a total of 96 members recorded on the electoral roll.

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<th>Attendance Figures for the last 12 months:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Attendance (of which most are communicants)</td>
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<td>Thursday Morning Services</td>
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<td>Average Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Baptisms</td>
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<td>Number of Persons Confirmed</td>
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<td>Number of Marriages</td>
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<td>Number of Funerals</td>
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**Groups**

**Brownies** – There is a thriving Brownie pack affiliated to St Peter’s. It currently has over 20 on roll. They have a varied weekly programme and have an annual Pack Holiday. The Brownies attend services several times a year including Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas. They also run stalls at the Fete and Bazaar. The pack is very much a part of the St Peter’s Church Family and the leaders are all members of our Church.
Bible Study Group – St Peter’s has a small, determined group who, when possible, get together for Bible Study several times a year. The group usually meet pre-festival times such as Lent and Advent and other sessions as time allows. We often follow set courses such as Pilgrim, most recently we studied The Beatitudes. We usually meet weekly for 4 to 6 weeks at a time. Sometimes we meet at the Vicarage or someone else’s home, but more recently we have used the Choir Vestry for ease of parking and being a central location.

Mothers’ Union – Within living memory there has always been a Branch of The Mothers’ Union in Westfield. At present there are thirty MU branch members plus two Diocesan members within the congregation, all contributing to the life of the church in many ways. There is a traditional Afternoon Branch, meeting on a monthly basis. There is also an Evening Branch, for those members unable to meet during an afternoon, which meets quarterly at the home of its Leader. The evening meetings especially are always well attended and non-members are always made welcome. At the moment the Branch Leader is also the Deanery President. St Peter’s is a popular venue for the annual Deanery Day event. The annual Wave of Prayer service, followed by a soup lunch, has proved very popular and is normally held on a Saturday so that family members and friends are able to take part.
We send Baptism anniversary cards for 5 years following a Baptism. The Branch also provides flower posies for the Mothering Sunday Service and oranges for the Christingle Service. Several members run a weekly coffee morning at the local Sure Start Nursery, to support parents with young children. This outreach contact has brought a number of requests to have baptisms and blessings at St Peter’s.

Model Railway – The group was started by members of our Church a few years ago. They planned and built the layout in the loft above the Vestries and now meet most Wednesday evenings to operate the system. It has proved to be a great source of fellowship between Church and other railway enthusiasts, who sometimes join together to support Church projects.

Social and Fundraising

We love to get together socially and try to arrange a social / fundraising activity every month. Fundraising events vary from Beetle Drives, Quizzes, Cream Teas and Coffee Mornings to support church funds and various charities. We have a Summer Fete with a Barbecue, Christmas Bazaar, Harvest Lunch and Silent Auctions. Many of these events encourage people from the parish and
surrounding area into supporting our church. We hope the future incumbent would attend and support social and fundraising events in the future.

**Financial Position**

We use an Envelope Scheme as well as Standing Orders to assist with the Planned Giving. We find that so far we have always been able to pay our Parish Share in full and all our other bills. Over the last few years the General Fund has had a deficit but our hall fund has made a healthy profit and so overall we have manged to break even. We are fortunate to have a fairly large reserve fund although this is getting smaller each year as we dip into it to balance our books.

We have monthly social and fundraising activities and also run a 100 Club. Our major fundraising events are a Summer Fete and an Autumn Bazaar.

For our Charity Mission we continue to support the Children's Society, USPG, Christian Aid, Julian House, Royal United Hospital Cancer Care and Somer Valley Food Bank. We also have retiring collections on occasions to support special causes and emergencies.

**Ecumenical Links**

Over the years we have developed a good relationship with our Methodist neighbours at Trinity Westfield and have several joint services with them in each other’s churches throughout the year. Trinity Methodists are so called because they are made up of congregations from Radstock, Writhlington and Westfield. They are considering consolidating into one congregation and we have started to explore the possibility of working even more closely with them.

The Christians Together in Radstock and Westfield Group brings St Nicholas Radstock and ourselves together with the three Trinity Methodists, Radstock Baptists, St Hugh’s Roman Catholics and Bath City Church. We meet formally three or four times a year and organise joint ecumenical events and services at times that we can show a consolidated Christian presence. Examples are the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Joint Community Carol Service, Coordinating Christian Aid week, providing refreshments at the local Carnival Procession.

Our Roman Catholic friends will shortly be closing five churches in the area and moving the congregations to Stratton-on-the-Fosse next to Downside Abbey. We are not sure if they will continue to work with us locally.

Midsomer Norton also has its own Churches Together Group. For the last ten years there has been a Whiltunday event organised by all of our local churches to provide a totally free fun day-out for families on Pentecost Sunday. Rides and sideshows, prayer tents and face painting followed by tea and cakes and a few hymns, choruses and a message to take home.
Church Building

We are fortunate to have a reasonably modern church built in 1988. Three traditional style stained glass windows from the previous church are built into the West end of the building while four modern designs by Mark Angus are situated at the sanctuary end.

Double-glazing, gas central heating and carpet throughout the church, Vicar’s Vestry and Choir Vestry help to provide a warm environment. The modern open design allows us to accommodate formal worship as well as social activities. St Peter’s has never had pews so we are familiar with re-arranging the linked upholstered chairs to suit the situation. The floor is level from the entrance doors, past the two vestries and into the church itself giving easy wheelchair access. There is just one step up at the communion rail to the sanctuary where the wooden altar is usually placed so that whoever is presiding can face the congregation.

The only fixtures in the sanctuary are the choir stalls either side – even the pulpit and communion rail can be, and have been, removed at times. Various uses have included our Annual Christmas Bazaar, Youth Groups playing games like Table Tennis and Snooker, Concerts, Plays, Talks, School Assemblies and even use as a Polling Station. Having more space than the Hall has meant that we have even been able to move our Annual Fete into the church when bad weather has threatened to prevent us staying outside on the lawns.

A two manual Makin Organ with full pedal board at the front of the church provides music for most of the services and can be supplemented by Cassette and CD players in the Sound Control Cupboard. This cupboard also houses the sound system controls for the various fixed points around the building and the two radio microphones. For most services a microphone at the lectern and the radio microphones are sufficient. We do encourage use of the microphones as they feed the magnetic loop system.

The servers robe in the Vicar’s Vestry and the Choir in the adjacent Choir Vestry at the
rear of the building. Refreshments are usually prepared in the Hall Kitchen after services but the Choir Vestry or the church are sometimes used.

The Church is cleaned on a weekly basis by volunteer members of our congregation arranged using a rota system.

The last Quinquennial inspection of our church took place during 2013 with no major issues raised.

**Church Hall**

The Hall is attached to the church building and houses toilets and kitchen facilities for church users. It has some storage space and houses the Church photocopier etc. It was built in the 1950’s and is in need of some major work. It is extensively used to facilitate all the Church Social activities and organisations. In addition the Hall is hired out to a number of organisations on a commercial basis. These include Senior Citizens, Folk Dancing Group, Ladies Choir, Weight Watchers, Brownies, U3A and Chess Club. Until very recently we had a playgroup using the hall every day, but they have moved to a new purpose built nursery and so we are currently advertising for new groups to meet here during the day. There are also thoughts of starting a drop-in centre for mums and toddlers.

Last year the Hall made a healthy profit. Revenue from lettings is used not only for maintenance of the Hall, but also contributes to Church expenses.

**Church Grounds**

The Church stands in grounds of 1.5 acres with car parking at both the front and rear of the building. The remaining grounds are grassed areas bounded by hedges and trees although there are a number of freestanding trees. The grass is cut most weeks using our sit-on mower.

There are two bench seats situated near the Garden of Rest set on a paved area. The Garden of Rest located near the front of the church is an area bounded by a low hedge for cremated remains. Burials take place at Midsomer Norton or Radstock Churchyards or the nearest Crematorium site at Bath. We are currently considering an extension to the Garden of Rest as there are only a small number of plots unused remaining. The area was fixed in 1952 when cremations were the exception rather than the rule. We are also planning to link that project with a proposal to extend the car parking area as that is regularly proving to be insufficient for our needs and for those of the Hall users, especially as we share Longfellow Road with two schools.
It’s fun!

I like the friendly people

I’d like to do some art and craft things

It’s very welcoming!

I like it because it’s not old!
Accommodation

The Vicarage is a modern, spacious four bedroom detached house. The property is located on the edge of the parish, very close to local shops and bus stops, from where you can travel to Bath, Bristol and Wells. It is a 2 minute drive or 5 -10 minute walk from the Church.

Accommodation comprises: porch, lounge with wooden staircase, double doors into dining room, family room, small conservatory, modern kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and office/study. Upstairs there are three double bedrooms and one single bedroom and a family bathroom with separate shower. It has central heating, double glazing and has solar panels on the roof. There are front and rear gardens, mainly laid to grass but there are also shrubs and fruit trees. There is a single garage with a workshop area behind.
Thoughts From Church Members

To assist us with compiling our profile and to ensure it reflected the views of all Church members we conducted a questionnaire and held an open meeting “St Peter’s, The Way Forward”, with assistance from the Diocesan School of Formation. It was very well attended and everyone felt it was a very worthwhile exercise. These are examples of the views expressed:

What do you love about our Church?

- Warmth and Friendship
- Fellowship
- The Worship

Why do you choose to worship here?

- I like the service
- I feel at home
- It’s my local church

What are your hopes and dreams for this church?

- For our church and community to grow
- That it will carry on serving the people of Westfield for many years
- That it will be the spiritual centre of the parish from where we take the news of Jesus out to the people of Westfield

What do you need from the Church?

- Space to pray
- A place to worship God in a traditional way
- Spiritual leadership, Christian teaching, fellowship and support

How would you sum up this Church in one sentence?

- A loving caring Church and congregation
- Christ’s presence in the centre of Westfield
- A warm and welcoming place for worship and to have fun
Thoughts From Our Young People

I like to kneel to take the bread

I like carrying the Brownie flag into church

It’s very welcoming!

I like the stained glass windows

I like it because my sister was christened here

I like it because it’s not old!

I like learning stories about Jesus

I like the friendly people

It’s got beautiful colours

It’s big and looks holy!

I like the songs

I like the songs

It’s fun!

I’d like more jolly hymns!

We need more toys for the small children to play with

I think the service is a bit too long!

I’d like to do some art and craft things

I’d like more activities – maybe after school

I’d like there to be a youth club!
The Diocese

The Diocese works to support the Bishop’s charge: to reimagine ministry, to seek the Common Good and to grow the church. The Diocese of Bath and Wells provides good support for clergy. Diocesan Office’s School of Formation runs a Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) programme which all licensed clergy are expected to take part in. Course costs (mainly one day courses) are met through an annual Diocesan grant to clergy. However, travel costs come from your own benefice. The programme for clergy, readers and lay leaders is responsive to local needs. Also, the diocese makes provision for clergy and families’ wellbeing. The confidential counselling service to support clergy and families in times of personal difficulties and the staff who provide it, are excellent. There are people who can offer help with housing, facilitate stewardship and planning for the parish, ensuring access for all and much more besides.

Who to contact can be found via the website: http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/

You may like to look at the parish spotlight for Westfield on the website, which shows information gathered from census and National Church statistics: http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ParishSpotlight_510365-Westfield.pdf

Closing Prayer

Bountiful God,
Give to this parish a faithful pastor,
who will faithfully speak your word,
and minister your sacraments;
An encourager who will equip your people for ministry
and enable us to fulfil our calling.
Give to those who will choose, wisdom,
discernment and patience,
and to us warm and generous hearts,
for Jesus Christ’s sake.
Amen.
St Peter’s Westfield Welcomes You