

Crewe All Saints' Church - Parish Profile

WHAT WE AT ALL SAINTS' LOVE:

- relaxed worship style with variety of services
- Church layout with central altar
- serving the community with different social groups
- accepting and supportive of each other
- promoting talents of all by encouraging lay leadership

All Saints' is an Anglican Parish Church with a unique layout – the altar and sanctuary are in the centre of the church, with everyone gathered around. The building describes our theology: God is not remote at the far end of the church, but dwells right in the middle of His people.



All Saints' has a recent history of sharing a Vicar with another local Anglican church. Both congregations meet together at regular social events and at various services throughout the year. We have individual PCC meetings every other month and then come together for joint Standing Committee meetings on the alternate months. All Saints' has enjoyed this successful partnership and look forward to it continuing.

Numbers in this urban parish are growing with new housing estates being built both within and on the edges of the parish. The population is mixed with the majority being either manually employed or out of work. A number of families from Eastern Europe and a few other minor ethnic groups are resident within the parish, and there are more families from other ethnic groups on the boundaries of the parish.



There are three Nursery and Primary schools and one Secondary school within the parish, and the previous incumbent and her Curate have maintained strong links with them, including welcoming the schools into church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

The congregation at All Saints' generally use modern common worship, with "Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New" as a basis for our music, although other sources have been introduced by our church music group at our weekly Sunday Eucharist services and other monthly services. A Thanksgiving Service is celebrated on the morning of the first Sunday of each month while the Eucharist Service with Healing and Wellbeing is held in the evening on this day. There is also a weekly Eucharist service on a Thursday morning. Other monthly services include a Taize Service to which we welcome people from other church settings, and also Evensong where we join together with the congregation at our Vicar's other Anglican Church.



The weekly congregation at All Saints' is small but fairly constant, many members of the congregation taking on a role of mission to the local community, such as leading "Who Let the Dads Out?" and Bereavement Support, taking part in the Communion Service with residents at nearby Station House, being a base for the local Food Bank collection and distribution, and providing a weekly free Soup lunch.

All Saints' has a play garden and a hall attached to the church building. The hall and garden are used every day by different groups from the local community, including Rainbows and Brownies, Friends for Leisure, Breathe Better Sing Together, Mothers' Union, Craft Club and our newly formed Seedlings – a weekly meeting for adults with their toddlers. Most of these groups use the Hall free of a set charge, as this is felt to be part of All Saints' giving and mission to the local community.



All Saints' Hall has been used as a venue for the Night shelter for the Homeless Project in previous years and now members of All Saints' help at the Hungerford Hub, providing a hot meal for those living there. There is a designated office with a private entrance, on the ground floor of the All Saints' building, enabling the incumbent to work there if required and to welcome visitors into a private space.

We have a continuing commitment to support several charities including the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy, St Luke's Hospice, Christian Aid and Macmillan Cancer Support, through various means, including coffee mornings, afternoon tea events, musical afternoons and our special biennial "Artsfest" weekend. All Saints' members are also practically involved with various Crewe based charities, including the YMCA and St Paul's Centre.

Bible study groups, monthly Guild of Health and Cursillo prayer meetings are all led by lay members of the congregation. The Parish supports those wishing to attend courses, encouraging individual exploration of vocation, be it through formal or informal means – such as Foundations for Ministry and Friendship First. All Saints' has a presence on social media and we are looking for this to be expanded and updated more frequently. We have produced an in-house monthly magazine for many years, which is available to the congregation and delivered to residents.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE IN THE FUTURE AT ALL SAINTS'

- All Saints' realise that any new incumbent would be working across 3 parishes. We understand that the Parish may have to be organised in a different way and look forward to being involved fully with this.
- All Saints' has a tradition of being a key member of Churches Together in Crewe. We would like our new incumbent to continue our commitment to mission and building links with our local community and explore how we could work together with other churches.
- All Saints' uses different ways of worship, both weekly and monthly, and we would hope that the new incumbent would continue to support these.
- All Saints' positively encourages lay leadership. We would like the new incumbent to be able to recognise the potential of individual members of the congregation, to encourage their ministry to others, and support them with any relevant training.

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