



WORLE ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP PROFILE Incorporating the Parishes of Worle & Wick St. Lawrence

1. Summary

Population of Worle & Wick	Approx.	62,000
Worship Centres		St. Lawrence (Wick) St. Martin's Church (Worle) St. Mark's Church (Worle) Mead Vale Community Hall (Worle)
Membership Roll	Jointly Confirmed	45
	Anglican	213
	Methodist	25

Worle is situated on the outskirts of Weston-super-Mare and is easily reached from junction 21 of the M5. The Churches form an Ecumenical Partnership between the Anglican and Methodist Churches. The LEP was established in 1974 and is sponsored by Somerset Churches Together. Wick is an adjacent Parish, shortly to be incorporated to the Worle Ecumenical Partnership. The partnership is part of the Weston-super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea Methodist circuit and the Central LMG (Local Ministry Group) of Locking Deanery in the Diocese of Bath & Wells

Parish Office: e-mail office@worlepo.co.uk
Parish Magazine: web <http://www.worlewide.org.uk>



St. Martin's

St. Mark's

Mead Vale

St. Lawrence

**“A community centred on the living Jesus, growing,
serving and reaching out in His name.”**

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2. General description of Worle, together with Wick St. Lawrence

The population of Worle, together with Wick has grown from circa 5,000 in the 1970's to approximately 62,000 today. It has a largely indigenous (white) population with some members of ethnic minorities. Modern developments from the original village location are situated in Mead Vale, North Worle, St. George's and the outer area of Wick St. Lawrence. Wick St. Lawrence is an adjacent Parish to the North of Worle, serving a predominantly rural area, in which rapid development of Modern homes has spread from Worle.

3. The Church

3.1 Ecumenical Partnership

Worle Ecumenical partnership was created in 1974 through a sharing agreement between the Anglican and Methodist Churches that created a new worship centre at St. Mark's. The principle worship centres are at St. Martin's, St. Mark's and Mead Vale. A constitution sponsored by Somerset Churches Together (SCT) describes the working of the Church, which is led by the Staff Ministry Team and the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC). The Churches have developed an Ecumenical worship book for the order of Holy Communion and share traditions from both Anglican and Methodist rites. Arrangements are currently in progress to incorporate the Parish of Wick St. Lawrence into the Worle Ecumenical Partnership, having been solely an Anglican Parish Church, with strong links to Worle through the Local Ministry Group (LMG).

3.2 Membership Role

	Jointly Confirmed	Anglican	Methodist
St. Martin's	25	134	9
St. Lawrence	N/A	32	N/A
St. Mark's	17	33	12
Mead Vale	3	14	4



3.3 Church Buildings

3.3.1 St. Martin's

Built in the 12th century, extended in the 19th century, the building is at the historic centre of Worle on the hillside. The churchyard was closed for burials in the late 1960's. The Church is floodlit and has been kept in good condition. Facilities include:

PA System with Deaf Aid Loop
Pipe Organ and Yamaha Clavinova Piano
Kitchen and Toilet areas

A gallery gives total potential seating up to 200 people.

The leadership group are considering further improvements through the introduction of multimedia equipment.

3.3.2 St. Lawrence (Wick)

Built in the 16th century, the building is the centre of a largely rural community and the village of Wick. The Church has been maintained in good working order by the Church Council, helped with a considerable legacy donated to maintain the fabric of the building, there is also a small trust fund for the maintenance of the churchyard.

Facilities include:

Recently installed toilet facilities
Electronic pipe-less organ

The PCC are planning further improvements to create facilities for refreshments and a children's area.

The Church has recently seen significant new homes built near its border, which although they are in the neighbouring parish of Worle, the residents would probably more associate themselves with Wick St. Lawrence.

3.3.3 St. Mark's

Built in 1980 and extended extensively in 1989. The building is situated in North Worle alongside the Queensway. The Church holds the Parish Office, which is equipped with up to date IT media. As well as the main worship centre there are extended meeting and prayer rooms at the back of the Church. Facilities include:

PA System with Deaf Aid loop
Pipe Organ and Grand Piano

Audio Visual Presentation media

Separate Kitchen & Toilet facilities, including disabled access

Meeting rooms and main hall are let out during the week, including a playgroup.

Worship area seats up to 150 people plus the extension area.

There are Parish Trustees for this building



3.3.4 Mead Vale

Services are held at Mead Vale Community Hall, built in the 1970's and extended in the 1990's. The Community Hall is managed by a group of Trustees and the present Vicar acts as Chairman. Facilities include

PA / Music System with Deaf Aid loop

Audio Visual Presentation media

Separate Kitchen & Toilet facilities, including disabled access.

Worship area seats up to 100 people plus the extension area.

3.4 Ecclesiastical Tradition / Worship Times

Modern – mixed Anglican / Methodist / Ecumenical service for Holy Communion.

3.4.1 St. Martin's

Sunday	8.00 am	Said Communion
	10.00 am	Family Communion / Worship
	6.00 pm	Evening worship / Communion or Healing Services
Weekdays	Tuesday	Toddler Church (term time)
	Thursday	10.00am Holy Communion
Occasional	Baptisms	Approx. 75 per year
	Weddings	Approx. 30 per year
	Funerals	Approx. 10 per year
Music	The Church has a salaried organist, an adult choir and is used to a mix of traditional and modern music. Occasional concerts are held in the Church using our own musicians or visiting choirs, bands or orchestras.	

3.4.2 St. Lawrence

1 st Sunday	6.30 pm	BCP Evensong (under review)
2 nd Sunday	10.00 am	All age service
3 rd Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Praise with Sunday Club
4 th Sunday	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
5 th Sunday	6.30 pm	Songs of Praise
Occasional	Special services are usually well attended, E.g. Rogation Sunday, Christmas Carols by Candlelight, Harvest.	
Music	The Church is seeking a replacement organist; there is a regular Choir of up to 10 members.	

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3.4.3 St. Mark's

Sunday	10.30 am Evening	Family Communion / Worship Prayer Group
Weekday	Wednesday	Mid week Communion
Music	The Church has a group of talented volunteer musicians who lead predominantly modern forms of music.	

3.4.4 Mead Vale

Sunday	10.30 am Evening	Family Communion / Worship Evening Prayer / Worship
Weekday	Wednesday	Mid week Communion (1 st week of month)
Music	The Church has a mixture of electronic aids to lead music, which is predominantly modern.	
Youth Groups	Year 7-9 - 7.30pm Tuesday Year 10+ - 8.00pm Wednesday	





3.5 Current Staffing

3.5.1 Permanent Staffing

Team Rector – Leading the Ecumenical Partnership Team, currently working across 3 worship centres (St. Martin's, St. Mark's & Mead Vale) & based at St. Martin's

Team Vicar – based at Mead Vale.

Non Stipendiary Minister (NSM) – based at Mead Vale

Methodist Minister (half time) – Parish based and W-s-M Circuit until September 2009.

3.5.2 Staff Vacancies

Methodist Minister – to be based at St. Mark's.

Team Vicar – to be based at St. Martin's & Wick St. Lawrence.

Team Vicar – Pioneer ministry to new housing areas and support to Locking Castle

3.5.3 Other offices

Parish Clerk – based at Parish Office part time paid 25 hrs per week

Organist – based at St. Martin's

Vergers for weddings – ad hoc – based at St. Martin's

There are also 2 retired clergy ministers based in the partnership.

3.6 Lay involvement

The Ecumenical parish is fortunate to have 4 Anglican readers, plus a Reader Emeritus, as well as help from locally based Methodist Local Preachers from the circuit.

Lay leadership is through the ECC a mixed Anglican / Methodist constituted body incorporating the Anglican PCC. There are 2 Churchwardens, 3 Methodist Stewards, 1 ECC Treasurer, who centrally manages the Partnership accounts, and elected members of each Church. The Parish Clerk runs the office with a group of volunteers, and is secretary to the ECC. Each church has its own Treasurer and Leadership Group including ECC members and co-opted members.

The introduction of Wick St. Lawrence Church, will require some re-organisation of the lay leadership of the Ecumenical Partnership, but currently there are 2 Chapel wardens, 1 Deputy Chapel warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Gift Aid Treasurer and 3 other members of the PCC.



3.7 Vision for the Ecumenical Partnership in Worle & Wick St. Lawrence

The Ecumenical Partnership in Worle has a dual calling – to serve God and to serve the Community. With its well-placed worship centres and links to schools, the council and local business we encourage the Community to join our fellowship and develop the values proclaimed by our faith.

Our mission is – **“A community centred on the living Jesus, growing, serving and reaching out in His name.”**

The Vision of the Partnership is continually developing, and the next phase is the incorporation of Wick St. Lawrence Parish into the Partnership, and a strengthening of our links to the other Ecumenical Partnership within the LMG, Locking Castle (see section 6)

Each Church, through their leadership groups, is at various stages in developing this mission and calling. Youth work and community outreach is particularly established at Mead Vale and St. Mark's Churches. Links to couples through weddings and baptisms is well developed at St. Martin's, it being seen as the more “traditional Church”. There are also strong connections to local high street traders, professional and uniformed organisations.

Alpha courses have been run from both St. Mark's and Mead Vale.

3.7 Finance

The ECC is the prime controller of financial matters within the Ecumenical Partnership. Payments of the “Parish Share” to the Diocese of Bath & Wells and the Methodist Assessment to the Methodist Circuit have always been made in full. The ECC has a budget in excess of £100,000. Each Church within the ECC holds separate Leadership accounts.

A copy of the 2007 audited accounts can be obtained on request to the Parish Office.

4. Schools

The Church plays an active part in the lives of the many schools within Worle.

There are 3 primary schools with Church VA or VC status and the Church provides governors to support the management of these.

St. Martin's C of E (VC) Primary School www.stmartinsschool.org.uk
St. Mark's VA Primary School www.saintmarks.co.uk
St Georges VA Church Primary School www.stgeorgesschool.ik.org

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Other primary schools in the area are also supported, these are:

Mead Vale Primary School	www.meadvale.n-somerset.sch.uk
Mendip Green Infant School	www.mendipgreen.ik.org
Hillside First School	www.hillsidefirst.ik.org
Castle Batch Primary School	www.castlebatch.n-somerset.sch.uk
Becket Primary School	www.becket.n-somerset.sch.uk

There are 2 secondary schools, which have links to the Church through school services and Christian clubs, these are:

Worle Community Secondary School	www.worle.n-somerset.sch.uk
Priory Community Secondary School	www.priory.n-somerset.sch.uk

5. Other Activities

Men's fellowship – meeting at the Lamb Inn - 3rd Thursday of month.
“Girls night out” – women's fellowship meeting at various venues.
“Messy Church” – 1st Saturday in the month at Mead Vale Church
Homegroup Network across the partnership

6. Links to the Local Ministry Group (LMG) Ecumenical Partnership of Locking Castle

It is planned that an Anglican Team Vicar from the Worle Partnership will provide some input to the worship and life of Locking Castle Church.

Locking Castle Church is an ecumenical church (Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Church), which was created in 1993. In 1997 the church was formally constituted by Somerset Churches Together and started work from a temporary building. The current church was gradually opened between 2004 and 2006. It can seat approx. 140 people, has a keyboard and organ, along with a projector and screen. The building also has a hall, which is used daily by numerous groups, as well as a well equipped kitchen, an office, a vestry, toilets, baby-changing facilities, and two meeting rooms.

Worship times

The church meets for worship at 9.00am for a traditional service, and at 10.30am for a more contemporary service.

The church meets on the third Wednesday evening in the month for Praise & Prayer, an informal time of worship.



Lay involvement

The church has one Anglican Reader and one Methodist Worship Leader, along side the ministerial team. However, the church believes in the ministry of the whole people of God, and encourages individuals to use their God-given gifts in the various aspects of the mission of the church, whether that is setting up and operating the projector, teaching the children and youth, serving coffee or preparing the elements for communion, leading a home group or the youth group, etc.

7. Other links

Weston-super-Mare town council and North Somerset District Council – Ministers at Worle have been asked to become Chaplain to the Town Mayor and to the Chairman of North Somerset District Council.

Worle High Street Traders Association – Ministers at Worle have supported the traders association participating in Street Fairs etc.

Uniformed organisations – Guiding, Scouting and British Legion. Services held at Churches for Christmas and Remembrance Day as well as occasional parade services.

Weston-super-Mare Churches Together - involvement in town wide Ecumenical activities

Mission - The Churches support Mission links to Zambia, directly and through the Diocese of Bath & Wells. We also support numerous other Charities including Christian Aid, The Children's Society, USPG, Methodist Funds, as well as individual charities where members of the congregation have special links.

8. The Vicarage for Team Vicar based at St. Martin's & St. Lawrence

Address: 21 Westmarch Way, Worle, Weston-super-Mare

Location: 3 to 4 minutes walk to local community centre, primary school (Castle Batch) and local shops. Approximately 5 minutes drive to Worle High Street – Shops, Banks, and Library etc. There is also a neighbourhood shopping centre with Sainsbury's, Post Office, Homebase & Argos Stores as well as other smaller outlets.

The House is approximately 5 minutes drive to St. Martin's Church and 10 minutes drive to St. Lawrence Church



Accommodation:

A modern executive style 4 bedroom detached home situated in North Worle (Castle Batch) area Lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs toilet, with en-suite facilities for the master bedroom, bathroom and toilet. There is a large double garage and parking for 2 cars. There is no disability access. The gardens are of medium size, the rear being enclosed and easy to manage, laid to lawn and shrubs.

There is a downstairs study, separated from the main rooms of the house, which can be used for meetings or interviews.

The rooms are in good decorative order and fitted with gas central heating, with good home insulation.



Person Profile: Team Vicar (St Martin's/Wick St Lawrence)

Specific Appointment Details:

- The appointment is for a Team Vicar for the Worle LEP.
- The post is based primarily at both St Martin's Church and St Lawrence Church, with additional input into St Mark's Church, and Mead Vale Church.
- The Team Vicar will have special responsibility for St Lawrence Church and will share in the leadership of St Martin's Church.
- The Team Vicar will be expected to take an active part in the life of the ecumenical Staff Team. In this respect they will be a full member of the team, responsible to and under the supervision of the Team Rector.
- The post will include conducting pastoral offices at St Martin's Church and St Lawrence Church, and at the Crematorium.
- The post also includes ministry to local schools and community groups.
- There will be a small involvement in the remainder of the Weston-Super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Circuit.

We are seeking an individual who is:

- A team player, willing to work collaboratively with colleagues and with the Leadership Groups.
- A person of both Word and Spirit, rooted in the Evangelical/Charismatic tradition, and able to make biblical preaching and teaching relevant to daily life.
- A person with a heart for mission, with empathy for people living in new housing developments and the commuter belt as well as those facing rural issues.
- Comfortable with all ages, but able to develop ministry to children, families and young people.
- Genuinely and naturally ecumenical in approach and attitude, preferably with experience of ecumenical work.
- Comfortable with the mainstream of traditional Anglican worship, but open to a wide range of liturgical expressions.
- A person of vision, committed to prayer and with a strong sacramental life.
- An excellent communicator and encourager, with good organisational and enabling skills.
- Someone with pastoral gifting, including the ability to conduct a considerable number of pastoral offices.
- Someone with a good sense of humour.

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Specific Priorities for St Martin's Church:

- Develop lay ministry in areas of baptism preparation, marriage preparation and bereavement visiting.
- Develop pastoral care, enabling people to go deeper, as well as to reach out to the fringe.
- Enable mission and growth through work with families and young people.

Specific Priorities for St Lawrence Church:

- Nurture and strengthen the existing congregation, following a long interregnum and deanery changes
- Facilitate the integration of this rural Church within the LEP
- Enable mission and growth through work with families and young people