

February 7th 2023

EVERLEIGH. ST PETERS'. CHURCH PLAN



Part A - [Current Report](#)

The report current at the time of first issue summarises known activity at the church, stakeholders, trends, site resources and results in hand.

Part B - [Consultation](#)

Open consultation findings summarise notes provided by survey recipients in reaction to Part A, the current report and specifies community planning meeting details.

Part C - [Community Recommendations](#)

Community recommendations include the full resolutions set at the community planning meeting.

Part D - [Action Plan](#)

The action plan splits tasks agreed at and implied by the community recommendations.

Part A - Current Report

Church Introduction & Statement of Significance

St Peter's Church, in Everleigh, Wiltshire, England was built in 1813 by John Morlidge for F.D. Astley. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a Grade II* listed building.

Everleigh had a parish church by 1228, when it was granted to the Benedictine Wherwell Abbey in Hampshire. The advowson was held by the abbey until the Dissolution of the Monasteries after which is passed to Thomas Wriothesley and his descendants. The mediaeval parish church was demolished in 1814 and the present Church of England parish church of Saint Peter was consecrated on a site about 0.5 miles (800 m) northwest of it. The present church was designed by the architect John Morlidge in a Georgian Gothic Revival style for Sir Francis Dugdale Astley.

The church is built of Bath stone. It consists of a nave with the south porch attached, chancel with a south chapel, and a west tower. The nave is 41 feet 6 inches (12.65 m) by 26 feet (7.9 m), while the chancel is 16 feet (4.9 m) long and 14 feet (4.3 m) wide. The tower holds six bells cast by James Wells of Aldbourne.

The interior contains the bowl of the Norman font from the old church, on a later base and shaft. The bowl is decorated with scallop shaped decorations separated by inverted "V" shapes. There are many memorials to the Astley family. There is a large gallery above the west end of the nave, which when it was built held a barrel organ. The organ was replaced by one in the vestry in 1879.

The church was declared redundant on 18 April 1974, and was vested in the Trust on 22 October 1975. It is open to visitors every day; the key is held locally.

Current use (bookings) & voluntary activity

St Peter's Everleigh benefits from the voluntary support of several local neighbours, the parish and members of the community including notably the owners of the Old Rectory and farm next door to the church. This group support the church in many ways including:

- Supporting the regular services held at the church (usually Palm Sunday and Christmas)
- Running an annual fundraising Mid-Summer tea party
- Remittance of wall safe and service funds
- Ad hoc reporting of building change
- Care and maintenance of the vested churchyard.

Collection Review

Open Churches Policy status:	Open
Local Community Officer:	Rachel Whitty
Closest Church Classification:	Open
Classification outstanding items:	
Visitor nos. 2016/ 17 (est):	2657
Visitor nos. 2017/18 (est):	2552
Visitor nos. 2018/19 (est):	2647
Current project:	None
Cleaning schedule:	Before use
Welcome table:	Present
Keyholder role:	Present
Key representative role:	Fulfilled (CCT liaison, maintenance reporting)
Area volunteer role:	None
Fundraising roles:	None formal
Stewardship roles:	None
Research, interp & talks role:	None formal.
Accessibility details:	Provided via website
CCT silver plaque:	Installed, poor condition
CCT information board:	Not installed. There is a non-branded noticeboard in the porch.
Oak post:	Not installed.
CCT freestanding board:	Provided
Wall safe poster:	Installed, current
CCT A board:	Provided
Gift Aid envelopes:	Provided
Visitor book:	Provided
Building services:	Electric sockets and lights.
Parking:	Space for one car in layby / drive. Parking at Everleigh
Farm for services.	
Organ:	Pipe Organ by Gray & Davison
Churchyard:	Vested with CCT.

Ringable bells:	Yes. 6. Ringable: Rung for services and by visiting ringers
Pews:	Yes.
Fire rated capacity:	140
Seating capacity:	Not determined
Site plan:	Available
Roof alarm:	None
CCTV:	None
Individual item security measures:	None
Nearby attractions:	
Public transport:	
Social media presence:	None.
Images on CCT website:	One of three
Regular feature parish news:	Unsure
Services per year:	2
CofE support for services:	Yes
Christmas memory tree:	No.
Tea Party:	Yes.
Historic Church Tour:	No
Heritage Open Days:	No
Ride & Stride:	No
Champing:	No, but possible.
Retail:	No.
Risk assessment general:	Current
Risk assessment fire:	Current
COSHH listing:	Current
Portable appliance listing:	Current
Security Audit:	2015
Children's explorer cart:	No.
Children's trail:	No.

Conservation reports

Condition Report:

Repairs liability: £43,700

Annualised maintenance: £3,221.62

• Short term:	£11,200.00
- Chancel roof repair	£10,000.00
- Cleaning glazing	£1,200.00
• Medium term:	£18,500.00
- High Level tower repairs	£17,500.00
- Check internal joinery	£1,000.00
• Long term:	£14,000.00
- Organ overhaul	£12,500.00
- Install lightning conductor	£1,500.00
• Desirable:	£

All cost figures are estimates, exclusive of VAT and professional fees

Income, Expenditure & Balances

Income

Income 2019=20:	£1784
Wall safe 2018-2019 (incl. above):	£0
Income 2018-2019:	£722
Wall safe 2018-2019 (incl. above):	£40
Income 2017-2018:	£2901
Wall safe 2017-2018: (incl. above):	£17
Income 2016-2017:	£315
Wall safe 2016-2017: (incl. above):	£94

Expenditure

Conservation expenditure '18/'19:	£0
Maintenance expenditure '18/'19:	£713
Maintenance expenditure '17/'18:	£4470
Electricity '18/'19:	£79
Electricity '17/'18:	£70

Balances

Restricted Balance Report Jul '19	£0
Income less expenditure '18/'19	£9
Income less ann. maint.'18/'19:	-£2499.62

Local Community Officer's Summary

St Peter's church is a handsome stone structure which retains most of its original fixtures and fittings.

The Church is very fortunate to have benefited from the support of the local neighbours and community, in particular the owners of the Old Rectory and farm, for many years. They have raised thousands of pounds for the church and fostered community support for the building through organising the popular annual Mid Summer Tea Party. They have also generously cared for the vested churchyard and kept it in a fine condition.

St Peter's is difficultly located, with a small driveway off a fast main road, with no signage other than the CCT A Board, situated by the churchyard fence. Improved on road signage to the church could increase visitor numbers, although parking would be an issue for more than one car.

St Peter's inspires generous support from a relatively small number of visitors each year, the maximum number of visits limited perhaps by the limited options for parking, and poor signposting to the church. The addition of video-directions on the church webpage might encourage additional visits over time, all of which would be certain to encounter a well-presented church thanks to the continuing and extremely dedicated care of its volunteers and neighbours who visit to clean throughout the season.

A team of volunteer stewards (occasional) and improved interpretation (currently and old brand CCT guidebook) could provide a better visitor experience and increase donations per head.

It is hoped that alternative uses for the building and potential new supporters might emerge as part of the church planning consultation.

Part B - Consultation (Interim Round September 2020)

Summary of consultation responses received by end August 2020

*Following distribution of fifteen questions through our standard church plan questionnaire in summer 2020 to existing Churches Conservation Trust correspondents, (together with an invitation for correspondents to share the survey and associated Church Plan Part A), **no response** was received for **Everleigh, St Peter's** by the deadline of **August 30th**.*

The response received was from a respondent writing in a **[no response]** capacity, who confirmed that their responses related to **St. Peter's Everleigh**.

In addressing the question of *a perfect outcome for our work together at the church* the respondent indicated **[no response]**

In writing about challenges anticipated in respect of repair liabilities and running costs, the respondent indicates **[no response]**

Thinking about local life away from the church, in relation to other community projects or activities which might combine with our work to protect the church for the future, the respondent indicated **[no response]**

Considering if increased use of the church might benefit the community, or if increased use might benefit the church itself, the respondent indicated **[no response]**

In relation to identifying conservation priorities for the church, the respondent provided **[no response]**

Regarding priorities, opportunities or ideas for fundraising the respondent noted **[no response]**. In respect of means for initiating fundraising activity, the respondent gave **[no response]**. The respondent also indicated that they would **[no response]** be available to participate in fundraising activity.

In seeking respondents' participation in a future group discussion regarding church planning the respondent indicated **[no response]**.

In answering our final, open question about any additional church matters not covered in other areas of the survey, the respondent indicated **[no response]**.

In addition to responses fielded through the questionnaire, a further **[no response]** respondents wrote back to their Local Community Officer, expressing the following perspectives:

Nil

Part C - Community Recommendations (to follow meetings scheduled for October 2020 - January 2021 ahead of final report April 2021).

February 7th 2023 update: There had been no responses to previous surveys or church plan meetings recorded .RW had received a 'phone call from the main contact (referred to as A in this update) which had been in response to a message and flyer left by RW in the Visitors' book. A meeting was arranged and RW met with the main contact at their property. A explained their connection and support of the church for many years. It was becoming increasingly difficult for them to organise events due to full-time caring commitments for a family member. However, they were happy to continue supporting the church with getting help to clean the church on a regular basis and also presented RW with a CAF cheque. They were keen to see the church used more regularly not only for occasional worship but for events as well and shared contact details of other potential contacts within the community to could help make this happen. They were also happy for visitors/people attending events to park outside their property. A also gave RW a copy of the Courier, the local Parish Magazine.

Action – short term RW LCO to follow up on contacts given and also with local incumbent on the services held in the Church and the booking forms that needed to be completed.RW to also contact the editor of the Courier to put an advert/feature about the St Peters'. **A to send** through further community contacts and speak to local incumbent about booking services as well as sharing CCT cleaning standards.

RW explained the purpose of the Church Plan and worked through the detail with **A**.

RW noted that the figures in the current Church Plan required updating so would be used a guide for this meeting. Once more up to date figures were available, the Church Plan would be amended accordingly and recirculated.

RW and **A** then walked to the church and continued discussions around the churchyard maintenance and any issues within the church that needed to reported to the Conservation Team. RW noted that on a previous visit the wall safe key worked and was able to empty the contents but not on this occasion. RW took a meter reading.

Action- short term – RW to follow up with Conservation/Maintenance regarding the wall safe.

Part D - Action Plan

The action plan below has been written post the *interim edition* of the church plan and first full edition of the church plan published at the end of March 2021.

Community Actions

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Provide LCO with further community contact details when possible
- Share CCT Cleaning Churches standard and report with volunteer cleaning team

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

- Investigate suitability of church for concerts or other uses, and of promotion to prospective local audiences.
- Consider use of the church as gallery space, offering local artists and makers a chance to mount exhibitions, or providing community groups and educational establishments with a suitable venue for temporary displays
- Consider the suitability of the site for Champing

Long term actions (to end March 2024)

Actions complete (to end March 2021)

Local Community Officer Actions

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Follow up on contacts given and also with local incumbent on the services held in the Church and the booking forms that needed to be completed.
- Contact the editor of the Courier to put an advert/feature about the St Peters'
- Review potential for improving "church open" signage and for promoting availability of secure parking outside church
- Review church web page to ensure clear directions available for all visitors
- Share CCT Cleaning Churches standard and report
- Consider producing an online audio guide for the church to address the lack of printed interpretation.

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

- Consider adding video directions to the church for prospective visitors' information

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- Investigate suitability of church for concerts or other uses, and of promotion to prospective local audiences.
 - Consider the suitability of the site for Champing

Long term actions (to end March 2024)

Actions complete (to end March 2021)

- Distribution Part A reports for each church to all existing correspondents, together with survey
- Receive, anonymise and collate survey responses and add to Church Plan Part B
- Resolve initial findings, conclusions and recommendations based on Part A & B, expressed as short, medium and long-term actions
- Publish Part A, B & D as Interim Church Plan to colleagues by end September 2020
- Undertake staff consultation against Interim Church Plan by end November 2020
- By end November 2020 review colleagues' feedback regarding updates to church plan part A, to include
 - Conservation interpretations
 - Presentation improvements
 - Champing data
- Complete community audit to identify additional survey respondents and participants in face-to-face or digital meetings by end November 2020
- Repeat survey for additional respondents by end January 2021
- Agree dates for face-to-face or digital community meetings by end January 2021
- Resolve updated findings, conclusions and recommendations based on Part A, B & C expressed as short, medium and long-term actions for each site (Part D)
- Publish Church Plan Version '2021-22'

CCT Actions Other

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Provide interpretation of maintenance and repair plans to further explain anticipated costs described in part A above.
- Maintenance to check and resolve issue with opening wall safe.

Medium term actions (to end March 2022)

Long term actions (to end March 2024)

Actions complete (to end March 2021)

Appendix 1: Summer 2020 Questionnaire

1. This is the first of fourteen questions in the survey - thank you in advance for working through each one. First of all, we need to know if you're completing the survey on behalf of an organisation or writing in a personal capacity (If you're writing on behalf of an organisation, please use the text box to let us know which one. Thank you!)
2. Which church are you writing about? (Don't worry, you can complete additional questionnaires for other sites if you like!) Please state the location and dedication, as in 'Sapperton, St. Kenelm's'. Thank you.
3. People are involved with our sites in so many different ways. In your own words, please describe your relationship with the church building.
4. Some people are actively involved at the churches we look after together. If you're part of this group, tell us about your involvement. Cleaning, attending services and fundraising are just a few of the most frequent activities we share, but we'd appreciate as much detail as you might be happy to provide.
5. In your own words, and having reviewed 'Part A' of our church plan (sent to you by email with the invitation to this questionnaire), please describe a perfect outcome for our work together at the church. What would you like to see happen in terms of community involvement and other use of the building?
6. Bearing in mind the repair liabilities and running costs described in the report you've read, what challenges do you anticipate for a sustainable future at your church?
7. Thinking about local life away from the church, which other community projects or activities are you aware of that could combine with our work to protect the church for the future?
8. Here are two questions together... Could increased use of the church benefit the community? How would this increased use benefit the church itself?
9. What do you think are the most important conservation priorities at your church? For each or all of these priorities, please also let us know about any ideas you have for addressing them.

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10. Income and expenditure for the church is detailed in 'Part A' of the report we sent you. Addressing conservation priorities will entail finding new ways to raise funds. Tell us about any ideas or opportunities you have identified for raising additional income at the church.

 11. What do you think might be the best ways to get started with any fundraising activities you have suggested?

 12. If you don't already, would you be interested and available to take part in future fundraising activity?

 13. Almost done! We'd like to invite you to join us in a group discussion about the church later this year, either in person or through 'phone / video conference. Would you be willing to join the discussion?

 14. Last question! Is there anything else you'd like to share about your interest in the church which we haven't asked you already? Otherwise, thank you again so much for reflecting on the future of the church through your answers.