

St Bartholomews Church, Lostwithiel
Parish Vision document



The Parish church of Lostwithiel

Preface from the PCC

The Parish of Lostwithiel (St Bartholomew's) produced a survey in 2022 to gather the opinions of both parishioners and the wider community on the way forward for our church to tackle the challenges facing the church in Cornwall and to shine a light on the fruitfulness in our parish at the moment. The survey received over 80 responses and an analysis of these responses has guided the PCC in the production of this Parish Profile and prepare a mission plan for the next 5 years. A full analysis of the results of the survey can be found in a separate document.

Throughout this document the percentages indicated refer to the proportion of respondents to the survey who expressed support for the views expressed in this profile statement.



Fruitfulness



OUR CALLING TO FRUITFULNESS...

Fruitful means that our parish needs to pay attention to their mission to poorer communities; to children, young people and schools; to creation care; to the global church; to deepening discipleship; and to the quality of community life within each church.

Where are we now?



Messy Church



Children's Ministry

(60 % in favour)



School Communion



Experience Easter
Harvest Experience



School events

Ji



Food Share



Books/clothes swap

The Poor and Needy

89 % in favour



Food Boxes for all School Holidays
Over 50 distributed through schools

Community Larder
New in 2024





Wild Garden



Bird and Bug boxes

Creation Care



Our Creation Care Champion - Kate



Hedgehog Home



Quiet seating area



Tree Maintenance and preservation



Bellringers



Fetes

Relation to Community

Over 80% in favour



Concerts



Community Cafe



Christmas Trees



Dog Show



Fashion Show



Scarecrow Competition



Family Services



Civic Ceremonies

Discipleship – deep and wide

Over 80% in favour



Special Services



Parish Eucharist
from St
Bartholomew's
Church, Lostwithiel
8th August 2021

Regular weekly services led by ordained priest

Lent and Advent Courses

Our beautiful Church building is of tremendous historical importance and value to the community of Lostwithiel.



As a business owner I find St Barts to be the critical anchor of a vibrant high street and an important part of the town centre. Our town looks prosperous and positive and I believe one reason for this is that our church is always busy. Services, events, fetes, demonstrations and other activities keep our town involved in the "goings on" .

Our Vision for the future

51% of responses wanted more music and creative events.

We already have bookings for monthly concerts throughout 2025

49% of responses suggested more events for children.

We already have a flourishing Samba Band

46% of responses wanted more events for parents and toddlers

Our aim is to make services more inclusive of families and to grow congregation to around 50 to 75 per week

35% of responses wanted more variety of services.

We plan to expand inclusion of Gospel Choir etc....

30% of responses suggested providing more support to the community



Looking to the future at St Mary Bradoc Church.

St Mary's has been part of the community of Braddock Parish for over 1,400 years. It has a very beautiful medieval building with many modern conveniences; child, young person and adult activities; close links to our school, and as a growing community has a bright future.

Many generations of families have sat in its pews and celebrated both personal and community events and festivals. It is also a place for quiet reflection in doors and in our outdoor reflective area. It is a home to nature, where wildflowers and fauna are encouraged, and our community are encouraged to come and reflect. It can be used as a base for relaxing, walking, cycling, accessing historic parish information, meetings, picnics, and refreshments. It is carbon neutral.

It is open daily and there are Parish Sunday services every week, alternating with Choral Evensong at 6:00pm and Eucharist at 11:15am, it is open to all. It is the only civic building in our Parish.

The Trustees have been thinking how we might better serve our community and we are asking you to help us by completing this survey. We would love to hear what else you would like to see happening in our busy growing church.

This is part of a National Survey by the Church of England.

You are free to remain anonymous, but if you would like to be kept in touch with development, or would like to be involved in any way, please leave your details at the end of the survey. When you have completed your survey, please return it by email stmarybradoc@btinternet.com or place it in the collection boxes in the church porch or in the school library reading hut by the end of this month

Considering the future for St Marys church. How important is the parish church to you?

VERY IMPORTANT	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT IMPORTANT	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you value the church as an historic building? Yes No

Do you value the building as a community asset? Yes No

What does/might encourage you to come and use St Mary's church? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

What does/might encourage you to come and worship at St Marys Church? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Please choose the 10 most important things for you, from the list below. Feel free to add your own suggestion in the box if it isn't on the list.

Open daily	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refreshments available	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendly/welcoming	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meeting space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Warm temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public / private prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessible worship	<input type="checkbox"/>	Concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Available for weddings / funerals/burials and baptisms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visitor Centre and parish historical information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	Children clearly welcome	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organised walks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Links with school	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fellowships / friendships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flush Toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coffee mornings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whole family activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toddler activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Click or tap here to enter text.

In your opinion, what is most needed in the community of Braddock for...

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?	Click or tap here to enter text.
WORKING AGED PEOPLE?	Click or tap here to enter text.
RETIRED PEOPLE?	Click or tap here to enter text.

Please tick your age group

below. 18 <input type="checkbox"/>	18 – 30 <input type="checkbox"/>	31 – 55 <input type="checkbox"/>	55+ <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please write any additional comments below:

Click or tap here to enter text.

KEEPING IN TOUCH I would like to keep up to date about future developments/I am interested in being part of a group exploring this further/I would like to support the church and join the electoral role

NAME: Click or tap here to enter text. ADDRESS: Click or tap here to enter text. CONTACT NUMBER Click or tap here to enter text. EMAIL: Click or tap here to enter text.

Privacy Notice: By providing your contact details, you are giving permission for St Mary's Church to contact you about plans for the church's future. We will not share your details with a third party. St Mary's Church is part of the Diocese of Truro, the Church of England in Cornwall. Please see our website www.bradoc-church.co.uk for full details of our GDPR and safeguarding policies and information about our church.

Thank you for completing and returning this form

Enabling Schools and Small Churches to Flourish Together

“One of the best church/school relationships I have ever seen”

Church of England Schools

“A community school with a distinctive Christian character.”

From the earliest days, the purpose of Church schools was to enable children to flourish by providing a **basic education** and by developing their **moral character**. It was always intended that Church schools should be **open to all of the children of the parish**. The schools are not ‘faith schools’ in the sense of presuming that children are practising Christians or attempting to make converts of them. However, the ethos of the schools is based on **distinctively Christian values** and they will offer children an experience of faith through **collective worship** and **links with the parish church**.

Bradoc Church has provided the foundation for Christian Distinctiveness to our school for over 150 years.

Bradoc Church and Braddock School

- Our school is the the largest worshipping community of our church.
- Our children are the next generation who will decide on what the Church of England looks like in the future.
- The Headteacher is a member of the PCC and our Church Warden/Deanery Synod Representative is a Foundation Governor of our School.
- Our staff are all on the electoral roll as regular worshippers.
- Our relationship has particularly flourished in the last 3 years.
- Locality is a challenge.
- Ensure that we meet our contextual worshipping needs.



ONE CHURCH ONE SCHOOL

Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills
Educating for hope and aspiration:
Educating for community and living well together
Educating for dignity and respect

Endless Opportunities

Developing Links

I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

The National Curriculum and our Church - a plethora of opportunity!

History

Writing

Geography

Reading

Religious
Education

Outdoor
Education



P.S.H.E.

Maths

Music

P.E.

Science

Modern
Foreign
Languages

Religious Education

- Providing first hand experience.
- Linking theory to practice.
- Using the worshipping community as our role models.
- Developing an understanding from the very start.



Giving Children a Voice and a Platform

- Leading on the Creation Care Initiative.
- Giving our Junior Worship Team a voice on the PCC.
- Providing children and their families with the invaluable support of our church (devices for children).
- Enabling children to articulate their understanding of Christianity and learning from this.
- Offering communion before confirmation.



The Future of our Church, School Survey

1 Considering the future for St. Mary's church. How important is the parish church to you?

Very Important	72
Somewhat Important	14
Not Important	0

2 Please choose the 10 most important things for you, from the list below.

Most Important	Responses
Children clearly welcome	86
Links with the school	72
Friendly/welcoming	66
Tower bell ringing	72
Handbells	62
Hand chimes	52
Piano lessons	35
Being with God	61
Peaceful	52
Opportunities to learn	61



What does/might encourage you to come and use St Mary's Church?

Friendliness, History of the church and our surrounding area, Mr Pearce, Roz and Rev. Paul!, Music - bell ringing, hand chimes, clubs, being still and calm - quiet, exploring and being in the outdoors, remembering those people that have passed.

In your opinion, what is the most needed in the community of Braddock for...

Children and Young People	OUR CHURCH!, Somewhere where we can reflect, to sing, to be close to God, to nurture our talents (bell ringing/piano lessons), knowing that people love and care for us, a safe space to go to.
Working Aged People	Somewhere that they can go to unwind, and be peaceful, listening to music,
Retired People	Somewhere to seek company, to not feel lonely, to learn from our history.



Embracing the Knowledge and Expertise of our Community

- Our Church congregation are some of the most diverse 'knowledge givers' in our communities.
- Several of our church members come into school regularly to deliver as part of 'Open the Book'.
- Members also deliver sessions on the mini-ring and handchimes.
- Acknowledging the church as an integral link to our school family.



'After Hours' - How do we entice the children to use the church out of school hours?

- Weekly bell ringing
- Opportunities to learn and play the piano
- Encouraging parents and carers to visit
- Embracing opportunities for joint worship
- Connections with our International Companions.



Embrace Rather Than Push Back

Adopting the Saints' Way initiative and rooting this in our worship, including our International Links.

Thinking outside the box when it comes to 'On the Way'.

Connecting our visions.

Sharing in common prayer.



Making Our Church Our Home

1. Do the children feel comfortable in this environment?
2. Is there a sense of ownership and responsibility?
3. Is there a collective understanding of the importance of our church?
4. How do we serve our church rather than how can our church serve us?



Final Thoughts...

"We want our church to stay open as its been part of our school for hundreds of years."

"Where will we go for our services if it closes?"

"We don't want it to be turned into houses!"

"Lots of people try really hard to save our church!"

"What will we have left to show our own children?"



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [John 1:5](#).



St Bartholomew's Church Community Survey

Summary of responses to survey distributed
Dec 2021 to Feb 2022

Number of surveys analysed: 85

Date of analysis : 25th February 2022

1. Your age group:

Primary School	0%
Secondary School	0.0%
16 – 25	0.0%
26 – 45	3.2%
46 – 65	17.5%
66 – 80	57.1%
Over 80	22.2%

2. I am answering as :

Individual	79%
Family	19%
Business	2%
Other Organisation	0%

If 'Other Organisation please add details (e.g. type, size, age group)

.....
.....

3. Name of village/town in which you live :

Lostwithiel	75
Bodmin	4
Lanlivery	2

St Winnow	3
Other	1

4. Do you attend St Bart's now and if so, how often?

No	1%
Only for seasonal or family events	27%
Less than once a month	18%
More than once a month	54%

St Bart's is one of six parishes in the Benefice of Lostwithiel Parishes who enjoy the services of Revd Paul Beynon and Revd Sheila Bawden (along with the support of retired clergy).

5. What about St Bart's makes you more likely to attend?(tick all which apply)

Services lead by your Vicar	78%
The Church Community	68%
Community Events	65%
Connection to local community	63%
The building	43%
Other	54%

Baptism/Wedding	Support from Revd Sheila Bawden
More fellowship/less cliques	The worship and liturgies
Bellringing	Church family
Also enjoy services led by churchwardens	Been going here since born
Attend due to Christian beliefs	If church closes, loss of bellringing

Friendship (x 2)

Foodshare

When visiting family

Attend St Barts when no local service

We need a vicar living in town as it helps connect church and community, otherwise there could be serious decline in attendance and interest.

Also having local vicar is God's way of bringing spirit of church close to people

6. Do you find attending St Bart's difficult in any way ?

No 92.1%

Yes 7.9%

If yes, can you say why?

Mobility problems (x2)/seating and pathways difficult

Parking

Not the friendliest/very formal

7. Have you watched services from St Bart's online ?

Yes 43%

No 57%

If yes, can you say how you found this useful?

During Covid Lockdown (8 comments)

Very occasionally

Extends reach of church community (2 comments)

Page difficult to find

Lovely during lockdown but prefer to attend services in church

Revd Paul's presence calming and reassuring

Good to feel included if can't get to church (2 comments)

When not attending it's good to see

Useful but not like attending in person

Sometimes more convenient

Feeling included in services, despite being able to attend

8. Which of the following that St Bart's offers your community do you think are important? (Tick all that apply):

Venue for weddings, baptisms, funerals	97%
A place for concerts	87%
Bible studies	43%
Prayer Groups	48%
Support for those in need	89%
Coffee mornings/Community Café	81%
Fetes	73%
Pastoral care and support from your Vicar	76%
Christmas, Easter and Harvest Services	94%
Fund raising events	78%
School events such as Messy church/ Open the book	62%
Weekly services lead by your Vicar	68%
School assemblies	56%

9. What would you like St Bart's to do differently? (tick all that apply) :

More music and creative arts events	51%
Provide more support	30%
More Christian teaching	22%
More prayer initiatives	11%
More services	17%
More midweek events	22%

Greater variety of services	35%
Events for children, especially in holidays	49%
Events for parents and toddlers	46%

something else:

More outreach/retain pews

Offer space to wider audience

St Bart's has it all right

Can't fault St Bart's team

Church kept together by efforts of Revd Sheila; also churchwardens and treasurer are stalwarts

Clergy need more time to devote to pastoral care.

Celebrate Celtic festivals/interfaith events

St Bart's achieving a lot run by volunteers giving freely of their time

St Bart's could broaden appeal with alternative forms of worship (traditional and evangelical) at different times.

Also use buildings for wide variety of community events besides worship to help generate more funding.

Post Office/Bank/creche/holistic centre

Young Wives group may attract younger church members

More ways to engage with families (e.g. outdoor carol service/Owl service)

Continue work supporting community

Nominate buddy to welcome and chat to new faces

Check how infrequent attenders are doing

Use church as venue for non-religious functions

The Diocese of Truro has plans underway to increase the use of local people to lead worship in churches in place of Vicars.

10. Please indicate your preference for the model of worship leadership you would prefer in St Bart's:

"Local Ordained Minister (Vicar) taking all services and providing pastoral/ caring ministry for this parish." 90%

"Local Lay Minister (i.e not an ordained vicar) leading most services under the oversight of a "super-vicar" (responsible for a large number of parishes, possibly operating from a distant parish like Bodmin)." 10%

Occasional services lead by visiting Vicars 22%

11. Would a reduction in the number of services at St Barts lead by your Vicar affect the regularity of your attendance in church and/or your donations and giving for its upkeep?

No affect 43%

Reduce attendance/giving 49%

Increase attendance/giving 3%

12. The management (both financial and physical) of your parish church is currently the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) made up of local volunteers who are on the Parish register. One of the suggestions from the Diocese for a future model of management is for a “super PCC” responsible for many parishes, with local sub-committees responsible for the welfare of individual parish churches (but having no financial control).

Which model of management of your parish church would you prefer:

Local PCC for each Parish	90%
Super-PCC responsible for many parishes	8%

13. Listed below are some factors which influence the work of St Bartholomew’s Church in the community of Lostwithiel; please rank them in order of their importance to you (1 = most important, 4 least important):

Voluntary work by members of the community in support of you church	2
Paid support staff in Truro Diocesan Office	4
Vicar living in and supporting this Parish	1
Support network of Archdeacons and Bishops	3

Sundry Comments not in direct response to questions

It would be challenging for someone lacking a knowledge of their “flock” to be a good, or even effective “shepherd”. Steps that would increase this disconnect can only hasten a decline in church activity and viability.

Definitely NOT a “super vicar” and visiting vicars only very occasionally, not on a regular basis.

Staff and expenses at Diocesan level should be reduced to enable MORE vicars in local parishes. In contrast, by removing local vicars the congregations are left feeling unloved and uncared for and there is no one familiar to turn to in time of need.

A “super PCC” would not know the individual needs of a parish who could easily be outvoted by other members of the super PCC who have no understanding of other parishes but their own.

Lay ministers are useful to help the vicar but do not have the same authority or presence as an ordained minister and would leave the church community rudderless.

Most churches are capable of supporting themselves in spite of small congregations, but find the cost of the MMF crippling. This survey seems to be looking at the wrong idea and should in my view be focused on reducing overheads, particularly those in the Diocese.

Friendship and warmth of church community beneficial to wellbeing

Church of England “top heavy”; ordinary people need local priest to minister to them. If we cannot support all the churches in our Benefice, close some of them BUT PLEASE keep our priests local

See Chris Short’s notes to Benefice Steering Group.

Not a churchgoer but have belief. Understand importance of giving children a strong moral background. I feel the church in this country is far too exclusive of those with other approaches to God.

As a business owner I find St Barts to be the critical anchor of a vibrant high street and an important part of the town centre. Our town looks prosperous and positive and I believe one reason for this is that our church is always busy. Services, events, fetes, demonstrations and other activities keep our town involved in the “goings on” . St Barts is an organisation constantly involved in the welfare of our community and it DOESN'T NEED FIXING.

Fantastic work of Revd Sheila supporting local community and those in need.

Long history of serving community. Depressed by sea of pews; their removal would give church a more welcoming feel and make church an ideal venue for community events.

Prefer churches to stay as they are

A great deal would be lost if local links to St Barts and Benefice churches are broken by removing control to a more remote authority without local ties/understanding/commitment to community. The St Bart's team undertake very valuable community support to the town. St Bart's is a very important place at the heart of the town (both spiritually and emotionally) for many who may not consider themselves church-goers (or religious at all). The churchyard is a peaceful, welcoming green space easily accessible to all.

Do bishops need to live in grand palaces? Too much Diocesan money wasted on schemes that never get past discussion stage.