

Your church within your village...



The Parish of
Greater Whitbourne

Is it important to you?

www.whitbourne.org.uk

There are now four Churches in the Parish of Greater Whitbourne – at Upper Sapey, Edvin Loach, Tedstone Delamere and Whitbourne.



Did you know that it costs the Greater Parish nearly £30,000 a year to support and maintain them all? (For 2016 the figures were Whitbourne £12,500, Edvin Loach £6,400, Tedstone Delamere £5,400 and Upper Sapey £3,000.) This is not counting the contribution each makes to the cost of a Rector, nor major repair projects.

Regular worshippers amount to about 60 people across the four churches. Congregations are stable but not getting any younger! Like many Churches, we do however see large attendances at Christmas and Easter and particularly at important occasions like Weddings, Christenings and Funerals. From that, we conclude that there are many people who appreciate having the Churches available for important festivals and celebrations.



Each contribution towards covering the above costs is deeply appreciated. However, the burden of paying for them is falling on fewer regular givers. Looking ahead, we need to plan how to meet the costs of keeping the Churches alive.

To help better understand the value of your Church to you and your Community, please would you answer the questions below. You can do this either by completing this sheet now or by downloading it from <http://www.whitbourne.org.uk/>

Please tick as many answers as you feel it right for each question. You may do this completely anonymously, or leave a name and contact if you wish, after completing question 7.

Please return your completed survey: By 31st March 2018

By e-mail to: stormonthdarling@gmail.com

In person to: Helen Read, Kathleen Harris, David Roberts, Ian Evans-Fisher, Anne Evans or Jerry Cummins

To one of our village collection points at: The Baiting House, The Live and Let Live (in Whitbourne), Whitbourne Village Shop, Tiblands Nursery.

Section 1

1. In the last 5 years, how many times have you been into your Church, Churchyard or the Upper Sapey Community Room (for any reason – funeral, wedding, service, concert, work party, contemplation, visiting a grave...)?

• Never	1
• 1 – 5 times	9
• 6-10 times	6
• More than 10	40

I regard my own church as:

Edvin Loach / Tedstone Delamere / Upper Sapey / Whitbourne. *Not stated*

3

6

5

40

7

2. How do you feel about those visits?

• Never Visited	-
• Too formal	3
• Did you feel welcomed?	50 Yes / No 1
• Peaceful	38
• Uncomfortable	8
• What was your experience of the worship?	Engaging 12 / Easy to follow 29 / Hard to understand 2
• Thought Provoking	18
• Inspiring	14
• Rewarding	23

After considering your feelings, was the overall impression positive or negative?

Positive	Negative
55	6

3. How would you feel if there were no local Church to go to for important festivals like Christmas or for Family events such as Funerals and Weddings or if local burials became impossible?

• Indifferent	-
• Moderately disappointed	5
• Very disappointed	33
• Feel that a major right had been lost	31

4. Do you feel it important to have a Rector to minister at times of bereavement, illness, loneliness or at major celebrations such as weddings or baptisms?

• Indifferent	1
• Moderately	3
• Very	49

Section 2

The Churches operate as charities and receive NO direct Government or State funding. ALL the money needed to run them comes from regular worshippers and local fundraising.

5. Does this fact...

• Surprise you?	7
• Disappoint you?	10
• Impress you that a small section of the community pays for a service open to all?	38
• Amaze you that the Church of England doesn't pay for it all?	14

6. If funding fails and your local Church were threatened with closure, what would your feelings be?

• Nothing to do with me!	1
• Sad that such a long lasting institution was ending?	31
• Feel that the Community would be diminished?	39
• Feel that something should be done to keep them open?	41
• Consider practical ways to help (labour, attending or helping with fundraising efforts)	34
• Consider making donations	18

7. If a concerted effort were made to increase the support for the Church involving many members of the community, would you consider any of the following (please tick as many as you like!):

• Attend meetings to widen the discussion and hear the views of others?	25
• Attend a few more services; e.g. Christmas and Easter?	15
• Support fundraising activities?	41
• Offer practical help like churchyard maintenance or at fetes or fundraising events?	35
• Make a regular donation to your church?	20
• Finding out more about Church finances and tax efficient ways of giving?	11

If you have ticked either of the last two options, please add your name and contact details to arrange contact from someone in your own local Church.

Name:	Contact details: ☎ : E-mail:
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*Thank you for completing the form. We appreciate your views.
Please return it using the options detailed on Page One.*