



*St John's Church,
Sandiway*

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"To worship God, and share his love with others."

Welcome to St John's

Thank you for enquiring about our vacancy. It's a very exciting time to be part of St John's. We are in the draft stage of a proposed major reordering project, and need a leader to help us to make decisions and take God's mission and ministry forward.

St John's is a friendly welcoming church, aiming to be accessible and inclusive at the centre of our wider community. We hope you feel called to visit us.

Our parish is fully supportive of women's ministry. We are therefore seeking a vicar, male or female, who is enthusiastic about serving our community and who will enjoy playing an active part in the life of our village. Our vicar will be able to work in collaboration with our successful, wider ministry team and connect with people throughout the village, from the youngest to the oldest and lead us in continuing our journey forwards.



About our parish

Cuddington and Sandiway today make up a wonderful village situated in mid Cheshire, a thriving place to live and work.

The village is conveniently situated close to two local towns, approximately 4 miles west of Northwich and 3 miles north of Winsford. It has easy road and rail access to the cities of Chester, Manchester and Liverpool. Bus services and a rail service operate from the centre of the village providing links with Chester, Manchester and local towns.

It has a number of historic buildings: the John Douglas church (a grade 2 listed building); the railway station which retains many of its original features from the beginning of rail transport in Cheshire; the Round Tower, an iconic remnant of a former gate lodge built in the early 19th century; and the White Barn and the Blue Cap public houses.



About our parish

The village has grown over the last few years, with the addition of two new housing developments at either end of the village. It has a wide range of dwellings from large executive properties, three and four bedroomed family houses, individual cottages, flats/apartments and bungalows as well as Housing Association properties, including sheltered accommodation.

There are a number of large and small businesses including two parades of shops; a Post Office, several working farms, Blakemere Village craft and leisure centre, a dentist's surgery, a GP Surgery and a veterinary practice. There are three residential care homes in the village. As well as St John's, the village has churches of other denominations including one Methodist church and one Gospel church.

There are sports grounds and playing fields, a bowling green, tennis courts, football pitches, several children's play areas, a community leisure facility, and a library. There is also a Golf Club. Within the boundaries there are a number of child care facilities, and two primary schools, Cuddington Primary School and Sandiway Primary School. Secondary education is available at nearby Weaverham High School and Hartford C of E High School, with Further Education in Hartford and Northwich.



About our church

People

Our church family is made up of 201 adults on our electoral roll, in addition to a number of children and young people. The congregation is generous with both its time and resources and many members work hard to support the church in any way that they can.

We have a very active team of licensed readers and a licensed pastoral worker who lead worship and home groups as well as supporting the congregation. We are currently seeking to recruit a Children and Family Worker to join the St John's family and to encourage new, younger members of our community to explore faith.

Other members of the congregation lead worship and preach on a regular basis. The skills and enthusiasm of this broad team are a key feature of the team at St John's.



About our church

How we worship

At St John's, we offer a broad and balanced range of services to meet the needs of all those who wish to worship God. We aim to do this in a variety of different ways, from the traditional to the more modern and relaxed forms of worship. We are always looking for new and innovative ways to encourage new people to join us.

| Day | Time | Service |
|--|----------|---|
| First Sunday Other Sundays in the month | 8:30 am | Choral morning prayer in church Said communion |
| First Sunday Other Sundays in the month | 10:15 am | Family Praise with communion in the church hall Family Praise in the church hall All Family Praise services are relaxed paperless services with tea and toast served from 9:45 am |
| First Sunday Second Sunday Third Sunday Fourth Sunday | 6:30 pm | Choral communion in church Evensong in church - a short, traditional service Take 40. A reflective 40 minute service. Youth Group led service - hymns, readings and prayers. |
| Every Thursday | 9:30 am | A peaceful, said communion service in church. |



About our church

How we worship

We hold special services to mark Christingle, Christmas, Easter and Harvest, as well as for Remembrance, Advent Reflections, Lent Meditations and Care Home services.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funeral Services are also held as needed.

There is a large group within our church family who welcome people to services and who offer refreshments either before or after worship. This encourages everyone to feel part of the fellowship of St John's. This is a wonderful opportunity for opening up a time to talk, a time to listen, creating friendships and offering support to each other.



What we do now

Music

Music is an important part of life and worship at St John's.

The choir sings at each of the Sunday evening services as well as at all services to mark festivals and special occasions. They are often asked to sing at weddings. There is a Junior Choir where the younger members are encouraged to enjoy singing with others, to learn about the importance of music in worship, and to grow in faith.

JIMS (Jamming and Improvised Music Sessions) is a new community group which meets in the church hall. It is open to all musicians and singers from the village and surrounding area who would like to play a range of music together in a relaxed and informal setting, just for fun!

There are many musical events held both in the church and the church hall; concerts, jazz evenings, sing-a-long days, special events such as 'Come and sing The Messiah', and lunchtime recitals to name but a few. Such events are open to the village at large and well received and attended.



What we do now

Prayer

We have a dynamic and proactive prayer team at St John's who meet regularly. In addition to praying they develop initiatives to enhance the prayer life of the church as a whole and for individual members. These initiatives have included our very successful, annual Prayer Weekend, the sharing of Advent ribbons and much listened to Advent recordings which are accessed through our website.

Home Groups

There are five active Home Groups within the village who meet each fortnight in people's houses to study the Bible and pray together. This embraces over 50 members of our congregation, with numbers always increasing.



What we do now

Mothers' Union

We have a thriving Mothers' Union with 25 members, who get together for monthly meetings, outings and special services.

Care Homes

We hold services for our Care Home residents and the housebound regularly in church, where we are able to bring those who don't usually manage to attend services at St John's together for worship and fellowship. We also have a team of people to take communion to the care homes and to individuals where the need is and they are always made very welcome.

Children and Young People

We have a range of activities for our children and young people including monthly Messy Church sessions, Youth Group, Junior Church activities as part of our Family Worship, and a well-attended summer holiday club. We recognise that this is an area we would like to develop further, and as such are currently advertising for a new Children and Family Worker to become an integral part of the St John's team to move forward in our work with young people.



What we do now

Community

The Ark – our community café is a thriving centre where members of the wider community can meet for hot and cold drinks, cake and lunch each Friday. The profits from The Ark are distributed annually to local charities. Since first opening, this venture has grown from strength to strength.

Saturday Morning Church Open – provides a space for refreshment and fellowship as well as prayer to the wider community. It is increasingly well attended by members of the congregation as well as people from the wider village community. Some Saturday mornings there are up to 30 people enjoying cake and chat in the beautiful surroundings of St John's church.

Schools - Our local primary schools welcome church volunteers to lead assemblies and activity groups as part of their curriculum.

Gala Day – St John's runs an outdoor café at this event each year supplying drinks, lunches and cake as well as information about St John's upcoming activities.



What we do now

Community

Sharing information – St John's has a regularly updated website and Facebook page, keeping users informed of everything which is going on within the church community plus sharing recordings of church services. The church magazine is published monthly and delivered across the village to subscribers, and posted out further afield. Our biannual parish newsletter is delivered to the whole parish, to ensure that everyone is kept informed of events at St John's.

Pastoral Care – we are very fortunate to have a strong pastoral care ethos at St John's. Our love, time and care is there for anyone who would like support through our Pastoral Visiting Team. Our pastoral worker visits the bereaved and helps support them both before and after the funeral of their loved one, as well as at other challenging times. We have also been fortunate to have talks, courses and events at St John's on a range of topics such as dementia.



What we want to do next

As we move forwards, we want to remain focused on God in everything we do. We would like to be a growing church with equality, diversity and inclusivity at its heart. These values are driving our proposed reordering project to create a church which is accessible for all, welcoming, comfortable, and flexible enough to meet the needs of the present and face the future with confidence.

We would like to continue to offer and develop further a variety of services providing fellowship, uplifting, relevant worship and a haven for those in need. We want to continue to serve the community at large.

Our vision for an open, listening church with strong leadership is important and will strengthen our presence in the community, encouraging both those who have faith and those who do not.



Who we are looking for

Our ideal candidate will be a vicar who will lead us forward and help us to grow: a person who will lead the church's reordering project. They will be able to offer support and guidance as we consider our future and what the next stages of our journey will be.

Spirituality

Our vicar will be focused on God, continuing to grow daily in their own faith and be passionate about helping others to grow and deepen theirs. Our vicar will live their life by God's word and encourage others to do so too.

Leadership

Our vicar must be a team player!

Our vicar will be able to lead and support our successful lay ministry, serving the parish as well as the congregation.

Our vicar will be organised and self-motivated yet able to encourage others in the use of their talents.

Our vicar will be able to both delegate & manage.

Our vicar will be a good communicator and an effective listener.

Our vicar will be open to new ideas but recognise where tradition is important.

Teaching

Our vicar will be proactive throughout our village community bringing God's message to all.

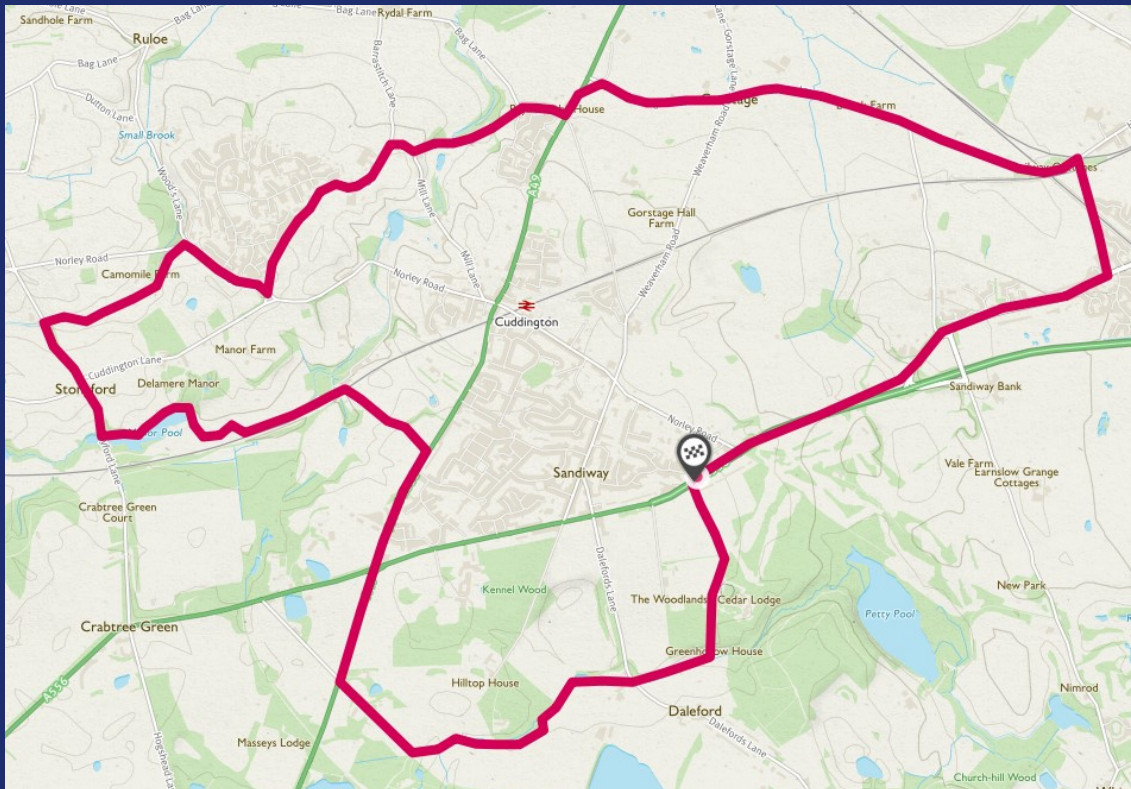
Our vicar will need to be committed, available, accessible & approachable.

Our vicar must be sociable, warm and friendly, showing kindness to all.

Our vicar will be known throughout the community, identifying with and caring for all ages through whatever life brings.

Our vicar will show empathy for all age groups and stages of life and nurture a family church.

Our vicar will maintain a variety of services with relevance to today's society and to our congregations.



Thank you for reading!

