



from the
of the Church Bibles.

COMMITT

CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON

ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

Parish Profile





Hello

Welcome to our Parish here in Barnston and Pensby as we begin our search for our new vicar. We are a friendly and genuinely welcoming church – and like to have fun together! Our Parish has been blessed that our previous incumbents have enabled us to steadily grow in our faith, maturity, knowledge and help us to be more effective in God's work.

We are looking for a Vicar to join us and lead us forward in our mission:

- A person of prayer and faith, who will seek God's Grace for our community both outside and inside of our Church
- A leader and teacher who will continue to develop our Church as we move forward, helping us grow the gifts, skills and energy of our Church family in the service of Jesus Christ
- A person who will walk with us in happiness and sadness in our Church life

Thank you for considering whether to apply for this position. We pray that this profile can help you understand us a little better and help you to discern whether God is calling you to join and lead us in the continued development of our faith and his work.



Robert Moots
Church Warden



Bob Fiddaman
Church Warden



Contents

1. [Who are we?](#)
2. [Where are we?](#)
3. [What do we do?](#)
4. [Our Buildings](#)
5. [Our structure and Governance](#)
6. [Our Challenges](#)
7. [Who are we looking for?](#)



Click on logos, underlined words and maps for more details



CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

Who are we?



We are:

an evangelical Anglican church in the parish of
Barnston and Pensby, Wirral serving nearly
16,000 residents in suburban and rural settings.

Our Purpose is:

To make Jesus known and to grow together in
Him

Our Vision is:

To be bigger and more representative of the
community, equipping everyone for ministry

Our Values are:

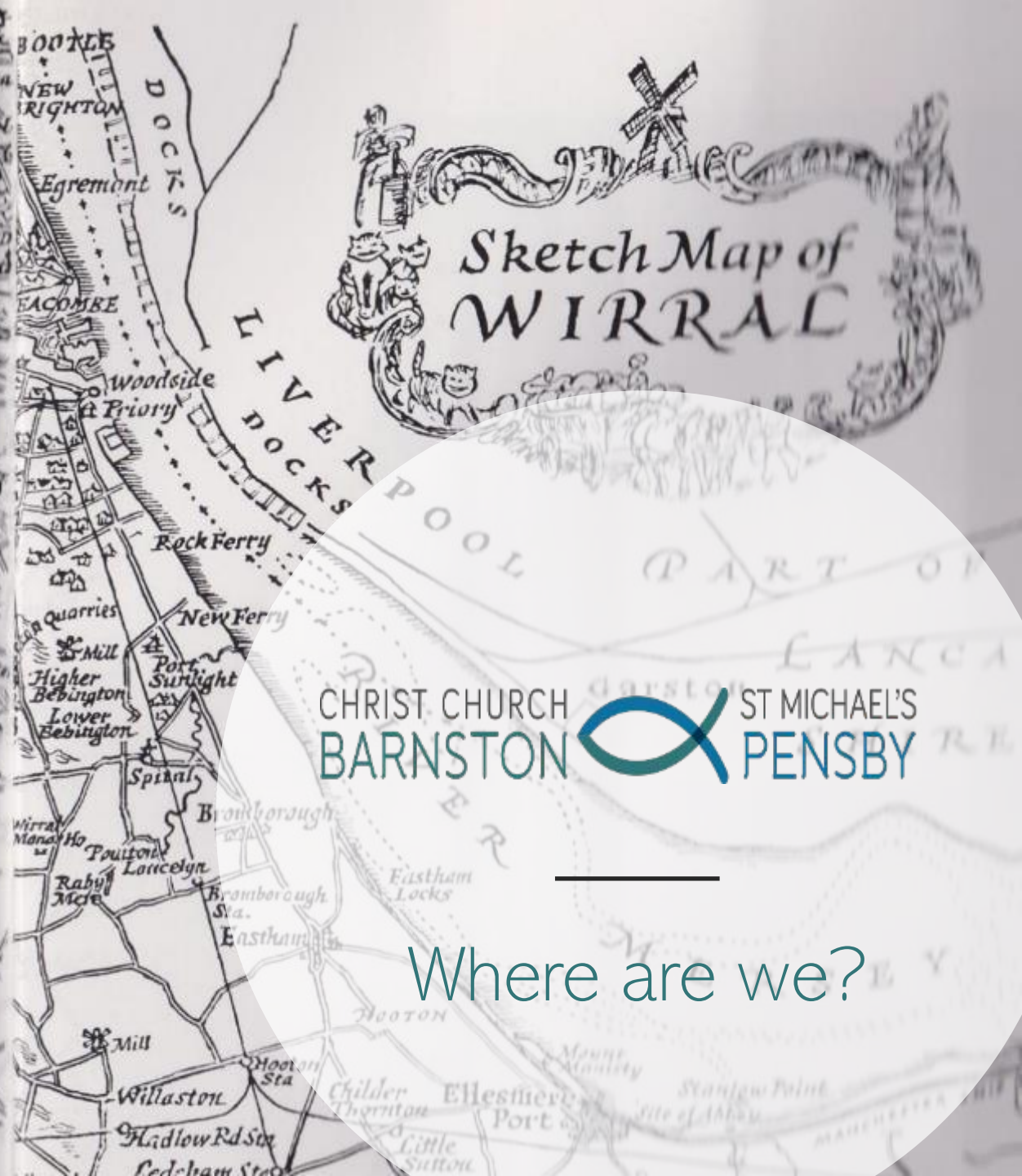
Defined by grace

Directed by the Bible

Dependent in prayer

With compassion for our neighbours

Confident and joyful in our faith

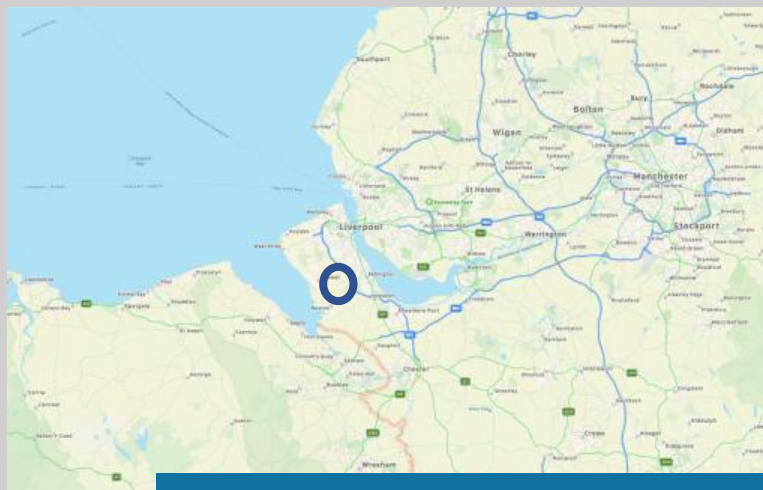


CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON

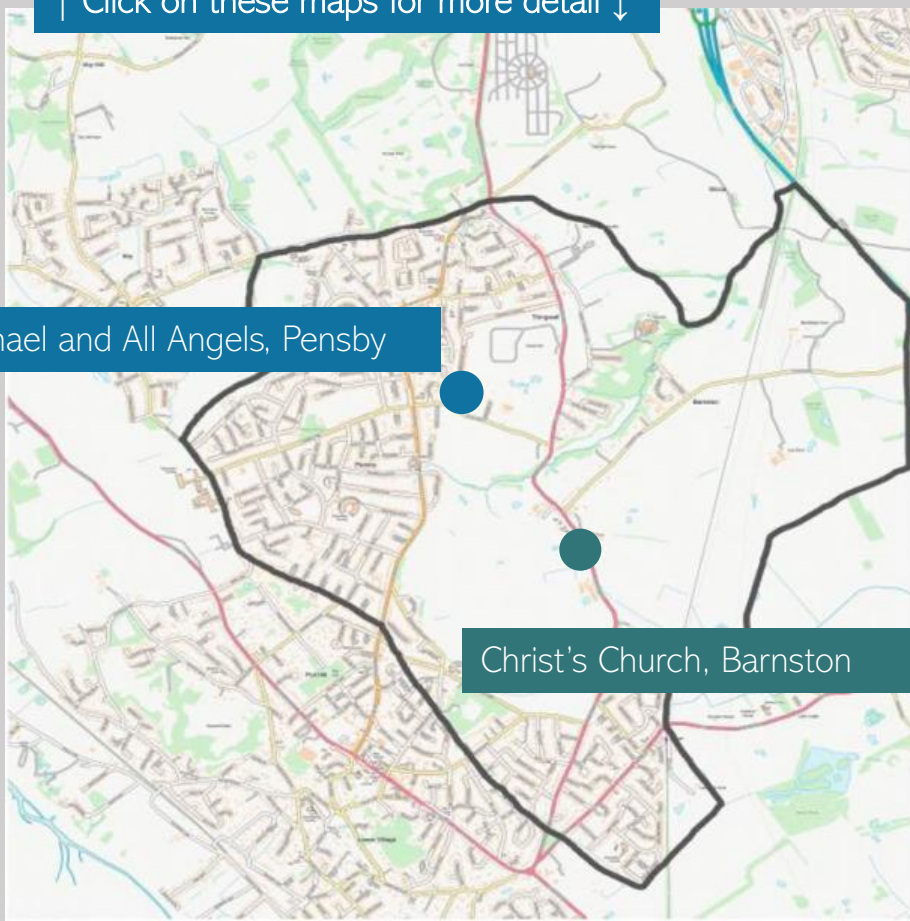


ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

Where are we?



↑ Click on these maps for more detail ↓



St Michael and All Angels, Pensby

Christ's Church, Barnston

Where to find us

Christ's Church, the original church for this parish, was built 150 years ago. A daughter church, St Michael and All Angels, was built a mile away in Pensby, in 1958.

Over the last 30 years, we have become firmly established as a bible-based evangelical church, functioning as a single unit with bases on the two sites.

Together, we serve the communities on the West of the Wirral peninsula: surrounded by the Rivers Mersey and Dee and the Irish Sea.

Vibrant Liverpool is to the east, historic Chester to the south and the delights of Wales to the west. Barnston and Pensby, although only a mile apart, are quite different in makeup.

Many good schools are easily accessible:
Its a great place to live!

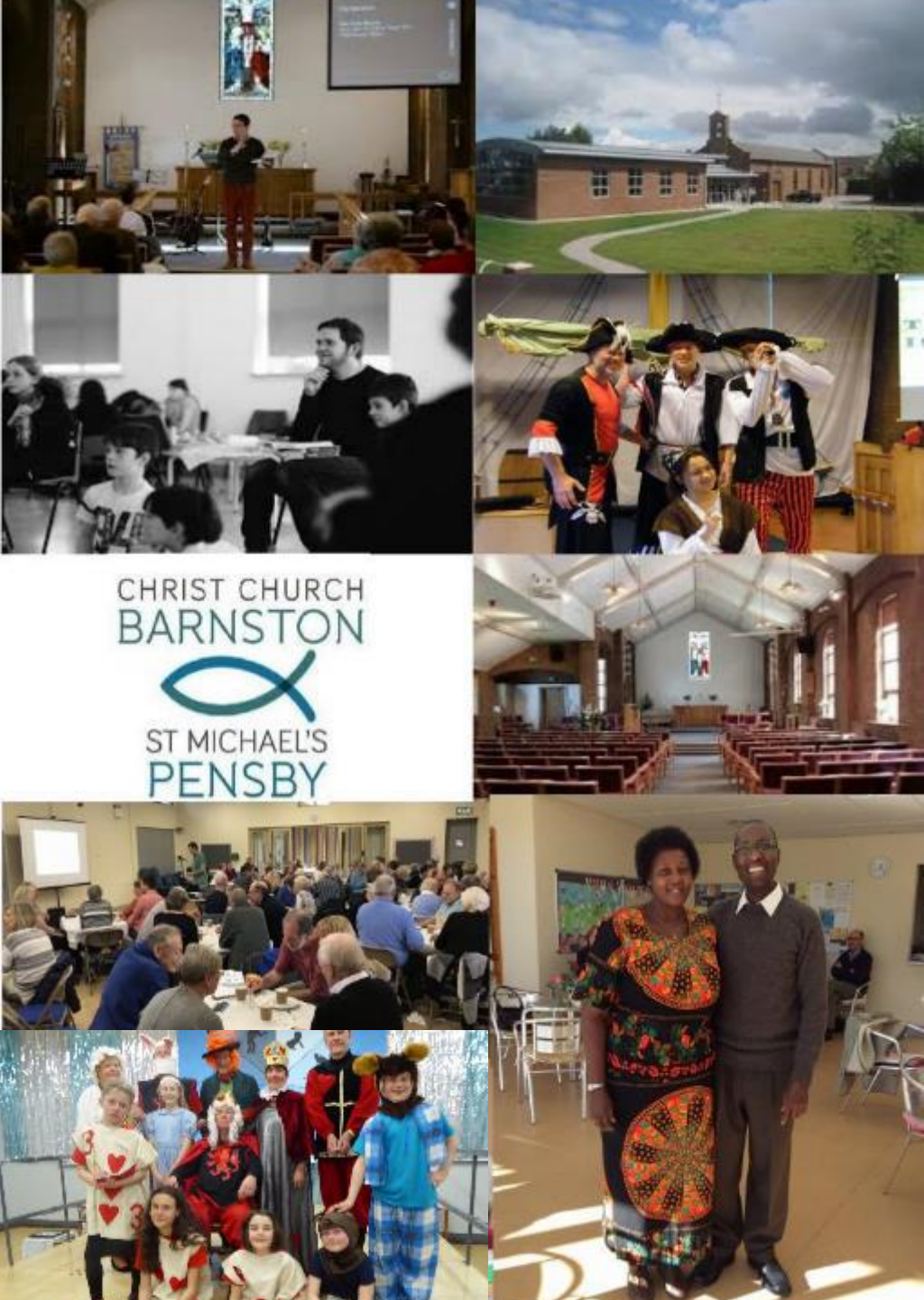


CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

What do we do?



What do we do?

Over recent years, we've refocused our activities to map with our Purpose, Vision and Values. Therefore, in addition to regular services (both on-line and physical during COVID-19), we have:

- Prayer meetings: during the week
- The main central prayer meeting: Thursday evenings
- The Hub: a weekly discipleship programme catering for both new and established Christians, equipping us for witness
- Men's Breakfast (sadly temporarily suspended by COVID-19)
- Women's breakfast (a healthier version of the Men's, suspended)
- Focus (teenagers' group)
- Little Tugs, Messy Church and Holiday Club (children)
- Victorian Christmas (from 2019, preceded by a Christmas Fair which had run for many years)
- Biennial Church family musical, alternating each year with residential weekend away
- Mother's Union: with much active participation

Check out our [website](#) to learn more!

Services

Christ's Church
Holy Communion
Sunday 8.30am

Family Service
Sunday 10.30am

18:30 Evening Service (alternating between churches): under review

St Michael and All Angels,
Family Service
Sunday 9.30am

Holy Communion
Sunday 11.00am

Holy Communion
Wednesday 10.30am





THE HUB

Welcome to the Hub, a discipleship programme designed to help every member of our church family to grow as a follower of Jesus. There are a range of options to help both those who want to take their first steps in the Christian faith and those who want to deepen their understanding and confidence in Jesus.

The Hub meets every Thursday during term time after the prayer meeting, from 7:45–9pm at St Michael's, and also online for the time being.

This term, the courses available are:



What do we do?

Practical care, for our Church family and wider community is a crucial reflection of our mission. Our pastoral workers lead a network of dedicated helpers. We run a popular bereavement lunch and have opened our Church Buildings to the Homeless, during winter months.

- Wirral Ark Night Shelter

We have been closely involved with Wirral Ark for many years and we agreed that both Church Halls would make good potential facilities for an overnight shelter. Within a few weeks, over 80 volunteers had been successfully trained and were signed up to give up their evenings and nights over to making our guests welcome, providing a good evening meal and breakfast. Shelters were held during the winters of 2019 and 2020.

- Caring

We provide a sympathetic and welcoming environment for all carers and former carers who give of themselves to provide a better quality of life for those they love. They meet once a month in St Michael's Church Foyer to have lunch and a varied programme of informative talks, exercise, relaxation or fun activities giving mutual support and friendship.

- Bereavement

The monthly Bereavement Fellowship Lunch is held in Barnston Hall and provides a high-quality cooked meal to those who have suffered from bereavement and may be managing grief, loneliness and isolation. Despite its purpose, this is not a sad or solemn event - the discussions range over many topics and there is much laughter as the regular attenders meet up and exchange news.

A group of men are seated at long metal tables in a bright room with large windows. They are engaged in conversation and looking towards the right side of the frame. The room has a high ceiling and a green exit sign is visible above the glass doors. Outside the windows, several cars are parked in a lot, and some buildings are visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is casual and social.

Men's Breakfast

A perfect combination of cholesterol and Christian fellowship! Our [Men's breakfasts](#) are open to those within our congregation and those who aren't, those who practise faith and those who don't.

Each time we are joined by speakers from outside and within the church with the aim of growing men as disciples of Jesus Christ in a friendly and welcoming space.



GUARDIAN of ANCORA HOLIDAY CLUB



BECOME A GUARDIAN OF ANCORA
CITY OF HOPE NEEDS YOU
FREE HOLIDAY CLUB FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN



Our Purpose,
Vision and Values
informs our work with children and
young families

Our Children, Youth and Family Worker leads
many initiatives for children and young people within
our Church Buildings and local primary schools.
Family Plus organises occasional family events.

A recent development with Christian
parents is encouraging families
to build faith at home.





CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

Our buildings



Christ's Church, Barnston

Barnston village, mentioned in the Domesday Book, is set in farmland, close to Barnston Dales and the Fox and Hounds, a pub dating back to the 15th century. The church buildings and vicarage are surrounded by fields - the majority of immediate neighbours are cows or sheep!



Christ's Church, the original church for this parish, was built 150 years ago. A daughter church was subsequently built a mile away in Pensby in 1958. Over the last 30 years, we have become firmly established as an evangelical church, functioning as a single unit working from the two sites.



The main housing is some distance from the church. Most of the congregation of Christ's Church live in Barnston and Heswall, the more prosperous end of the parish, however, some 30% of worshippers live outside the parish.

In 2000 the parish hall was extended by building an upper storey, providing a large meeting room and several offices: one of which is used by the Parish Administrator. The hall is used by Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts and increasingly by community groups.



There are two schools in this part of the parish: Barnston Primary School, which began life as a church school in our current church hall. The other, Heswall Primary, is a short distance as the crow flies and a pleasant walk away across the fields. Pupils from both schools visit the church on a regular basis.



St Michael and All Angels, Pensby

In 2006 St Michael's Church underwent a major building project. The old church hall was demolished to make way for a new hall, extending the existing building. This project, a major leap of faith, is already fulfilling the church's hopes of providing a focus for life and is a well used vibrant centre.

An attractive foyer with cafe-style tables and chairs is situated between the church and the large hall, making the whole area flexible and suitable for larger functions.

In 2015 the pews were removed and the interior completely refurbished, making it fit to be a church for Pensby for the 21st century. The money for these significant projects was raised by our congregations at both sites. All the loans are now repaid - reflecting the level of commitment to the united mission of the church.

The buildings are surrounded by an open grassy area with flowers and trees and provide a welcoming aspect to shoppers and passers-by and a site for outdoor activities for the children. Recently, in conjunction with [Pensby Community Association](#), St Michael's adopted the site for the annual community Christmas tree – providing a starring role at the heart of the community.

In contrast to the rural setting of Christ Church, St Michael's is in an urban area. Arguably the best [Chippy](#) on the Wirral is opposite, plus a row of shops that includes an [undertaker's](#) that regularly calls on the services of our clergy!

[Thingwall](#), [Pensby](#), [Ladymount Catholic](#) and [Stanley Special](#) primary schools are within this part of the Parish. A large secondary school, [Pensby High School](#), lies nearby.



The Vicarage

Situated next door to Christ's Church, this provides a lovely home. There is a detached garage and the large rear garden borders on to open fields

[Here is a satellite view](#)





CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

Our structure &
governance

Leadership Team



Vicar

Overall responsibility
Based in Barnston



Associate Minister

Chris Murphy

Sharing parish responsibilities
Based in Pensby

Support from 3 retired clergy, 2 Diocesan Licensed lay readers (1male/1 female), 2 emeritus readers (1male/1female) with additional lay leaders, all joining fully in the service rota, leading and preaching.

Paid Staff Team



Cecelia Oliver,
Parish
administrator



John Putman,
children, youth and
family (CYAF) worker



Joanna Hill,
Discipleship
Coordinator



Chrissie Irlam,
Pastoral Coordinator
Hall Bookings

PCC

We are pleased that our PCC is an active, enthusiastic and fully engaged group that reflects and represents the dynamics, gifts and diversity of the Church Family to both our Parish and the Diocese.

Mission Leadership Team (MLT)

Comprising clergy, CYAF worker and 5 lay people, the MLT reports to the PCC and supports PCC and clergy strategically and practically to implement our purpose, vision and values - a plumb line for all we do and plan for the future.

Safeguarding

We've adopted the national CoFE procedures and guidelines. Our Safeguarding Officer, with the Clergy, have encouraged members of the Church Family to complete the CoFE basic awareness and foundation courses.

Six trained pastoral workers and many volunteers meet with the clergy every few weeks, to consider the pastoral needs of the church members; whether in person, by telephone, with prayer or with home communion.



Mission Support

We have strong links with Christians locally and around the world, supporting our partners financially, with prayer, and visits where possible. We support:

Crosslinks: [Sena and Jane Ounate Lare](#),
Church planting in Normandy, France
Top image.



Crosslinks: [Diego Pacheco](#)
Church planting in Santiago, Chile
Middle left image.

Joshua and Miriam Mbithi:
[Neema Children's Home](#), Eldoret, Kenya
Middle right image.



[Christians Against Poverty](#): Jess Parkhouse, Debt coach, Birkenhead

Dave Casson: [The Youth Project, St Peter's Church, Rock Ferry, Wirral](#)
Bottom image.



CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

Our challenges



Our challenges

Our Purpose, Vision and Values underpins what we do and informs where we want to go. We want to trust in opportunities and solutions, but sometimes get stuck by fixing our gaze on things that don't matter, rather than God's Kingdom.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, we've had to change the way we do things drastically – becoming experts in digital technology and broadcasting - streaming services and children's work, together with communicating and coordinating pastoral work, letters and messages by email. We've also kept our buildings open for worship in a safe environment, for those who prefer to attend physically. We gave individuals the choice of how they would worship..... as the situation returns to normal, we hope that our church family may not only recover but also grow yet further.

Even before the pandemic, only a small proportion of our community attended our services and meetings. We want to reach out more effectively as we work to make Jesus known to all our community: to people of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs.

Most of our Church family are older (sorry, more mature). We want to develop ministry and discipling for young people. Our Children, Youth and Family worker works phenomenally hard – but relatively few young people attend our services or meetings regularly. We really want to grow this.



CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

Who are we looking
for?

gives out free marshmallows
 understands
 likes children
 tells us about Jesus Kind and fun
Our New Vicar
 friendly someone like John Funny a good leader
 Like a butterfly speaks clearly
 Kind and fun
 Supportive
 who speaks clearly
 Can help with GCSE RS can preach and teach

Empathy
 Bible-based
 pastorally sensitive
 excellent communicator
 Ministry of the word a priority
OUR NEW VICAR
 encourage young people to attend
 A listener resilient leader utilisier of modern technology
 excellent bible teacher
 Interested in outreach
 encourage prayer
 good preacher
 evangelical
 inspiring, Jesus-centred worship leader
 systematic expository preaching
 encourage gifts of the spirit

Who are we looking for?

We asked our young people and adults what they were looking for in a vicar and received many suggestions. Can you guess which were the comments from the children? (do you like marshmallows?)

We want to identify the person who God has chosen to further His kingdom in our Parish. We're looking for someone who can identify with our current Purpose, Vision and Values, but recognise that as we grow we must be receptive to change:

Our Purpose is:

To make Jesus known and to grow together in Him

Our Vision is:

To be bigger and more representative of the community, equipping everyone for ministry

Our Values are:

Defined by grace

Directed by the Bible

Dependent in prayer

With compassion for our neighbours

Confident and joyful in our faith



Who are we looking for?

We believe that our new incumbent will be a person of strong biblical faith and leadership qualities:

- A Teacher: who, trusting in the authority of Scripture, can deliver and grow bible-based expositional and exegetical teaching and preaching in attractive and relevant ways. Teaching and reaching out to all, whether of much, little or no faith, helping us find Jesus and grow in Him
- A Shepherd: able to provide, develop and grow pastoral care for all ages – reaching out with care and compassion to all those in need and support
- A Spiritual Leader: who will be guided by the Holy Spirit and help us to listen, learn and follow.
- An Evangelist: to enthuse and help us to reach out to our community and to express our faith and help us to stay focused on our mission both locally and internationally
- A Leader: able to identify, nurture and grow gifts within the Church family, expanding the work of our church from lay leadership to service

(Whilst not a deal breaker, ability to provide marshmallows is desirable).





Who we are looking for

Our new vicar will be able to demonstrate leadership experience and the ability to:

- Develop bold visions for the future development of our parish.
- Involve Church members in the development of the strategies necessary for the achievement of those visions.
- Encourage the development of potential leaders within the Church family and encourage all to use the gifts with which they have been blessed for the benefit of the whole community.
- Help create the environment that will encourage those without faith to accept Jesus as their saviour
- Help us to reach out to the community, and stay focused on our mission: both locally and internationally.
- Identify with people of all ages and demonstrate care and compassion to those in need and support and build our life in faith of Jesus Christ
- Be a guardian of the gospel in our church and community as Paul entrusted Timothy

Thank You

Thank you for reading our profile.

We pray that you may find the right place for you to continue to serve the Lord Jesus: whether here with us, or in another setting.

CHRIST CHURCH
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S
PENSBY

We are grateful for
the hard work of the
PCC in preparing
this profile