

Welcome to the Benefice of Pedmore and Wollescote.

We thank you for considering us and trust you will reflect through prayer if God is calling you to serve our community here.



<----- **WOLLESCOTE** ----- Wychbury Hill is the geographical link between the two Parishes ----- **PEDMORE** ----- >

Our Lord Jesus Christ existed before all things, and in union with Him all things have their proper place. He is the head of His body, the church; He is the source of the body's life. He is the first born Son, who was raised from death, in order that He alone might have the first place in all things. (Colossians 1.17-18)

PEDMORE AND WOLLESCOTE BENEFICE PROFILE

Wychbury Hill

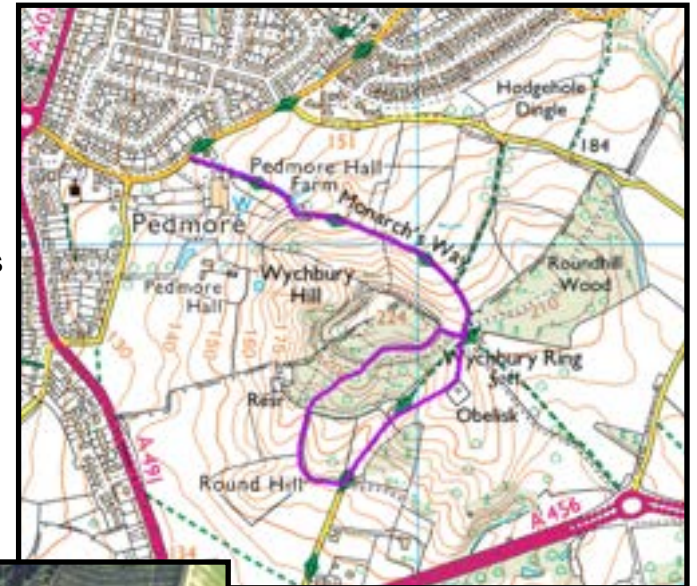
Pedmore and Wollescote are “Black Country” parishes, an area of the West Midlands known for its historic industrial heritage.

But green open countryside is right next to us.

Wychbury Hill within is a natural feature of the landscape which overlooks both St Andrew's and St Peter's.

The hill is just over 200 metres above sea level and offers good views across the Severn Valley as far as the Malvern Hills and Clee Hills.

It is the site of Wychbury Ring – an Iron Age hill fort – containing a 28-tree ancient yew grove.



The Wychbury Obelisk stands close to the summit of the hill, just in the parish of Hagley.

Two differing locations - One Lord

St Peter's Pedmore



From the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s, detached and semi-detached private dwellings were built here in Pedmore. They replaced fields and farmland to create a relatively spacious and attractive housing estate with some blossom, tree-lined roads.

This added to what was already a sought after and affluent area in the housing market.

St Andrew's Wollescote



From 1925, the building of Hodge Hill housing estate meant that Wollescote began to spread over the fields on the eastern side. The Wollescote Council accelerated the rate of building, so that by 1939, a large estate of 400 houses was in place.

Adding to this during the 1950s and by the end of the 1960s, there were two more social housing estates.

Two different buildings. The same Lord



There has been a church on this current site in Pedmore, since Norman times. A priest for Pevemore (later Pedmore) is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was rebuilt in the 13th century.

The present St. Peter's building dates from the 1870s, yet incorporates features of the original and seats 200 in a traditional style. From the gate, the churchyard looks out over the neighbouring Cricket Ground. A classic view.



St. Andrew's was opened in June 1939. It was built intentionally as a mission church for Wollescote, as representatives of the Diocesan Committee recognised a great need for a place of worship to serve the surrounding council housing estate.

Trusting in His gracious powers, it is strategically placed as a "beacon on a hill", looking out over the parish towards Wollescote Park.

Our New Rector

Essential characteristics

- Compassionate and able to relate well to others
- A strong and visible Christian faith rooted in prayer and discipleship
- Being Holy Spirit led and skilled in sharing the reality, relevance and application of the scriptures into our everyday lives, is both necessary and important to us
- A team player who will support and encourage the existing team
- A good communicator, able to engage with the wider community, especially with schools and other local organisations

Desirable characteristics

- Careful management of change : encouraging growth spiritually and numerically
- Not afraid to talk about money
- Sensitive in discussions to accommodate different points of view
- Practical and comfortable in gently encouraging varying worship styles

Congregational responses to a questionnaire asking the following

In your opinion, what are the qualities you are looking for in a new priest?

- Leadership guidance
- Empathy and compassion
- Ability to take God's word to a diverse community; opening Christ's arms to welcome ALL
- Pastoral care
- Deep faith
- Communication skills
- A genuine desire to serve and connect with people from all backgrounds
- Kind, empathetic, communicative, sociable
- Courageous with a heart for mission
- Compatible with both churches
- Stay for long term
- Family oriented
- Vision for all - age church
- Sociable and friendly
- Can make the Bible relevant and interesting
- Good communicator

What are the hopes for the future of the benefice of St. Andrew's and St. Peter's?

- To carry us forward
- Equal time for both churches
- A spiritually led benefice that addresses the differing communities to effectively interact and spread the gospel
- A united church
- Shared literature about forthcoming events
- Pastoral guidance so all parishioners can demonstrate the joy of knowing Christ with the community
- Better communication
- To grow in Jesus, humbly together
- Simply accepting of one another

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a growing all age church, experiencing and sharing the love of God with the people of Pedmore and Wollescote.

Our Aim

Our aim is to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ and share it by word and action.

Church Services

Our church services vary in formality, but all aim to help those who attend, to worship God and learn more about him in the person of Jesus Christ.

Challenges

We have a need to develop a programme to attract more members, especially young people.

We need to vary our styles of worship to allow more people to connect with God.

We need more members of the congregation to take on active roles.

We have eco church awards - silver at St Peter's and bronze at St Andrew's but we must maintain our high standards.

Practical arrangements for the clearing and levelling of the land at the south side (back) of St. Andrew's (where the Hall was demolished) and ideas and decisions as to the use of it, for the benefit of the Community.

Priests, Lay Ministers, and Safeguarding Officer



Reverend Paul Hedworth

Chaplain at Bromsgrove School

Resident within the Benefice, and with permission to exercise the office of priest within any benefice in the Diocese of Worcester at the request of the Incumbent. He takes a service in either or both churches about once a month.



Canon Kath Davis

*(Pictured receiving the Maundy Money
from Queen Camilla at Worcester Cathedral in 2024)*

Licensed Lay Minister
at St. Andrew's, Wollescote.

Honorary Canon
of Worcester Cathedral.

Worcester Diocesan Co-Warden of
Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers).

Elaine Hurry

Parish Safeguarding Officer



Richard Sarjeant

Licensed Lay Minister
at St. Peter's
Pedmore.

with Bishop's
permission to take
funerals



Corrinne Sarjeant

Licensed Lay Minister
at St. Peter's
Pedmore.

with Bishop's
permission to take
funerals



Linda Kitto

Licensed Lay Minister
at St. Peter's
Pedmore.

Indoor facilities

The features of each of our two church buildings are usefully complimentary, benefiting both communities.



The interior of St Peter's is commensurate with the history and age of the church building. The stained glass windows are both beautiful and useful. Starting from the rear right-hand side they creatively tell the New Testament story of our Lord Jesus Christ; continuing forward and along, culminating in the glorious east window & "reigning on high". The window sills also hold attractive floral and festive displays. Pews with firm cushions, which can make all-age supportive seating for approximately two hundred people are permanently in place. There is demountable staging to increase flexibility at the front.

A sensitively crafted cupboard at the rear reveals a sink and facilities for providing refreshments at the end of a service. Barney's Corner, a resourceful attractive area for carers and toddlers who need space during a service is nearby.

The internal enclosed porch incorporates a toilet with access for the disabled. LED lighting was fitted in 2015 and a new boiler in 2019.



The interior of St. Andrew's is mainly and practically plain; yet accommodating as a dual-purpose building with parquet flooring and moveable seating; enabling ample space for a wide range of activities and events.

The outstanding feature as one enters from the narthex through the double doors and looking straight ahead is the cross, raised high above the communion table. This two-step raised area is carpeted. Half way along and to the left is the baptistry and a surprisingly stunning, stained glass window: creatively representing the baptism of the Holy Spirit as Pentecostal fire.

There have been recent conversions to the building. There is a new kitchen: accessible from the baptistry. And, new toilets (including access for the disabled and also baby-changing facilities) signed from the narthex. Also from the narthex, there is a new entrance to a very useful storage room - once a kitchen belonging to the attached church hall. (Built during the 1960s and demolished in 2023).

True worship is like sweet fragrance rising as a sacrifice that is pleasing to God. (2 Corinthians 2:15 and John 12:13)

At St. Andrew's

10.00am Communion Service using Common Worship

10.00am Morning Worship when no Priest available

Wednesday : Midweek Communion using Common Worship
(alternates with St. Peter's)

At our 10am Wednesday Morning Communion we celebrate as one gathering from both fellowships, alternating between our two locations of St. Peter's Pedmore and St. Andrew's Wollescote.

Friendships have been strengthened over these times.

A new initiative at St. Andrew's has been helped along by friends belonging to the local Wollescote Scout troops. St. Andrew's hosted the children, the leaders, and parents within our Sunday Worship Service following St. George's Day. They paraded from their local Scout Hut to St. Andrew's, and will also be joining us for Remembrance Sunday and other occasions. (A heaven-sent opportunity !)



At St. Peter's

9.00am Contemplative Holy Communion without music

10.30am Morning worship using Common Worship and other resources mainly from New Patterns of Worship is celebrated, including a Communion Service once a month. On the fifth Sundays of the month the service is designed specifically with families in mind, it may include more interactive elements. It has been suggested that these services could be occasions when the congregations combine and alternate between the two church buildings. Family Communion Services are held for the main festivals and we are joined by a big representation from the Uniformed Organisations for Remembrance Sunday.

6.00pm On the last Sunday of the month there is a BCP Evensong with a small robed choir and congregation. On the last Sunday of November there is a special service when we remember the departed.

Wednesday : Midweek Communion using Book of Common Prayer
(alternates with St. Andrew's)



St Peter's Centre

The Centre was opened in 2002 *“to celebrate the love of Jesus and share it by word and action.”*



This is a much-used facility, with a well equipped kitchen and a hall that can be divided into two sections. It also houses the church office.

Church events include Saplings, Forest church, Messy church, lunches after the service, evening quizzes, men's breakfasts, PCC meetings, prayer meetings, coffee mornings, Summer and Christmas Fayres.

For the wider community, the Centre is used by Midland Ancestors, Pedmore Ladies, the Townswomen's Guild, National Childbirth Trust, Rangers and Brownies, the Midlands Fretted Orchestra, and the children's section of Temple Martial Arts. It is also used as a quiet meeting place for those attending Senior Peace of Mind.

Many of those hiring the Centre come via recommendations or from referrals by social working groups. Parties and family celebrations are also catered for.



Goings-on at the St. Peter's Centre

Three Christmas elves
at the Fayre



Cafe Church - worship, coffee and cake



Rectory lawn Garden Party



Rehearsal for the
"Love your church" service



Coffee morning and sales for Christian Aid
with St. Peter's and St. Andrew's folk



Coronation Lunch



Using St Andrew's as a Community Space

In 2023 it was necessary to demolish the hall at St Andrews's, which had been unusable for several years due to structural problems. With the help of successful grant funding applications, a kitchen and toilets (including baby changing facilities) were installed in our church.

This has enabled us to use the interior of our church for the benefit of the community, at appropriate times and when not being used for Church Services. This not only helps with outreach but is also a useful source of income.

It is used for our popular Christmas and Summer Fayres, Harvest Lunch, and by our Saplings baby and toddler group, Craft Club, and for Mothers Union meetings.

Amongst those organisations that regularly use the facility are "Feel Good Pilates" (providing gentle exercises) and "Dance to Health" (a falls prevention programme). The National Childbirth Trust group also use it occasionally.



Kitchen



Christmas Fayre



Serving hatch



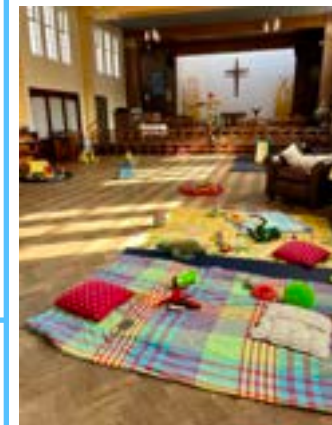
Harvest lunch



Thursday mornings



Wednesday evenings & Saturday mornings



Tuesday mornings



Focusing on our communities, endeavouring to work collaboratively

A group of ladies hosting a Community Craft Club in St. Andrew's Church on Monday afternoons



Cafe Tuesday



'Cafe Tuesday' at the Foley Arms is led by Pauline from St. Peter's and is popular with up to 25 people attending. The lonely and isolated are cared for and supported with input from Dudley Health Communities.

Craft activities benefit various local charities and coach trips are available during the Summer months.



April 2022 brought blessings which would overflow, as a team of six from St. Peter's along with a team of seven from St. Andrew's responded to the words of Jesus when He said to His disciples: "Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." With the help of our Mission Enabler, Jayne, invitations were given to the Pedmore and Wollescote communities' mums/carers with babies & toddlers to 'stay & play' mornings at the respective church halls.

During term time, Saplings at St. Peter's meets on Mondays 9.00-10.30am and
Saplings at St. Andrew's meets on Tuesdays 9.30-11.00am

St George's Day Parade with Morning Worship at St Andrew's 2025



All photographs used with permission.

Joint Family Service at St Peter's on 29 June 2025



Theme : (1 Samuel 17) “ David fought the battle for the Israelites And the giant came tumbling down. ”

All photographs used with permission.

Local Schools and Colleges

The area is very well served by local Schools and other Educational Establishments.

St. Peter's C of E Primary School is located just five minutes walk away, over the main road from the Rectory

An introduction from the school's website (www.pedmore.dudley.sch.uk) :

*"As a church school, we hold our Christian values at the heart of everything that we do.
We believe that it is our responsibility to prepare children for their future by providing them with an excellent education rooted in a Christian ethos. We have high expectations of everyone at Pedmore, and do the best they can.
Love one another as I have loved you (John 13.34).*

Mr D Dunn (Headteacher) “

Hob Green Primary School - a proud member of drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust - is a quarter of a mile from St. Andrew's Church.

Wollescote Primary School is one mile away on the border of Wollescote in the neighbouring parish of Lye.

Ham Dingle Primary School in Pedmore is half a mile away in the neighbouring parish of Oldswinford.

Secondary schools:

Pedmore High School,
Redhill & Specialist Language College,
Haybridge High School and Sixth Form,
King Edward VI College,
Oldswinford Hospital school (which has day and boarding pupils).

Tertiary:

Further Education colleges in Dudley and Halesowen.

The Rectory



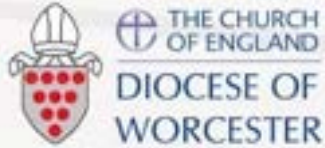
The Rectory is on Pedmore Lane, adjacent to St Peter's Church and St Peter's Centre. It was built in 1969 and has been substantially upgraded in recent years. It is a five bedroomed detached house and includes a study over an integral garage. It has a good-sized manageable garden with a greenhouse. Parking is in the adjacent church car park.

The benefice is surrounded by the beautiful countryside of Worcestershire, Shropshire and South Staffordshire.

The nearby Client Hills at 300m above sea level have amazing views and are cared for by the National Trust. There are walking trails that are dog friendly and there is a welcoming café.

Other local visitor attractions include: the West Midlands Safari Park; the Severn Valley Railway; the Black Country Living Museum; Dudley Castle and Zoo. There are, of course, the usual city attractions in Birmingham – theatres, museums, art galleries etc.

Transport links to and from Stourbridge are very good. There is easy access to the motorway system. Birmingham airport is just under an hour away. There are train services to London, Birmingham and Worcester from Stourbridge Junction Station.



Diocese of Worcester



DIOCESAN PRIORITIES 2023 -2030

Double the number of **children and young people** worshipping in our churches.

Create 100 **new worshipping communities** offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God.
(eg Forest Church / Café Church / Walking Church).

Invest in the **renewal** of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.

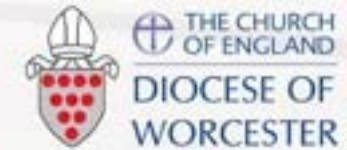
Underpin these by investing in clergy and lay leaders, providing training and development opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

One size doesn't fit all - the diocese want to strengthen local churches and encourage and resource them to explore what it might mean to grow in health and sustainability in their context as they worship God, make disciples, share hope, and **transform communities**.

More information can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/growing-kingdom-people/



Greater Dudley Deanery



The Benefice of Pedmore and Wollescote is in the Greater Dudley Deanery (GDD), which was formed during a diocesan reorganisation in 2021. It covers the whole of the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley along with a handful of parishes in Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Bromsgrove (Worcestershire). This makes the deanery relatively large nationally, and the largest by population in the diocese. The benefit of a larger deanery is the **greater opportunity for team working** between clergy and churches, and for drawing suitably significant groups together for training.

The deanery is led by a Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) which includes the Area Dean, two Sub-Deans, and lay members (Lay Chair, Deanery Treasurer, Deanery Secretary, and the Children and Youth Worker). The DLT works closely with the diocesan training department to provide training for clergy and laity at all levels of ministry. It also guides the agenda for Deanery Synod, and represents the deanery at certain diocesan meetings.

The expectation is that Deanery Synod acts as a focus and stimulus for parishes to deliver the mission priorities of the diocese.

Deanery Synod meetings serve as a place of mutual support, encouragement and challenge to lift individual churches beyond the parochial and broaden understandings of mission. Increasingly churches work together, **sharing resources** and opening up **new opportunities for mission**.

The Deanery Chapter, comprising over 30 licensed ministers, is primarily a place of **mutual support and encouragement**, as well as a place to discuss matters of business. The Chapter meets every 4/5 weeks over lunch, and meetings are well attended.

The task of growing healthy and sustainable churches in the Greater Dudley Deanery is challenging. Through **good, collaborative working** within and between parishes, between clergy and laity, and between deanery and diocese, along with **a great deal of prayer**, we face the challenge and **celebrate together as God's Kingdom grows**.

Our Church Statistics

	St Peter's, Pedmore	St Andrew's, Wollescote
Christmas Eve/Day (2024)	62	21
Easter Day (2025)	56	23
Average Week (October 2024 count)	51	31
Usual Sunday	40	21
Worshipping community	113	46
Advent (carol service, nativities, crib services) (2024)	475	45
Christmas total (2024)	154	47
Other organisations during Advent (2024)	190	
All Easter Services (2025)	104	82
Other organisations St. George's Day (2025)		55 (+33 children)
Electoral Roll (2025)	86	31

APPENDIX 1 : Statistics from Church Urban Fund.

Pedmore and Wollescote are two very diverse Parishes. This is a common occurrence for neighbouring Parishes within the Black Country Area.

Pedmore

The population of Pedmore is 5120.

Overall Deprivation: Pedmore ranks 11997 out of 12178, where 1 is the most deprived parish.
This means that Pedmore is among the least deprived in the country.

Wollescote

The population of Wollescote is 4831.

Overall Deprivation: Wollescote ranks 1022 out of 12178, where 1 is the most deprived parish.
This means that Wollescote is among the most deprived in the country.

Percentages and Ranks (12178)	Least in Nation	Least in Diocese	Pedmore (Ranked 11997)	Wollescote (Ranked 1022)	Most in Diocese	Most in Nation
Child Poverty	1%	2%	4% (11261 / 12178)	25% (978 / 12178)	42%	58%
Pensioner Poverty	2%	3%	4% (11863 / 12178)	24% (1022 / 12178)	31%	73%
Working age Poverty	1%	2%	3% (11667 / 12178)	21% (774 / 12178)	29%	58%

Years	Highest in Nation	Highest in Diocese	Pedmore	Wollescote	Lowest in Diocese	Lowest in Nation
Life expectancy (boys)	91yrs	85yrs	81yrs	79yrs	74yrs	67yrs
Life expectancy (girls)	96yrs	89yrs	84yrs	82yrs	78yrs	73yrs

Percentages	Least in Nation	Least in Diocese	Pedmore	Wollescote	Most in Diocese	Most in Nation
No qualifications	0.5%	6.6%	14.9%	27.8%	29.9%	44.4%
Social housing	0%	1.1%	1.1%	35.4%	55.6%	76.1%
Lone parenthood	0%	0.3%	2.1%	10.2%	13.7%	21.8%
People living on their own	10.8%	16.1%	23.4%	31.9%	55.3%	77.6%
Older population	0.3%	11.5%	32.6%	19.4%	40.4%	65.9%

Acknowledgement

St Peter's
Pedmore Lane
Pedmore
Stourbridge
DY9 0SW

Thank you for reading this far!
We know that looking for a new post can be a challenging time
and so we pray that you will find the place where God is calling you to,
..... and hopefully it will be with us!

St Andrew's
Oakfield Road
Wollescote
Stourbridge
DY9 9DG

Thank you to all of the Parish profile team for their efforts in compiling the profile text, and for the photos supplied by various people and organisations.

Thank you for the guidance on the process from Rev Kim Topham and Rev Andrew Sillis.

Thank you to members of the congregations who took time to complete the profile survey.

All people with recognisable faces have given consent for their photos to be used in publicity materials for the church.

Branding and mission statements for the Diocese of Worcester were taken from: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/>

Contact Information

APPLICATION FORM AND DETAILS :

THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE

Tel : 01905 731 599

email : bishop.worcester@cofe-worcester.org.uk

FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT ABOUT THE ROLE:

Archdeacon : Ven Nikki Groarke : 01905 773301

Area Dean : Rev Andrew Sillis : 07951 904122

Sub Dean : Rev Kim Topham : 07952 162373