

Worle's Church Hall



By the middle of the 20th century Worle had enjoyed the Church of St. Martin for some 900 years, but it still had no Church Hall. In 1927 a movement emerged in the village to provide the parish with this much needed venue. Rev. Frederick May took on the role of Chairman of an organising committee made up of over 100 people. Contributions from private individuals purchased a site adjoining the Church lands for £75 for the new building. Next time you are out for a stroll take a turn up Hill Road [or down, if you start from the top]. Until the 1930s this area was mainly orchards. The photograph, top left, probably taken about 1930, looks down Hill road and shows the trees in abundance on the right. You can also spot a turning on the left had side which later became Hill Road East. This will take you to the site of the planned Church Hall.

The people of Worle still needed to raise the money for the building work, and organised all kinds of fund raising activities, the most fruitful of which was an annual Fete and Flower Show. The first event in 1927 raised £160, which was banked for the building fund. By 4th August 1934, when the 7th annual show took place, the hall was built and very nearly paid for. Worle Church Hall became the place where the village met for dances, meetings, wedding breakfasts, beetle drives, film shows and Christmas parties. There was a stage, wings, a committee room and kitchen.

On the 9th September, 1939 the hall was requisitioned for 'war activities' and normal social life had to find small corners elsewhere. By 1945, when the Church Hall re-opened for normal service, the first priority was to raise money to welcome the servicemen home and that accomplished, huge parties were held on VE Day.

This was the golden age of the Church Hall, and it lasted through the 50s, 60s and early 70s. The Mothers' Union picture, above right, is from 1955. Sadly, in the late 1970s the Church made the decision to sell the building and it became Worle Village Surgery. In 2017 it became vacant again and advertised to rent for £30,000 a year. The people of Worle still very much regret it's passing.