

## CASE STUDY

### ST PETER'S CHURCH, PETERCHURCH, HEREFORDSHIRE

*St Peter's Church is situated at the centre of Peterchurch, Herefordshire, a rural community.*

Population: 1,000 people (2011 Census)

The church building is an unaisled, four cell church dating from the 12th century which was heavily restored in the Victorian period. Although structurally most of the building was in a reasonable state of repair, the lack of viable space, light, heat and power and basic facilities such as WCs or a kitchen meant it had limited use.



The story of the re-ordering of St Peter's illustrates the importance of all three points outlined above.

The Revd Simon Lockett's vision for the building was underpinned by two beliefs. The first was that the Church should be there for the community. The second was that the Church should work for justice. He felt his community faced an injustice because it didn't have access to the local services that were needed. By re-ordering the building to create a suitable space it would be fulfilling its place in its community and correcting this injustice.

After careful discussion, the PCC entered into a partnership with Herefordshire Council that allowed the church to be re-ordered to create a sustainable, multi-use community building and we worked with the multiple stakeholders to develop a solution that provided all the facilities needed while changing as little as possible about the existing building.

The Revd Lockett's energy and approach was and is central to the success of the project. Whenever he encountered dissent during the re-ordering process he was able to share his vision and create another project champion. He was instrumental in securing a partnership with Herefordshire Council to deliver Sure Start services from the building and in gaining the funds needed. Similarly, when funding for Sure Start ended, he had the energy to re-envisage the project and ensure its continued viability.

Today, The Hub at St Peter's is an overwhelming success. It has a hugely popular lending library. There are weekly activities such as yoga classes, a community choir and a baby and toddler group. There is also a community café and a staffed information point. Above all, the church is continuing to be used as a place of worship for midweek and Sunday services.