

St Nicholas Church Oldbury

*worshipping God, growing in faith,
serving the people of our parish and community,
sharing Christ's love and truth through our living witness*

About us...

- we seek to serve and be a blessing to the people of our parish in Oldbury Village, Eardington Village and Oldbury Wells in Bridgnorth. Population approx 850.
- we are anglican, rural, village-centred, open, inclusive and welcoming.
- a pretty church building in a lovely and well-kept churchyard - a cut-through for walkers/dogs to the fields, set in the heart of a beautiful village and a thriving community, close to the town of Bridgnorth.



Our story...

- almost 900 years of history – local people worshipping God on the same site since the 11th century.
- from October 2014 a three-month trial opening the church during the day to enable parishioners and visitors to spend a few quiet moments in reflection or prayer.
- in the next year we will be exploring ways of improving our building's facilities for community events (running water, toilet, etc). We have a car park and level access.

Our patron Saint...

Nicholas' wealthy parents died when he was young. Nicholas used his inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He heard of a poor man with three daughters without dowries who were to be sold into slavery. Bags of gold were tossed through a window and landed in stockings or shoes. Hence the custom of children hanging stockings awaiting gifts from St Nicholas or "Santa Claus".

We bring the community together...

- Open Gardens in aid of children's charities. A Bring and Share Community Picnic hosted in a local couple's garden.
- On the second Thursday of the month "Coffee Pot" in The Village Hall. Many plans for future events are made over a cup of coffee and fantastic homemade cakes.
- Each year a Concert in aid of church funds. Last year *Oldbury has Talents* combined an exhibition of local crafts and a concert entirely provided by local musicians including "The Youngburys" a newly formed Band for local children.
- Two years ago we held our first Wedding Fayre in the Church, this was a great success for exhibitors, visitors and church. Our second Wedding Fayre was in September 2014.
- As a result of collaboration between the Church and Oldbury Village Hall funding was secured in 2014 for a Community Notice Board located on church grounds and accessible to the whole community.



We care for those around us...

- we put a high value on loving our neighbours. We discuss many ideas to find ways to throw our doors open to people to come in and feel that their visit has been good.
- we strive to build strong and warm relationships through our social contacts and friendships so that everyone can choose their own ways of joining in, sharing their ideas, their news and their many talents.
- members of our pastoral team visit people in their homes and offer home communion, including the residential and nursing home Oldbury Grange.

We support...

Hope House Children's Hospice, Bridgnorth Africa Project, Midlands Air Ambulance, Bridgnorth Food Bank and Hospices in Telford and Wolverhampton. The collection from our annual carol service is given to The Children's Society and from our Harvest Service and barbeque has been donated to Operation Noah.

We care for the natural world...

With the help and encouragement of residents from Oldbury and Eardington villages we have developed an area introducing wild flowers providing food for butterflies and other threatened insects and natural wildlife. It has attracted attention and curiosity from walkers. We often have conversations about what we hope to achieve.

We work together...

We all share in the ministry and mission of the church. Lay-led service (now discontinued) encouraged members of the congregation in being "up front" and sharing something of their own life and testimony. *Life and Soul* all-age being developed as a monthly informal act of worship which is more accessible to the community. The tradition of lay involvement will continue to be encouraged and developed in all aspects of church life.

We welcome young families...

Our focus for 2015 will be our monthly *Life and Soul* all-age worship. We hope to increasingly involve local people including children in the activities and music.



We will continue to build relationships with baptism and wedding families and invite them back to special events.

Assemblies and Open the Book at the four Bridgnorth primary schools. In January 2015 St Nicholas Church will host Oldbury Wells School's Year 8 for a special centenary reflection on World War One including poems, music and role play. The plan is to host each Year 8 annually during the centenary of WWI 2014-2019.

We meet socially...

A varied programme of social activities which are open to everyone: Annual Concert, six-monthly Curry and Pie and Mash Nights, Ride and Stride, Festival of Churches, etc. In 2014 we hosted Bridgnorth Players for a rehearsed reading of *Under Milk Wood* to celebrate 100 years since Dylan Thomas was born, preceded by supper in the Village Hall.

We worship together...

..... every Sunday at 10.30am:

- First Sunday – *Life and Soul* All-Age Worship - 10.30am activity and refreshments, informal worship 10.50-11.30am. Baptisms at this service when we welcome new members to our church family.
- Second, third and fourth Sundays - Holy Communion.
- Fifth Sunday – sometimes Morning Prayer or Evensong.



After our services we enjoy sharing and chatting over a cup of coffee.

Services of Harvest Thanksgiving with barbecue and Carols by Candlelight are held at Eardington Village Hall each year. We plan to increase our involvement with the community there in 2015

We invite you...

What would you like to see happening in the community?

Do you have ideas about how we can all work together to build a good future – for ourselves? our children? our world? How can we help and support you? Come and tell us at Coffee Pot in Oldbury Village Hall on a second Thursday in the month 10am-12 noon, or at our informal get-together at St Nicholas' at 10.30am on the first Sunday of the month, or any Sunday over coffee at 11.30am.

Or for a quiet chat contact one of us below.

Key contacts...

Vicar: Revd Liz Angell 01746 767187 Email angell304@btinternet.com

Churchwardens: Liz Fisher 01746 764059; Ken Biggs 01384 243372

Parish Office for baptism and wedding enquiries:

Avril Bridges 01746 767174 Email bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk

Address of the Church:

St Nicholas Church, Oldbury Road, Oldbury, Bridgnorth, WV16 5EH

Website: www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk



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