

Wambrook Church Community Ideas Open Day Saturday, 10th January 2015, 10am – 2pm

Background

The Open Day was organised by the Wambrook Church Grant Funding Project Team as the first step in the process of applying for grant funding. Funding is being sought to undertake necessary repairs to the Church, as identified and categorised in the Quinquennial Report of February 2014, and to ensure that Wambrook Church will be meeting the future needs of the wider community. The purpose of the Open Day was to collect opinions and ideas from Wambrook residents, churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike, plus from those who live outside the parish but worship regularly in the Church and other non-residents who have a close connection with the Church e.g. were married in the Church, have relatives buried in the churchyard etc.

Methodology

Residents of Wambrook and others who regularly worship in the Church were notified by email a few weeks prior to the event and sent a reminder email on the 7th January. Flyers were hand-distributed to every Wambrook household (88) and posters promoting the event were posted on the three Wambrook notice boards. Email recipients were advised of the questions in advance to give them an opportunity to consider their responses. Those who might not be able to attend on the 10th were invited to email their responses to the Project Team Leader, Graeme Pidgeon, or to hand in their responses to one of the Church wardens by the 11th January.

Upon entry to the event, visitors were asked to state their relationship to the Church. The 54 attendees were logged in (anonymously) under the following categories:

Relationship to Church	Number attending
Wambrook Resident regular church goer (average attendance at least once service per month)	16
Wambrook Resident non church goer (average attendance less than one service per month)	22
Non Wambrook resident but a Wambrook Church-goer (average attendance at least once service per month)	8
Non Wambrook resident and not a current Wambrook church-goer or PCC member but have another connection to the Church, e.g. family members buried here or baptised / married here. **	8
TOTAL ATTENDEES	54

** Connections included:

- Family connection
- Family buried in churchyard
- Previous PCC treasurer
- Born in Wambrook.

Display boards were positioned in various locations around the Church. Some boards displayed information e.g. excerpts from the Quinquennial report, photos, Church finances etc. and others had one of the 10 questions printed at the top. Attendees were encouraged to write their comments (anonymously) on post-it notes (pens and post-it notes provided) and stick them onto the relevant boards. This was to enable ideas to be shared with other attendees. Following the event, the comments were typed up and a brief summary about the information gathered follows. As you will glean by the numbers of respondents for each question, not all attendees answered every question and it is believed that a few did not answer any. Many respondents made several suggestions /

comments under each question. Appendix A is a complete and verbatim listing of all the comments received.

Summary of Comments

Q1. How can Wambrook Church and its environs be improved or enhanced to better serve the wider community? (37 responses)

The majority of those commenting had more than one suggestion for improvements / enhancements. 27 suggested that additional car parking would be an improvement, 25 suggested that a toilet should be installed and 16 would like kitchen facilities or at least a tea/coffee serving area. A significant number suggested that additional space needs to be created for activities and three primary ideas were presented as solutions: 6 would possibly consider some pews to be removed (or be made removable) to create a space within the Church; 7 suggested that a separate Church / Parish hall could be built on Church grounds or in an adjacent field and 6 suggested that the Church could be extended to create a parish room.

Q2. What improvements to Wambrook Church and its environs would make you more likely to attend an event (religious or secular) at the Church? (29 responses)

Improved car parking was the most popular suggestion – 23 out of 29 people; toilets came a close second – 20. 9 people would be more likely to attend an event if there were a kitchen. Numerous other suggestions were made including improved heating (2) and better access (2). 2 commented that no improvements would make them more likely to attend an event at the Church.

Q3. Why do we need to ensure that Wambrook Church and the Churchyard are here for future generations? (31 responses)

People are keen to ensure that Wambrook Church and the Churchyard are here for future generations (15) because it is an important historical building (12), because it is the focus and heart of the community (11), because it is a beautiful building (6) and for continuity (6).

Q4. Why are Wambrook Church and the Churchyard important to you? (34 responses)

Wambrook and the Churchyard are important to 9 (of those who made comments) because of its peacefulness, tranquillity and as a place for contemplation. 8 have family connections, 8 worship/attend services, and 6 each value the Church and churchyard's beauty and/or history.

Q5. What do you believe would be appropriate (non-religious) uses for Wambrook Church and the Churchyard in the future? (36 responses)

Responses varied widely. 19 out of 35 suggested that concerts / recitals would be an appropriate use and 17 believe lectures to be an appropriate use. In addition, the following uses were suggested by at least 5 people:

- Meetings **9**
- Classes / workshops **8**
- Coffee mornings **7**
- Toddler / Play groups **7**
- Wambrook Flower Show **5**

However, 7 people who made suggestions also feel that most of these activities would be better conducted in a separate or adjoining space.

Q6. How could Wambrook Church and the Churchyard help to fill any gaps in the facilities currently available in Wambrook? (29 responses)

The comment made most frequently (12 people) was that Wambrook would benefit by an alternative venue to the pub. 8 suggested that an additional space / meeting place be created for the community, 5 suggested an extension / additional room and 4 suggested a separate church / village hall. One person commented that there was no need and another commented that the Church was not the right space.

Q7. Why do you visit Wambrook Church and / or the Churchyard? (37 responses)

22 out of 37 people commented that they visit the Church / Churchyard to attend services / worship. 14 attend lectures, 13 attend special services / Christmas / Harvest Supper / Christenings / Weddings / Funerals etc. 11 visit family graves, 10 visit the Church to clean / arrange flowers and 6 visit for contemplation / quiet time / reflection.

Q8. How often have you visited Wambrook Church and / or the Churchyard in the past year? (38 responses)

The average number of visits during the past year (32 respondents provided numbers or text which identified the number e.g. 'weekly') was 23.1. One person did write 300 and it is not known whether this person responded seriously (perhaps walk their dog through the churchyard on a daily basis?) or not.

Q9. Is there a continuing role for the Church Building considering the high annual financial outlay? (28 ticked sheet and 13 wrote comments)

A sheet was posted beneath this question on one of the display boards with Yes / No and the instruction to 'tick here'. 28 people ticked 'Yes' and no one ticked 'No.' 13 people chose to write comments. 7 out of the 13 said that, yes, they believe there is a continuing role but only if changes can happen which result in the Church being used more. One person said that yes, it was a place of worship, not a village hall.

Q10. How important is it that the current style and content of the interior of the Church is maintained?

A sheet with was posted beneath this question on the display board with options listed and the instruction to 'tick here', The options and numbers of responses are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| • Very important | 16 |
| • Somewhat important | 11 |
| • Not very important | 3 |
| • Not at all important | 0 |
| • No opinion | 0 |
| Total | 29 |

Twenty-three people wrote comments in the space provided. 10 emphasized that it was very important to retain the current style and content of the interior of the Church. 9 stated that the Church could be adapted / evolve to meet the wider needs of the community, some citing changes which have already been made to the Church over the years, 2 suggested that some pews could possibly be removed and 4 would prefer that an adjacent room / separate church hall was constructed rather than make any changes within the Church itself.

Extra Question: Should the oil lamps remain in place ready for use or be dismantled and only used on special occasions?

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Remain in place ready for use | 11 |
| • Dismantled and only used on special occasions | 5 |

Complete list of questions and responses

Q1. How can Wambrook Church and its environs be improved or enhanced to better serve the wider community? 37 responses

1. Priority: Car Park, Loo
2. Church hall with kitchen and toilets, car park, improved access paths, storage facilities for any equipment.
3. Sort out car park, loo. Additional room in Church. Remove some pews at rear perhaps.
4. Toilet, art centre, car parking.
5. Better car parking, loo and kitchen facilities, improved heating. Don't remove pews – additional hall / room.
6. Car park, loos, small kitchen?
7. Village hall with kitchen, loos etc. adjacent to vestry.
8. Running water for kitchen and loo. Car parking, extension for meetings etc.
9. Car park, loo, tea/coffee facilities. Ideally a church hall rather than removing pews.
10. No need to build more; just need to adapt existing space inside and out.
11. Car park – essential, loo, kitchen.
12. Toilets, car parking.
13. Car parking.
14. Increase size of parking area and remove a few pews to give more room. Small kitchen area and toilet would be a great advantage.
15. Car park, toilet.
16. Car parking, toilets, kitchen.
17. Install toilet. Provide adequate car parking
18. Fabric – parking = changes -> community space. Must be done carefully and tastefully and sympathetically. Parking – screened parking area. Community space needs to be purpose built in my opinion. ? extension in Millway side of Church – not impacting on nave windows - ? access where font is now – Kitchen / toilet issues. Or ? separate purpose built community hall incorporating kitchen / toilets – Millway side of Church.
19. Car parking so neighbours aren't blocked in. Toilet & kitchen so social activities are more comfortable, heating to be more efficient.
20. Car park, loo. Addition of communal room on side of Church.
21. Back pews would need to be removable to provide space.
22. Car parking, toilet, kitchen.
23. The key is to ensure the provisions retain the Church as a 'vibrant' building within the community, approachable to all. An area that could be used as a flexible gathering / meeting area would be useful, with the assumption of a toilet / servery included.
24. A pre-fab or similar building, with loo facilities. Small area for tea / coffee and sitting – NOT to distract from the Pub & the skittle alley for larger 'village gatherings.'
25. Small village hall with all facilities in adjacent field(s). No change to church at all.
26. Car park, loo, addition of a room on side, otherwise remove pews at back.
27. Improve access – car parking.
28. Ante room – that is heated with toilet & kitchen facilities.
29. Yes, I agree – better parking for cars. At the moment when cars park on side of road the occupants are in danger of standing in DOG MESS. Can we not have a plea to dog owners near the church to keep Wambrook clean?
30. Get car parking sorted ASAP. Short term solution – get hedge cut back opposite side of road from church. Get digger to clean verge back, put hardcore between hedge and edge of road. Will give approx 50 metres of verge parking. Council are not interested so do it ourselves ASAP. Loo and washing facilities are needed for church.

31. Ask [the landowner] if his hedge could be cut back and the mud removed beside the road. Then have some 40mm clean stone put down to help with drainage and the cars could park without digging the mud and water onto the road. Because at the moment it's A MESS.
32. Unbolt existing pews so that they may be moved to side of church or wherever convenient for a function which requires space. Replace pews after function.
33. Provide running water, toilet, small kitchen, reception / meeting area. Provide a dedicated parking area. My dream would be to extend the Church on the north side with access via the north porch which attaches to or incorporates the vestry in some way. Leave a courtyard space on the north wall where the windows are to allow light in. This extension would comprise a reception / meeting area, a toilet and a small kitchen. It would provide a flexible space for churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike and enable tea, coffee and other refreshments to be served with ease and washed up afterwards. All this could be accomplished without sacrificing the current internal layout of the Church proper.
34. Make more use of the space – perhaps remove some of the rear pews for this purpose.
35. To become a village hall.
36. A toilet of course if it was permitted.
37. Future – Extended use of Wambrook Church – The single most important development of our Church building is **a toilet**. Quite apart from the courtesy of comfort that should be offered to those who *pay* to use the church for weddings, and those who might not usually go to church attending special services (funerals, baptisms, nativity for example), and the needs of clergy who might be travelling from church to church without a pit-stop, the following groups need to be considered:
 - Pregnant women
 - Families
 - Older people whose bladders are on the blink
 - Those with chronic or cystitis or kidney complaints
 - Sufferers from colitis or Crone's disease.
 This is a conservative list of otherwise-ordinary people who might feel they can't attend any event in a public building with *no access at all* to a toilet.

Q2. What improvements to Wambrook Church and its environs would make you more likely to attend an event (religious or secular) at the Church? 29 responses

1. If there were a dedicated parking area. Current parking is diabolical! If an additional flexible space could be created so that the Church didn't feel so cramped.
2. Parking a bit easier.
3. If I want to come to Wambrook Church I would come as it is. Parking would help; toilets.
4. Create larger car park
5. Parking, toilets.
6. Nothing! It's the event that matters.
7. Better car parking, better outside lighting (low level so that you can see the ground – not light up the sky); toilets.
8. One car park leads to another car park leads to another car park.
9. Car parking is a problem & needs sorting. A church hall & facilities would help with encouraging more people to attend other events. Heating in church is not good.
10. Even if the car parking situation is resolved it's not big enough. Parking is paramount. Better facilities such as toilet & kitchen would be good but a shame to build on this pretty old church & spoil the feel. Perhaps a separate building as a compromise?
11. Car park for more vehicles, toilet facilities, kitchen, make changes to pews to enable concerts / recitals etc.

12. Coffee mornings / kitchen facilities, car parking space, toilet.
13. Toilet, kitchen, car park, comfortable heated area.
14. Adequate parking, toilet.
15. Improve parking, flexible interior, kitchen and toilet would be good.
16. Car park, toilet.
17. Car park – it is unpleasant to feel chastised in the 'car park'- common land I believe. The parking arrangements should be a priority.
18. Plenty of car parking space; toilet facilities.
19. Toilet on eastern boundary of property. Car park in adjacent field next to a new small village hall.
20. Easier access along path. Car parking more accessible; provision of running water supply, provision of amenities.
21. Addition of car park and loo.
22. Addition of loo suitable for disabled; improved car park.
23. Easier access – gravel is difficult to walk on / wheelchair. Toilet, kitchen facilities.
24. Improved car parking.
25. More frequent church bells; parking without intimidation.
26. I am just as likely to attend an event here with or without toilets / parking.
27. Toilets? Kitchen?
28. Will need running water, a loo, and a gas cylinder for boiling kettles. Car parking!
29. I'm not a churchgoer, but the building would be much more user-friendly if kitchen / toilet, etc could be added or accommodated somehow.

Q3. Why do we need to ensure that Wambrook Church and the Churchyard are here for future generations? 31 responses

1. Mediaeval Church that is and should remain a focus of village activities.
2. To preserve the history of both and to have the Church available for future hatch, match and dispatches.
3. It is the essence of a village life and community and has been for centuries. Visitors come from far and wide in search of descendents. Church stood here since 13th century.
4. For continuity over time. So that future generations may be baptised, worship, marry and be buried in this very special place.
5. Provision of a link to an ancestry that will continue to ground future generations.
6. A beautiful building with a long history that should be preserved for future generations.
7. Historical building important to built landscape & history of village & people.
8. To ensure the continuity of the Christian religion in this materialistic & vicious age. "Onward Christian soldiers" against the invasion of Sharia law etc.
9. Why not? It's part of the village.
10. It is our responsibility to look after this church for future generations. Educational records / architecture, historical interest. Focal point of village, only public building.
11. History!
12. Today shows that we care about this beautiful place. It has been here for previous generations; they kept it for us and we owe it to future generations to keep it alive for them. Each generation adds, develops and makes appropriate changes. We can do the same.
13. Because the Church is the bedrock of a village and future generations will need it too – not just historical.
14. The Church is the part of the village that should remain constant and accessible to everyone. We must ensure its continuity for future generations.
15. It is part of our heritage & it would be a tragedy to lose it.
16. The age and history should not be forgotten. It should be classless & equal for all.

17. The history of the church in village should not be forgotten & future generations might look back & be appalled that we did not preserve this beautiful building.
18. Beauty, history, culture and spirituality – at the heart of the community.
19. It gives a sense of our shared past and continuity.
20. It is our moral duty to look after this place as it is part of what makes Wambrook Wambrook.
21. They have both existed for 100's of years and this generation must continue to uphold the tradition of church and churchyard.
22. Continuity and a sense of being part of something outside of one's own small world are important for a sense of belonging, i.e. to a community.
23. Would like grandchildren to be able to continue to visit family grave.
24. It is our turn to ensure this beautiful building is preserved for future generations.
25. If we lose the Church we lose the Community of Wambrook.
26. Should and could be the heart of the community. Vital that it should remain for our grandchildren.
27. Belonging and communal identity are so important. They need whatever touches we can create / maintain. And the importance (for some) of worship comes and goes depending on personal and wider events. There will be times in the future when churchgoing is more frequent than now.
28. We are only custodians not owners.
29. Because we do and because future generations will really need it for solace and guidance.
30. The Church has served the village for 800+ years. It is a beautiful, ancient building with a very special presence and atmosphere. It would be a terrible legacy to future generations if we didn't conserve it as our predecessors have for us.
31. To preserve our heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Q4. Why are Wambrook Church and the Churchyard important to you?

34 responses

1. Beauty, history, culture, spirituality – again.
2. The church is important as an historic building and we have family buried here making it very important. I also find it very peaceful and tranquil here although I do not share your religion.
3. It provides a rooting to the village architecturally and spiritually.
4. Family history.
5. This church is a place of simple beauty. A place for contemplation and prayer without the fuss of other churches.
6. Regular attendee at services. Beautiful building. Bell ringing apprentice!
7. They provide a wonderful place for reflection and sanctuary.
8. Both have existed for 100's of years and form a tangible link to previous generations. History is important and it is vital that the church as a focal point should not be lost.
9. Services – H.C., christenings, marriages, funerals. Also, this Church is very beautiful in its simplicity.
10. Because of family history.
11. Wambrook Church is important to me as my grandmother and other family members and ancestors worshipped here. My parents and husband are buried here. I was married here and my children were baptised here.
12. They are the centre and soul of the village – not only architecturally but also historically. Many of us have family members buried in the churchyard and even those who do not regularly worship in the church want to use it for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
13. Primarily as a place of worship – its tranquillity and serenity are very tangible.
14. To visit family graves; daughters have been married here, attend services.

15. It is a great place for reflection.
16. Family in the churchyard. Place of refuge.
17. As Question No. 3
18. Regular member of the congregation.
19. It's hallowed ground (I think!) and my parents buried there. We are lucky to have a quiet area around the church in which to sit and contemplate.
20. The building represents our historical identity. Even for non-churchgoers it contributes to 'belonging.' Even more so given that 117 people in Wambrook describe themselves as Christian. [Ed: 2011 Census data formed part of the information on display]. Many non-regulars will, nevertheless, be glad of weddings and funerals in the Christian tradition.
21. A sense of connection with the past and the future. Wambrook has lost its school and its post office. It mustn't lose its Church.
22. Historical association.
23. Family connections.
24. As Question No. 3, plus major events in the lives of many locals i.e. baptisms, funerals, marriages. Also a place of contemplation.
25. I like attending church. I love singing hymns. Our family is pleased to celebrate important events in the church. I like meeting friends and neighbours here.
26. I am a regular attendee. I love this Church.
27. It represents a calm and tranquil connection to the basic requirements of the human race. A heritage that will transcend all who currently use the building but who, importantly, will become a vital addition to the heritage in their own right.
28. A place of worship (baptism, marriage and burial).
29. I attend the church. It is a beautiful place.
30. Social and religious get-togethers.
31. Apart from anything else it is an important feature in the village and has special significance for parishioners.
32. A beautiful building, the heart of Wambrook
33. An important place for thanksgiving and celebration (even if not religious).
34. They're not particularly. But I wouldn't want the villagers to be without them.

Q5. What do you believe would be appropriate (non-religious) uses for Wambrook Church and the Churchyard in the future? 36 responses

1. This space lends itself to musical performance very well and is in keeping with religious use.
2. Music, lectures, meetings but not as a venue for toddlers' groups where activities should be carried out in an adjacent village hall.
3. Wambrook Flower Show providing there are facilities.
4. Any of the listed activities would require better seating and toilet facilities – compost loo? Sofas? Stacking chairs.
5. Secular / civil ceremonies. Please consider non religious ceremonies here – weddings, funerals, naming ceremonies.
6. What about live streaming of lectures or broadcasts or events of heritage / cultural interest (or other) from other venues...community cinema?
7. Great place for live music or singing workshops and more Wambrook lectures and check out things like "Ebenezer presents" programme.
8. Lectures, concerts etc.
9. Lectures, concerts, practices – bells, singing, Meetings, Book library.
10. Lectures, art group, Pilates, toddler group, short mat bowls, upholstery, whist drive, reeling, bingo, etc.
11. Mother and toddlers, coffee mornings, etc. Would prefer an extension built for these pastimes.

12. Lectures, Sunday school, coffee mornings, play group, classes, flower show, exhibitions, art, etc.
13. Only usage which conserves the special atmosphere and dignity of the church – e.g. concerts, lectures, films.
14. Choir, art classes, flower arranging classes, music recitals – but these activities would probably be better suited to a church room.
15. Concerts, lectures, presentations, village meetings.
16. To create a general village space for any activities / events.
17. Meetings, concerts, lectures, flower show?
18. Meetings, concerts, lectures, debates, demonstrations (how to make or do)
19. Concerts, lectures, clubs, food following funerals etc.
20. Lectures, exercise classes, mother and toddler group, courses, coffee mornings
21. Church itself can be used for a variety of purposes – talks, lectures, groups, get-togethers, etc.
22. Concerts, lectures, coffee mornings.
23. Concerts, meetings and village gatherings, performances.
24. More music / concerts.
25. All of the listed.
26. Music, concerts, lectures.
27. Churchyard (maybe) and / or adjacent field could be a wedding venue. Flower show.
28. Concerts, lectures.
29. As Wambrook has no village hall, Church would be ideal location / facility for the community to hold functions such as Wambrook Flower Show, Village Meeting, Classes, Keep fit. SSDC run learning groups: no buses to Chard where nearest classes are held.
30. Concerts if more space could be created by removing the two front choir stalls. Would also need a toilet and area to make tea / coffee for performers. Children's crèche, workshops e.g. flower arranging, art, writing. Art exhibitions, coffee mornings, meetings, flower show if Church could be extended or if a church hall built.
31. Coffee mornings, community events, exhibitions, recitals.
32. Exhibitions have been offered and ignored elsewhere in the village.
33. Children and toddler play mornings. Children's Sunday school. Books (2nd hand) sales, loans and readings. Fitness sessions. Craft sessions.
34. If kitchen / toilets etc could be achieved, the possibilities are endless – as in a village with a church hall / village hall. Theatrical groups, music, keep-fit, baby and toddler groups, coffee mornings for old codgers etc.
35. Lectures, meetings, citizens' advice, MPs surgery, bridge and card meetings, knit and natter, sewing classes and drawing classes.
36. Alpha and Lent courses. Coffee mornings – Bring and buy - in aid of the church or linked charities. Live Music, Invite Choirs to sing. Perhaps a band to play along at special services, encouraging children in the congregation to join in. Classes for Flower arranging; Making Christmas decorations. Something for Easter. Continue to ring the bells as often as possible, encouraging others to have a go, or just to come and see the bells. Hand Bells – does Wambrook have any to encourage a new team?

Q6. How could Wambrook Church and the Churchyard help to fill any gaps in the facilities currently available in Wambrook? 29 responses

1. Toilet would be good but appreciate water would be an issue. Then more village meetings could be held.
2. Church/village hall, meetings concerts, lectures, library, pensioners' social meeting / coffee mornings.
3. There are no facilities apart from the pub, so they could be used to create facilities.

4. Few facilities in Wambrook at the moment. What there are, are supplied by the pub and the church. So any new facility would be an improvement but should not reduce activities in the pub, i.e. not skittles in the church !!
5. There is no village hall. An extension would become the village meeting place. Not everybody wants to meet in a cold church or the pub.
6. It can't. A new adjacent village hall would fill the gaps.
7. Not sure this is the right building and structure to do so, i.e. fill those gaps.
8. Meeting place for all members of the community in the absence of a village hall.
9. An alternative to the pub for gatherings and clubs. Build a loo, small kitchen and 'meeting room' to enable groups for babies' playgroups, clubs, Scottish dancing (?) etc etc.
10. Needs to be a meeting place / hall cum Church – as this is the only public building in the village – an alternative to the pub.
11. The pub is the only facility that is available in the village at the moment. This is not open during the day and is often too busy with skittles etc to allow regular bookings.
12. Only current meeting place is really the pub. Church could be used more with improvements.
13. By enabling a community space as the school rooms of the churches – for groups, toddler / parent / exercise / book club etc. can those who, for whatever reason cannot use their home.
14. Alternative venue to pub which is not always available.
15. I don't think that there are any gaps that the Church could fill.
16. A different venue from the pub would be nice. A parish room would be very useful for meetings and groups especially as we have so many children now.
17. There are no other facilities freely open to the public.
18. If pub not available, it could be used for meetings / events by either having a small room adjacent to church or taking out the back pews.
19. A less hidebound and conservative reputation amongst the church hierarchy would help – people must feel equal and welcome – no tarting up with change (?).
20. Toilets and refreshment facilities. Church hall?
21. Build church hall in churchyard
22. Wambrook sadly lacks a parish hall and the church could provide a comfortable community space.
23. Meeting place – social – to give alternative to the pub.
24. By holding events locally rather than out of village.
25. Pub not always available; the church could be used for various events if a suitable space available e.g. a room built at side of church or removal of pews.
26. First of all car park and toilet.
27. Provision of additional meeting / congregational space.
28. With local B&B etc accommodation Wambrook could use a venue for more weddings. Would need space for marquee and water supply etc.
29. Providing an alternative space to the pub, especially outside of opening hours. Perfect for coffee mornings, meetings, workshops, art exhibitions – if new additional space, toilets etc. could be created.

Q7. Why do you visit Wambrook Church and / or the Churchyard? 37 responses

1. Church and lectures.
2. I don't
3. Festive events – Christmas and Easter (sorry, not especially devout) but I greatly enjoy the community spirit.
4. For the Wambrook lectures. For harvest and nativity events (though not services).
5. For services, to clean, to arrange flowers and decorate for Easter and Christmas, to attend lectures.

6. Services, bell ringing / weddings, flowers / cleaning, mowing, lectures, seasonal events.
7. Because I am in the Nativity.
8. Clean, Christmas services, lectures, walking.
9. For the sense of peace and tranquillity when empty. Used to come for the now disbanded singing group. A shame it finished.
10. Funerals, weddings, Christmas / Harvest, church cleaning / flowers, lectures.
11. It's the centre of the village – I attend church. It is a beautiful building.
12. To clean, put flowers on graves, sometimes church services.
13. Services and to sit and think.
14. To visit graves, family and attend church.
15. To attend services primarily, clean the church and go to lectures.
16. Services, visit family graves, contemplation, weddings, etc. Do flowers. To sing with the group – hopefully will be re-united.
17. Attend services, en route via footpaths.
18. To attend functions, also services. To clean, to do flowers, to think / contemplate.
19. To cut the grass.
20. Services, long-standing association, family in the churchyard.
21. Family connection and familiarity and enjoyment of church services.
22. Special services, funerals, historical research, lectures, cleaning.
23. To worship and attend lectures and functions.
24. Regular church goer, monthly lectures and to visit family graves.
25. Using the footpath, for Holy Communion and special services, cleaning.
26. For community events and some occasional services e.g. carols.
27. Services: contemplation, a quiet time; to sing well-loved hymns; to see neighbours and friends. To visit family graves; to celebrate family events – christenings, weddings, funerals; to walk through and admire the flowers; to clean and do flowers; to celebrate high days and holy days.
28. To worship and to attend lectures.
29. My parents are buried here. I ring the bells. I would hate the church not to be here for future generations.
30. To pray and be inspired and see friends. To reflect and keep connection with family buried in churchyard.
31. Because of strong family connection past and present; for family services and the nativity.
32. To visit graves, some special occasions.
33. Worship, lectures, peace and quiet for reflection.
34. History, quality of building.
35. Family graves and to sketch the church and its surroundings and occasionally to attend the lectures and services.
36. To attend services, visit graves, arrange flowers and to clean, lectures.
37. Worship and prayer.

Q8. How often have you visited Wambrook Church and / or the Churchyard in the past year? 38 responses

1. A few
2. Once or twice
3. 10 to 12 times
4. 10 to 12
5. 8 times
6. 30+
7. 20
8. 300

9. Weekly - bells and services
10. Approx 40
11. Weekly
12. 20
13. 5-10
14. 25 times this last year
15. About 25-30 times
16. 45 times
17. Special services and about 6 other communions a year – since I have lived here (7 yrs)
18. 12 times
19. ?25
20. 15
21. 40
22. 20-30 times
23. Approx 45 – 50 times
24. I come for every regular service and specials (weddings, funerals, christenings and monthly 'lectures').
25. 15-20 times
26. 20 times
27. 30+ times
28. 20 times
29. Visited as often as possible – 10-20 times.
30. 15-20 times
31. 10-12
32. 15 times
33. 10-12 times, as often as the body will allow!
34. 20-25
35. 6-7 times
36. Does a church with an average 30(ish) visits a year from people need extra parking?
37. I don't know that I have apart perhaps from memorial services.
38. Frequently

Q9. Is there a continuing role for the Church Building considering the high annual financial outlay?

A sheet with was posted beneath this question on the display board with Yes / No and the instruction to 'tick here'. 28 people placed a tick on the sheet.

Yes – 28

No - 0

13 people wrote comments on post-it notes as follows:

1. If church is used for the whole community then wider involvement would hopefully generate more income.
2. Yes, but church needs to be used more in order to justify expenses involved every month.
3. Yes, but only if change is embraced.
4. Yes. Clergy must appreciate needs of community and potential churchgoers.
5. Yes, this is not a village hall. It is a place of worship, religious celebration, contemplation and quiet thought.
6. Yes, a community needs to have a focal point and a meeting place other than the pub. If there is no pub then where else can the village go?
7. The clergy are servants of community and should reflect their wishes regarding the nature of the services. The imposition of rules and regs from above may cause conflict and reduce the size of the congregation.
8. Yes, only if put to other uses to benefit community with other uses.

9. Yes. There has to be a role. We cannot be the generation that fails to care for the church.
10. Yes, but it is only justifiable if we generate a wider involvement in worship and /or other activities.
11. Yes, it's a piece of our heritage and an important historic and community building.
12. I agree (with respondent 11).
13. Yes

Q10. How important is it that the current style and content of the interior of the Church is maintained?

A sheet with was posted beneath this question on the display board with options listed and the instruction to 'tick here', The options and numbers of responses are as follows:

• Very important	16
• Somewhat important	11
• Not very important	3
• Not at all important	0
• No opinion	0
Total	29

Comments were written (**23**) on post-it notes as follows:

1. Very. Write to Lambeth Palace. It's their building.
2. Removal of back, non-mediaeval pews – would need some discussion!
3. It's where the value lies. Don't cut off your nose to spite your face though.
4. Very important. A very beautiful church partly because of its simplicity.
5. It has changed in he past, doorways blocked off, for example. Buildings need to adapt to present need to avoid falling into disrepair due to lack of use.
6. Hugely important. The sanctity and spirituality of the church interior is vital. Although the vast majority of inhabitants of Wambrook do not use the church regularly (as in all villages across the UK) this should not mean that the majority of non-church attendees should be allowed to determine the future of the interior. Many visitors comment on what a beautiful church it is. It has a special atmosphere and that should be sacrosanct. If we tamper with the soul of the church, we risk losing those who worship here.
7. Important – any changes should be of need to the community and not just for the sake of change.
8. Very important to keep the church in its present style. If you want a modern church, find one, as altering the interior will not work. The church's main function is to be a place of prayer and worship.
9. The most important thing is that the church is a functional space for the whole community.
10. Not very- I think internal modifications are necessary to enable a variety of uses.
11. Very important.
12. Very.
13. All buildings, churches included, change and evolve over time. This building is beautiful and can evolve to suit the 21st century, and remain beautiful.
14. People forget that much of what they see in the Church isn't original – it stems from the Victorian era. If the Victorians hadn't decided to make significant changes (and those who came afterwards e.g. the creation of the Hardy Chapel which eliminated the south porch as the primary entrance), we would be looking at a very different church. Some carefully thought-out changes can be made (ideally an extension rather than pew removal) without spoiling the inherent beauty of the church and destroying that essence of calm and spirituality. (NB: space too cramped for concerts; I suggest removing the two front choir stalls to provide adequate space for performers.)

15. I think it is more important that the outcome is pleasing and functional.
16. Most important. Simplicity is an asset. Do NOT remove pews.
17. Not vital. Changes made in the past. Church is a bit difficult if one is disabled – e.g. gravel path and getting up to the altar. Better heating.
18. Happy to create a more modern and therefore useful area at side of church building (hall?) with kitchen / toilet facilities. Would not object to some pews being removable to create a larger area for those who wish to attend the very popular lectures (monthly.) More people, more entrance money, more funds for the church fabric.
19. No changes, no pew removal, adjacent village hall.
20. I profoundly dislike 'thieves beware' sign – can you imagine Jesus saying that?
21. It isn't 'ours' to change – we are custodians and must take the long view.
22. If we want to run any sort of community activities in the church or surround, then changes would have to be made which would be removing some of the pews. Need for toilet facilities, better access.
23. Would rather an adjacent church room.

Extra Question: Should the oil lamps remain in place ready for use or be dismantled and only used on special occasions?

- Remain in place ready for use **11**
- Dismantled and only used on special occasions **5**

5 additional comments were made:

1. Remain in place but I am concerned about security, though
2. Only used on special occasions, but not too infrequent.
3. Special occasions to keep them safe as church unprotected.
4. Dismantled if need protection or in the way of certain events (like the lectures). Remain in place, but...
5. Depends on future use, remain in place for current use of church.