



# **DIOCESE OF CHESTER**

## **PARISH FACT SHEET**

*This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy to help it find an appropriate incumbent. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of a Parish Profile document.*

PARISH: St Laurence, Frodsham

DATE: April 2019

DEANERY: Frodsham

### **SUMMARY OF INFORMATION**

1. Number of C of E churches/places of worship in the parish:	<u>1</u>
2. Population.	<u>9,300 (2017)</u>
3. Number on electoral roll.	<u>178 (2019)</u>
4. Usual Sunday attendance ( <i>taken from last annual return</i> ) under 16 years of age:	<u>6-8</u>
16 and over:	<u>100-120</u>
5. PCC ordinary income ( <i>i.e. total of voluntary income and other ordinary income taken from last annual return</i> ):	<u>£ 128,268</u>
6. Average weekly gift per regular giver:	<u>£ 5.00</u>

### **PERSONNEL**

1. Name of (former) incumbent:  
Father Michael Mills
2. Name(s) of Assistant Clergy (*indicate whether stipendiary (SM) or self-supporting (SSM)*):  
Curate: Angela Askwith(SSM); Revds Kath Williamson, David Leslie, Joy Clark, Russ Naylor (retired).
3. Name(s) of Readers, Pastoral Workers and any other licensed lay workers:  
Parish Readers,:Andrew Rudd, Gail Fullbrook, Gill Newcombe, Mavis Thompson (Emeritus).
4. Name(s) and office of any other staff (*such as Church Army Captain, community worker, administrator*) employed. Please state number of hours worked per week:

Church Organist and Director of Music: Mr Thomas Cameron (8.9)  
Parish Administrator: Mrs Pam Garner (3 hours; unpaid). NB. we are looking to appoint a paid administrator for 10 hours per week from summer 2019 on fixed term contract.  
Verge: Mr Tom Ruscoe (Fees paid for specified services, e.g.funerals).  
Registrar: Mrs Midge Harvey (Fees paid for specified services)  
Bell ringers Fees paid for specified services  
Choir Fees paid for specified services.  
Church Cleaner: Mr Tom Ruscoe (4)  
Parish Hall Cleaner: Mr Tom Ruscoe (10)  
Parish Hall Administrator: Mrs Pauline Lowrie (2.5)  
All paid staff receive at least the minimum living wage or the fees set by the Church of England.

## THE PARISH

1. Is the parish inner urban/urban/suburban/village/scattered rural? Urban/Market Town
2. Is the population
- (a) static rising or falling? Rising slowly
- (b) settled or mobile? Settled; Singles/younger families move in as elderly occupants move on
3. Is the population
- (a) Predominantly retired/middle-aged/young families? Mix of all these groups.
- (b) Does it include: professional/executive/manual/unemployed? Yes, but more pro/exec than man/unem
- (c) Describe any ethnic groups resident in the parish:
- 2011 census showed that the population is 96% of British ethnicity, with no significant BME groups.
4. Estimate the proportion of housing:
- (a) owner-occupied: circa 80%. The area is popular, having excellent transport links
- (b) local authority: Less than 5% ( figure in 2006) as ownership schemes have grown
- (c) privately rented: circa 15%: incl. those relocating for employment reasons & intending to buy
5. Please list:
- (a) number and types of schools in the parish:
- Frodsham C of E Primary School  
St Lukes RC Primary School  
Manor House Primary School  
Weaver Vale Primary School
- (b) number of nursing homes/elderly persons' homes: 2: Chapelfields (MHA), Hillcrest
- (c) any youth centres? Frodsham Youth Centre, Community Centre, Fluin Lane
- (d) any community centres? Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane
- (e) name(s) of hospitals in the parish: None

6. Name of hospital, if any, of which the incumbent is chaplain:

None

7. Does the incumbent have specific civic responsibilities? If so, what?

No

8. Are there any links with local industry?

No

9. Does the parish have any significant social problems, e.g. high unemployment?

No

## CHURCH SERVICES

1. How do you describe the church tradition?

Traditional catholic / modern catholic / central / open evangelical / conservative evangelical or some other label? Modern Catholic (PCC recently signed up to Inclusive Church organisation)

2. Give the pattern of Sunday services:

08.00 Eucharist (Said)  
10.00 Parish Eucharist (Sung) with Junior Church  
18.30 Choral Evensong (BCP)

Monday to Saturday 9.00/9.30 Morning Prayer

Tuesday 19.00 Eucharist (said)

Wednesday 10.00 Eucharist (said)

Thursday 11.00 Eucharist (Parish Hall); (said)

Second Sunday Parish Eucharist includes Prayers for Healing.

Baptisms are held during the Parish Eucharist (1st Sunday) or at a 12:15 Service held the 4th Sunday of the month.

3. Which prayer book is used for the services of Holy Communion – if both, please state

Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship? Common Worship all services except Evensong (BCP)

Is there a traditional use of eucharist vestments? Yes/No Yes

coloured stoles? Yes/No Yes

scarf and hood? Yes/No No

4. What hymn book(s) is/are used?

Hymns Old and New revised edition.

5. (a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? circa 15%  
(b) Does any one age group, gender or social class predominate in the congregation?  
Women/Middle class/professional/retired age 60+ at Sun 10.00

6. Average number of communicants on a normal Sunday: 100

7. Numbers during the last year

of baptisms:	<u>32</u>
of confirmation candidates:	<u>7</u>
of weddings:	<u>9</u>
of funerals in church:	<u>26</u>
in crematoria:	<u>12</u>

### BUILDINGS AND CHURCHYARD

1. (a) Name of the parish church; St Laurence (on some papers St Lawrence)  
(b) Year(s) built; 15th Century with Norman parts, with substantial renovation in 19th and 20th Centuries  
(c) Date of last quinquennial inspection; 2016  
(d) List any urgent repair work still to be done:

None, although as Grade I listed the building presents a constant challenge in terms of maintenance and upkeep.

2. Other C of E churches (*mission church/daughter church/chapel of ease*) in the parish:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Condition of repair: \_\_\_\_\_

None

3. In your view, is the parsonage house likely to need extensive refurbishment/replacement?

Yes/No Yes

4. What other buildings (e.g. church hall, curate's house) and land (not churchyard) does the parish own?

(Give addresses, use and condition)

UseAddress

Condition of repair

St Laurence Parish Hall, Church Street, Frodsham. (Satisfactory)

5. Has the church got a churchyard? Yes/No Yes (Closed)
- Is it still in use? Yes/No No
- How many new graves were opened last year? 0
- How many re-openings were there last year? 3
- Estimate how many years are available for new graves: 0
- Is there a special area for the interment of ashes? Yes (Closed)

## FINANCE

1. Please e-mail (or send) a copy of last year's accounts and last year's annual report of the PCC.
2. Does the church have a stewardship, thanksgiving or planned giving scheme? Yes
3. If special money-raising events are held during the year, please give details.

An active Events Committee co-ordinates a regular programme of activities (quizzes, parish lunches, hotpot suppers, beetle drives, Bake-Off sales, card sales,) which combine fund-raising with fellowship. Any surplus contributes to general church funds.

Between 2011 and 2016 an appeal was held to fund a new roof in conjunction with a successful application to Heritage Lottery Fund (c. £250,000). At the same time, Christ Church, Oxford, paid for the replacement of the chancel roof (c. £140,000).

A Christmas Fair is held in the parish hall on the last Saturday of November as part of the Frodsham Christmas Festival. All proceeds are donated to the church's nominated Charity of the year.

A Christingle service with 500+ congregation is held on Christmas Eve. The collection goes to the Children's Society, and together with donation boxes in homes represents the largest amount (over £4600), raised anywhere in Cheshire.

See also "Outreach and Mission" no. 5 for details of Thursday coffee mornings.

4. (a) What was the amount of expenses paid last year to the: incumbent £ 170
- assistant clergy £ 160
- (b) Were these the full amounts claimed? If not, why not?
- Yes
- (c) Does the PCC pay a lump sum or reimburse actual expenses claimed? The latter
- Is a claim form used? Yes

5. What is the current amount of Parish Share payable by the parish? £ 5363pm
6. In the last financial year, did the PCC meet its financial obligations to the Diocese in full for payment of its Parish Share? Yes/No Yes  
 If not, what amount was paid: £ n/a  
 In the current financial year, is the PCC up to date with its Parish Share? Yes/No Yes
7. Is there any capital project in hand at the moment? Yes/No No  
 Please give brief details with costs and how they are to be met.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## CHURCH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROVISION

1. (a) Is there a church school in the parish? Yes/No Yes  
 Is it controlled or aided? Controlled
- (b) Number of children on roll: 212  
 Is the number static/rising/falling? Static

- (c) What relationship/links are there between church and school?

Frodsham CE has good links with the parish of St Laurence. It nominates Foundation Governors to governing body, plus a Link Governor for RE and collective worship who has regular meetings with the RE lead and visits classes to observe lessons. Governors attend SIAMs/ OFSTED/Learning Review meetings. There are services in church to celebrate Christian festivals throughout the year; a termly (weekly in Lent) Eucharist in church or school; weekly worship delivered in school. An admission to Holy Communion programme (for year ??) includes an overnight visit to Noddfa. Children from school help lead annual admission to Communion service. Parish/school prayer board. Joint creative projects, e.g. Stations of the Cross, Experience Easter. Members of parish go into school on a weekly basis to hear children read. Support for staff wellbeing. Members of parish available in church for class visits linked to the RE curriculum. Mutual support for fund-raising activities between church and school. Contributions to school/parish newsletter.

- (d) If the school is aided, what is the condition of the building?

The school is not aided. The condition of the building is good

2. What provision is made by the church for teaching:

- (a) children:

Junior church, based on Godly Play scheme, takes place every week during Parish Eucharist with children returning to main service for Communion and to report on activities (often with games, art and songs) at the end.  
 Messy Church, held termly, is popular and well-attended, including families not regular church-goers.  
 St Laurence church members also volunteer at termly Frodsham Churches Together Messy Church event at Weaver Vale School.

(b) young people:

Most of those attending Junior Church are toddlers or primary school children but a few of High School age attend, who takes responsibility to help adult leaders by working with the younger children. There is annually an admission to communion Service for pupils of Y4. in 2018 this included children who attend church but do not attend the church school.

(c) adults

Preaching: usually linked to the Lectionary and sometimes themed, e.g. Beatitudes for Lent.  
10.00 Sunday Eucharist Intercessions are prepared and led by lay people.  
Home based Study Groups are held in Lent and Advent and occasionally at other times by demand.  
The parish keeps Holy Week with a series of themed addresses at the daily evening Eucharist and a 24-hr period of reflection and worship at Noddfa, a retreat house in North Wales.  
A parish weekend is held in mid-September at Noddfa, combining study, reflection, worship and social time.

3. List church organisations with approximate numbers for:

(a) children: n/a

(b) young people: n/a

(c) adults: Occasional Study Groups (c. 30), Mothers Union (42), ACF (15)

4. Give details of house/prayer groups:

Faith in Action has been meeting since 2010 and is a general discussion/study group for matters of faith and social concern, meeting approx every 8 weeks. It was a catalyst for St Laurence's involvement in Runcorn Foodbank and has been a major driving force in "Frodsham Bee Friends" an initiative (still in early stages) to address loneliness in conjunction with local GPs practice and other community/voluntary groups. The parish Reading Group is open to all members of the church and others. Books are general and not necessarily faith based. Advent and Lent groups normally follow a set programme based on national Church resources, e.g. Pilgrim.

5. Are the leaders clergy or lay? Lay, often with shared or rotational leadership.

**DISCIPLESHIP AND LAY MINISTRY**

1. How do you rate the strength of lay leadership in the parish? To what do you credit the strength or lack of it?

Our present incumbent has actively encouraged lay leadership in Sunday worship, by reading lessons, leading intercessions, serving as servers, Eucharistic ministers and administering prayers for healing. There is an active team of officially sanctioned laity who administer home communion to the housebound. Beyond worship, the laity also take an active part in running the Parish. The PCC is proactive, with sub-groups overseeing finances, pastoral care, events and communications. HLF fundraising was lay-led. Prompted by Setting God's People Free, we are beginning to think more about lay ministry and discipleship beyond the gathered congregation.

2. Does the parish have a discipleship course? (e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, Christianity Explored).

Not currently, although we have followed Pilgrim courses on basic Christian issues.

3. What other opportunities does the parish provide to lay people to deepen their discipleship and vocation?

The parish organises an annual parish weekend at Noddfa retreat house at Penmenmawr near Conway. Members of the congregation are actively encouraged to attend activities beyond the parish at Foxhill (Chester diocesan centre) and several have successfully completed Foundations for Ministry (diocesan) and Exploring Faith Matters.

## ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

1. State involvement in local council of churches, if any.

St Laurence's takes an active part in the Frodsham Churches Together (Anglican, RC, Methodist and independent Evangelical). Church ministers meet monthly. An annual Walk of Witness takes place in the town on Good Friday, together with children's activities. A planning committee meets regularly to plan a joint New Year service and an annual 'Thy Kingdom Come' mission which includes a 48-hour prayer vigil for the town, held in the barn of 'The Bear's Paw' public house. The church also actively supports Trussell Trust Runcorn Foodbank by acting as a collection point and providing volunteers for the distribution centre (at Guide Headquarters) and warehouse (in Runcorn). As part of the Week of Christian unity there is a pulpit swap amongst the churches.

2. Is there a formal covenant with any other denominations?

'Churches Together in Frodsham' has a formal Covenant arrangement in which St Laurence church is a full participant.

3. What informal contacts are there?

See above. Ecumenical relations are good and there is some crossover of membership and support for fund-raising, study and social events. Churches Together has a strong link to the Salvation Army's campaign around anti-modern slavery and human trafficking, which has included local fund-raising and educational work.



## OUTREACH AND MISSION

1. Please give details of the support of the Church overseas. How much is given annually?

The PCC pledges to support an overseas charity every other year; £1700. Support for Christian Aid continues throughout the year with fund-raising events and emergency appeals. Christian Aid Week is a major event in the church's calendar; house-to-house collections generate around £7000. We also support members of the congregation who have charitable interests abroad (e.g. Philippines, Kenya).

2. Give details of the support for home missions and charities.

Children's Society: fundraising through Christingle service and home collecting boxes (£4611).  
Trussell Trust Foodbank: collection point, publicity, warehouse volunteers, management of distribution centre.  
Anti-Modern Slavery: campaigning, advocacy, fund-raising.  
MerseyAid (refugees): donations, volunteers.  
All such campaigns feature regularly in parish intercessions. Also in monthly Parish Magazine.

3. Is there an organised system of evangelism in the parish? If so, please describe it.

Church mission/outreach is exercised in a number of key ways: 1. keeping church building open as a sign of welcome and hospitality 2. open baptism policy and work with CE school 3. participation in charitable work and campaigning 4. encouraging people to put faith into practice e.g. Setting God's People Free.

4. Is there an organised system of follow up to baptisms, weddings, funerals? If so, please describe.

Funerals: follow-up by member of Bereavement Group. Annual service on All Souls' Day for relatives.  
Baptisms: initial visit from congregation member; anniversary cards are sent with information about children's services and activities. Weddings: none.  
We are beginning to use social media as a way of encouraging continued contact with families.

5. What part does the church play in community care (e.g. the unemployed/homeless/drug addicts/disabled)?

Parish Hall in town centre holds weekly charity coffee mornings on market day (Thursday), mainly organised by church members but shared amongst other charitable groups.  
Church members are playing a leading role in "Bee Friends Frodsham" initiative around loneliness.  
Foodbank distribution centre (Friday lunchtimes) is largely managed and staffed by St Laurence members with direct contact with those in food poverty.

6. Is there an-organised system of care for the sick and elderly? If so, what?

Visits to the sick and elderly are managed by the Ministry Team with some support from the Lay-led pastoral group. Regular monthly communions are taken to the two residential homes.  
Home Communion for the housebound is administered by both clergy and laity.

7. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (e.g. open youth work)?

Shake Rattle and Pray: worship and playtime for babies/toddlers and parents (weekly, in church)  
The church adopted Frodsham Youth Centre as its local charity in 2017 and this generated good links which have been maintained through a small number of volunteers from the congregation.  
Local uniformed organisations attend Civic services (e.g. Remembrance Sunday) held at St Laurence.  
Helsby High School, whilst not in the parish, has used the church building for events and concerts.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. If there is a history of the church/parish, please e-mail (or send) a copy.

As part of HLF bid the church has developed a number of resources related to its heritage (attached).

1. History of St Laurence Parish church. Heather Powling July 2015
2. St Laurence Parish Church a short guide.
3. Welcome to St Laurence Church
4. A tour of St Laurence Parish Church graveyard.

The building is open each year for the Heritage Open days, playing host to a large number of visitors and local history and heritage groups, this was a commitment made in our bid for funding from the HLF.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. What are your current Growth Action Planning (GAP) goals for the next 5 years?

St Laurence's has not formally participated GAP but the PCC has developed a number of strategic objectives under the core value "To know God and to make God known".

- To be a place of welcome for the whole community
- To encourage and support whole-life discipleship
- To ensure financial and congregational sustainability

2. List the areas of church life which you consider are in most need of development.

To address the demographic of the worshipping community. Most regular members of our various congregations are aged 60+.

To continue to support members of the congregation on their journey of faith.

Financial sustainability, especially given pressures of maintaining Grade 1 Listed building.

Access to the church, both physical (ramps and steps at each entrance) and cultural/educational. The church is open during the day and many visitors drop in briefly but we need to make the building and what it stands for more comprehensible.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:



Office held: Churchwarden

Copies of this form, duly completed, should be sent to the following:

1. The Bishop of Chester, Bishop's House, Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2JD. (Hard copy)
2. The Suffragan Bishop, address in Yearbook. (Hard copy for file and electronic copy)
3. The Archdeacon, address in Yearbook. (Electronic copy)
4. The Patron (if the Bishop is the patron, he need not be sent a second copy)
5. The Designated Officer (Mrs E A Geddes, Church House). (Hard copy)
6. The Rural Dean (Electronic copy)
7. The Deanery Lay Chair (Electronic copy)
8. The PCC representatives.