

The Parish of St Peter, Stourton Caundle

1. What is the 'Personality and Character' of your local Church?

The parish is a small rural community and the Church community within it is ageing (age profile pre-dominantly over 60) yet welcoming and caring. The Church community now feels a part of the Benefice. There is a core of people willing to travel and support other benefice services and events. There are a few who prefer the traditional type of service and are reluctant to change. The major Christian festivals at Easter and Christmas are well supported if there are family services at these times.

2. What are the priorities of your local Church?

There were wide-ranging responses to this question. There was strong support for the ability to continue as a viable church community, maintaining the two services of different styles each month and supporting the Rector. Some wished for greater acceptance of lay led services. It was considered important as part of outreach to continue and build on the relationship with Bishops Caundle Primary School as well as continuing with the workshops (messy church and advent windows etc). The fabric of the Church and the maintenance thereof must not be neglected. It is also important to provide a service to the whole parish by retaining the Church so that it is available for baptisms, weddings and funerals and it is hoped that this is appreciated by the wider community.

3. Is there one thing you would like to take on in the coming year (recognising that may mean you may need to stop doing something else)?

Ideas included:

- Improving the facilities at the Church so as to attract and encourage increased and more varied use of the building.
- Appealing to younger people.
- Increased fundraising activities

There was also support for focusing on retaining what goes on in the Church at the present.

4. Are there ways in which we can work together to achieve more?

It would be beneficial if there was a greater sharing of the duties of the churchwardens involved in the running of the Church. Greater use should be made of the Stourton Caundler magazine to publicise events and request volunteers. Following on from this a need to reach out and popularise events. More teamwork and assistance at workshops would be appreciated.

5. How can we best measure the quality and impact of church life?

This could be measured in terms of the numbers attending Church and their age profile and also of those attending the various workshops. Furthermore it could be measured in terms of whether the Church is used for other events. Verbal feedback could be attained when talking to people. Consideration also of how much money the Church receives and of how the Church community is perceived and appreciated by the wider community in the parish.