

Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Church

The Church has been serving the people of Wroughton and the surrounding hamlets for over 1000 years. We have continued to provide Christenings, Weddings and Funerals and any continuing pastoral care required.

We continue to have weekly Christian worship in the community. During the Covid lockdowns we moved our services onto a telephone conference call and our Facebook page but since returning to worship in the building we have installed a camera to make it possible for those unable to attend church in person to watch on YouTube.

We are committed as a Fairtrade church to purchase ethically whenever possible.

The Environment

Having declared a climate emergency in 2019 we have been working toward Eco-Church awards. We have a bronze award and hope to get silver soon. We are committed to preserving and enhancing the environment making improvements in the churchyard as well as our buildings and encouraging members of the church community to do more for the environment in their daily life at home. We have undertaken major work on the roof of the Church Hall with the installation of solar panels. The panels were mostly funded by a generous donation and grant from Wiltshire Community Foundation. The drainage work they are also funding has been delayed until later in the year. The clock on the hall has also been repaired by the Parish Council.

The Churchyard

The Churchyard is well used by those visiting graves and those looking for a peaceful and quiet place to sit. The Parish Council contributes to the cost of maintenance. As part of our environmental campaign, we have made a wildlife survey and a wildflower area has been planted. Plans are in progress to increase biodiversity by the way we manage the area.

There are now only a few grave spaces left in the Churchyard and so the lengthy legal process has been started to close the churchyard and hand over the responsibility of its upkeep to the council. It will still be possible where there is room to bury in existing family plots and to bury ashes in the garden of remembrance.

Community

Church members continue to volunteer for various charitable activities including The Filling Station supplying food etc. to those living on the streets and Swindon Food Collective which runs the Food Bank. They also take part in many village groups and activities.