

EXAMPLE: ST LAWRENCE WILLINGTON CHURCH GUIDE

Welcome to St Lawrence, Willington .It is likely that a church has stood on this site since Saxon times, although the building you see today dates from 16th Century. The present church maintains the basic plan of the original one but with the addition of the North aisle and the Gostwick chapel

Every church can convey three important messages to those who visit it

- The people of this place are glad you are here. This place is for you
- This is not just a beautiful old building, it is a sacred place; however you may understand the word ‘sacred’.
- This church is alive, loved and used regularly, by people who are committed to following the way of Christ.

This booklet will help you to understand that first and foremost the Church is a place of faith. That is why it was built, to worship God and to draw people closer to him.

We hope that you will enjoy your visit. Please sign the Visitor’s Book before you leave.

We are glad that you came and hope that you will return again.

Provide plan of the church – and explain:

The Porch (1)

In the porch there is a list of service times and other notices.

There is a communion service each Sunday at 10am, except for the second Sunday when there is a family service at 11.15am.

Morning Prayer is said on a Thursday morning at 9am.

There is a junior and a senior choir and a tiny tots group, all of which meet weekly.

There is a monthly luncheon club, Traidcraft coffee morning and Youth group.

More details and contact telephone numbers are on the notice board.

The West end under the Tower (2)

This development was completed in 2008. Water was connected to the church and toilet and kitchen facilities installed. Many local people gave money to finance the project. There were also a number of grants details of which are in a special book.

The two grid irons are dedicated to St Lawrence. He was a Deacon in the early church who was martyred for his faith in 258 by being burned alive on a grid iron. The church is dedicated to St Lawrence whose feast day is on 10th August.

The project has meant that the church can be more accessible to visitors especially when the National Trust holds Heritage days.

The Font (3)

The font was moved in 2008 to be near to the North door. In most churches the font is positioned next to the main entrance. This is deliberate because the church baptises children to symbolise entering the church family and beginning a journey with Christ. It is the first step along the Christian road. When a child is baptised they receive a candle lit from the paschal candle.

The Coffin lid

Lady Chapel and North aisle

The Chancel

The stained glass window is a picture of Jesus and the eleven disciples after his resurrection from the dead.

The altar is under the east window in the part of the church which is called the sanctuary. The altar is used for the celebration of Holy Communion. Bread and wine are blessed and shared by the congregation to recall Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

At the front of the altar there are three panels in coloured material. These are changed to mark the different seasons of the Church's year. Purple is used for Lent and Advent, white for Christmas and Easter, red for martyrs and Pentecost and green for ordinary time.

The organ

The most important part of the bellows, the pipes and "the stops". The bellows act like a bag rather like a bagpipe. A long pipe makes a deep sound and a short pipe makes a high note.

The organ is used to accompany the singing of hymns at choir practice and on a Sunday.

The Gurney stove

It was restored in 2008 with the help of a donation from the village history group and moved to this new position.

The Gostwick chapel

The pulpit

The pulpit is used by the Vicar to preach a sermon.

The church exterior and churchyard

Usual Sunday services at St Lawrence

10am Holy Communion BCP 1st Sunday in the month
Sung Communion 3rd and 4th Sundays

11.15am Parish Praise followed by refreshments and "Traidcraft stall"

Full details of other services and organisations are in the porch.

A prayer that you may like to use

*Bless O Lord, the worship and work of this church.
Thank you for making it for many centuries
a holy place and a house of prayer.
May it continue to be a centre of Christian teaching,
a community of faithful service
and a witness to your redeeming love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen*