

# PARISH PROFILE 2022

CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CHESTER

*Registered charity no. 1133808  
Mission House, Church St, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 3JD*

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Welcome to Christ Church Chester's Parish Profile

**We are praying for a visionary leader who loves Jesus and  
has a heart for mission**

Thank you for taking time to consider prayerfully our profile,  
we hope it conveys a real sense of how God is at work in  
Christ Church and how you could lead us forward

## Our Church

Our Mission :-

**Seeing lives restored through Jesus in a renewed space, as we have  
fun together**

We value :-

- A relaxed, friendly, comfortable, homely, welcoming but unpressurised culture.
- Our charismatic, broadly open evangelical tradition.
- The inclusion of people across the spectrum from 'liberals' to more 'conservative evangelicals'.
- Freedom of worship, including both liturgy and spontaneity.
- God's Kingdom not just Christ Church's
- Prayer, preaching, and teaching
- Reaching out to others through evangelism
- The intentional inclusion of children, singles, couples, students and families, as they are
- An opportunity to get to know people and develop friendships.
- Stability, but also vision and a sense of purpose, a church 'on the move'.
- Being offered appropriate opportunities to serve and to invest in ministry and the church community



# History of Christ Church

Christ Church was designed and lovingly created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as an Anglican parish church to bring glory to God and serve the dense inner-city community, a visually prominent structure standing at the heart of the terraces of Newtown. The original Christ Church was consecrated in 1838 and enlarged in 1893 – 1904 with the addition of the main porch in 1936.

In 2003 Christ Church was re-formed as a city centre parish with a 'plant' of about 20 worshippers from St Michael's Church, Plas Newton. This group joined the diminishing but faithful congregation at Christ Church to form two distinct service styles, an informal contemporary worship service and a more traditional Holy Communion with hymns, the congregations coming together for coffee between the services. The Curate in Charge at the time of the plant was appointed to the University chaplaincy team; thus began the link to the University Christian Union and students joining the congregation

In 2007 we received a grant from English Heritage of around £300,000 to enable us to replace our original, Victorian roof which was sadly leaking terribly. Three years later, the church raised additional funds to enable a new heating system to be installed. In 2014, we re-ordered the church to construct a platform to extend the chancel, thus better enabling a worship band. At this time, we also installed a projector with a retractable screen and our welcoming glass doors completed the transformation. Subsequently, in 2016 with grant monies of almost £70,000 and alongside huge volunteer input, a revamp of The Mission House was undertaken. This has vastly expanded its use, not only by the church, but also by many local community groups. As Rev Graham Shaw stepped into the role of Vicar at Christ Church in 2011 the student focus continued, with the church's year based around term times and an annual student weekend away. The introduction of an internship scheme gave post-graduate experience through opportunities for preaching and leadership in some of our church ministries such as students, alpha and youth groups. We also saw the introduction of a Worship@7 service during term time for a more creative, spirit led worship opportunity. Our homeless drop-in has greatly expanded over the years to meet the need in the city, even using the Mission House as an emergency night shelter in extreme weather over winter.

As students settled in Chester, married and had children and more families joined the church, the children's ministry has hugely expanded. Despite many growing pains, volunteers have really stepped up into roles, typifying something of the Christ Church spirit of making much out of small beginnings, through prayerful leaning on God.

The 11:00am service expanded to between 90 and 100 attendees. To maintain Christ Church's welcome a 'host team' was created for Sunday mornings. We employ a church administrator to communicate events via a weekly email and to co-ordinate rotas and Mission House use, as well as recently investing in ChurchSuite. We have regularly attended New Wine's summer conference as a church and, to sustain the 'informal family atmosphere' of Christ Church, have regular events such as a beach trips, banquets, women's afternoon tea, 20s and 30s meet ups, bonfire night and quiz nights.



Interns



Students





# Present day

## Where we are:

Even before Covid the Christian Union in Chester had vastly reduced in numbers (from 200 down to 35 or so) which meant that students were not so numerous within our congregation, though we are still keen to extend a welcome to those that come. With fewer students, we have as a church struggled perhaps to find our new 'focus' despite expanding children's ministry and ongoing Drop-In Ministry.

Our curate Rev Anna Leyden joined in July 2020, she has been a real asset to us, supporting our services, re-igniting community links, as well as helping to launch our 'tots and tinies' toddler group in October 2021.

## Impact of Covid:

Covid led to new opportunities, vastly expanding our online ministry, with online small groups, family services, live streaming of our Sunday mornings, as well as inspiring the creation of a festive outside space for the community and hosting an outdoor carol service in December 2020. Our Crypt Youth group in particular has grown during the past 18mths despite restrictions, though for various reasons our connect groups seem to have struggled. We've been back meeting in person as soon as restrictions allowed and all our ministries are now up and running and by God's grace we seem to have maintained numbers and welcomed new members into the fold, though like many others, we are still trying to recover from the impact of covid on us as individuals and collectively as a church.



Banner declaring hope during first covid lockdown

## Our hopes and dreams for the future

A church survey in Sept 2021 and 'Joshua (Vision) Day' for wider church leadership in Oct 2021 has helped us start to re-evaluate our values, focus and vision, as well as feeding into aspects of the person specification for this profile. Discipleship, Fellowship and Outreach were identified as desired areas of development, some of these thoughts and themes are explored on the following page.



Members of Christchurch at Joshua Day



# Future of Christ Church

**The vision of Christ Church is turning outwards, we want to bring the hope of Jesus to Newtown, deepen our walk with Jesus and continue to build community together**

## **OUTREACH TO NEWTOWN**

We want to fulfil our mission to bring the gospel to Newtown

This emerged as the strongest aspect of a new vision despite the fact that, though many of our younger members are making their first homes in the parish, the majority of our congregation live outside it

We look to consider prayerfully plans, needs and opportunities in Newtown and the gifts we can bring

We will seek to deepen existing community links in local spaces such as the Mission House, church garden, St Anne's Park

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

Christ Church is serious about seeking to discover who God is and who he wants us to be

We are looking to develop small groups and bible study. There is a hunger to deepen our understanding of God's word and listen to his Spirit

We are keen to encourage each other in our walk with Jesus

## **FELLOWSHIP**
















There is a joy in gathering with each other and having fun together

Re-connect groups, one-off social events organised by individuals since lockdown have been building relationships

We hope to have a church weekend away



# The Team

 <b>Anna Leyden</b> Curate since 2020	 <b>Veronica Johnson</b> Lay Reader Emeritus	 <b>Ed Newman</b> Lay Reader
 <b>Glyn Jones</b> Associate Minister Co-principal of The Light College and Co-leader of The Net	 <b>Carys Addison</b> Administrator, Bookkeeper and PA	 <b>Tom Cobb</b> Treasurer
 <b>Andrew Wigglesworth</b> Churchwarden	 <b>Hannah Giddings</b> Children's Work Coordinator	 <b>Will Steel</b> Health & Safety Lead Prayer Team Coordinator
 <b>Wendy Peto</b> Church Warden	 <b>Rich Jones</b> 10:30 Worship Coordinator	 <b>Tonya Chirgwin</b> 09:00 Worship Coordinator
 <b>David Chirgwin</b> Vice Chair of PCC	 <b>Pauline Jones</b> Safeguarding Lead	 <b>Dan Price</b> PC Team Coordinator



There are 19 members of PCC providing a broad representation of the wider church.



Christ Church's team of leaders and preachers is made up of 10 men and women; a mixture of lay and ordained.





# Sunday Services

## 09:00 Service

This liturgical eucharistic service has a reflective and contemplative feel. It has seen a recent growth in attendees and continues to be one of the cornerstones of worship at Christ Church.

The musical worship at the 09:00am service is usually led by one of our two organists. Songs are typically chosen from "Hymns Old and New", sometimes including a wider range of styles such as Iona and Taizé.

Holy Communion is celebrated every week, apart from the 3rd Sunday of the month when there is Morning Prayer. The service is supported by a team of sides-persons.

Tea & coffee is served at the end of the service with the intention to overlap with the start of the 10:30am service and encourage fellowship between the two congregations.



## 10:30 Service



A host team with about 4 people is present each Sunday, to make sure that the congregation is greeted with a friendly welcome.

The 10:30am service is more informal with a lighter liturgy, including blocks of worship. There is monthly communion.

Sung worship, led by a range of musicians, from acoustic to full bands, includes songs across a broad spectrum, from centuries old hymns, and gospel classics to modern contemporary songs.

The service is supported by technical teams who manage the public address system, computer-based projection & live-streaming systems.

A prayer ministry team is available during and after the service to minister to those who want prayer.





# Christ Church 2021



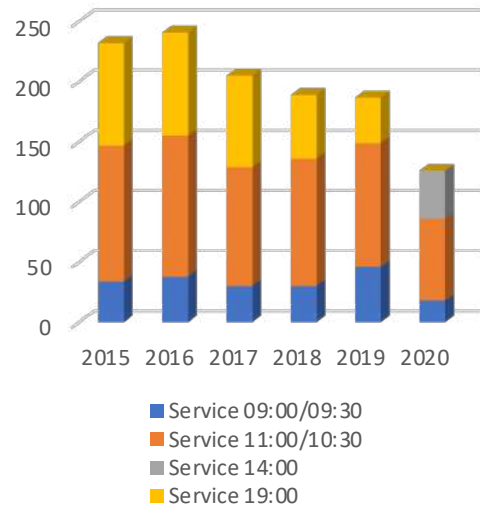


# Church Congregations

## Regular Church Attendance

With a high proportion of our congregation aged 18-30, many of whom are in transitional seasons of life, our attendance figures continue to fluctuate. Each year we say farewell to a significant number of students, and others move on to new jobs elsewhere. They are often (but not always) replaced by new students and young professionals moving to the area. We continue to see ourselves as resourcing the wider kingdom of God by blessing, and then sending out members of our congregation.

We believe that a lot of our congregation were able to access our streamed services online in 2020, but it is almost impossible to know exact numbers. During 2020 there were no evening services, but we welcomed the introduction of a 2pm family service.



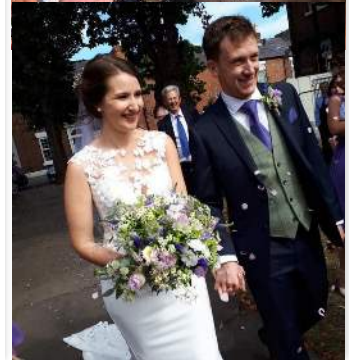
## Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals



There have been 13 weddings over the past three years (Five in 2019 & 2020 and Three in 2021). We have been able to celebrate with many of them who are part of our congregation.

In 2019 we held Thanksgiving Services for four babies and held two Infant Baptisms. In recent times some of our students and young adults – five in 2019 - have come forward for baptism by immersion in the River Dee with many of the congregation present, as well as, when Confirmations were involved, one of the Bishops.

Christ Church is often the focal point of Newtown in times of grief, with many residents and non-residents choosing to hold the funeral services in the church of loved ones who have worshipped here in earlier days. Since 2019 there have been 11 church funerals and 7 crematorium only services..



# Children & Young People

This has been an area of significant growth over the past 6 or 7 years in Christ Church. What started as three young families and no regular leaders or structure, has grown into a more stable and established ministry team. There are three different Sunday morning groups, which run alongside the 10.30 Service, (Gems, Rock-Solid and Crypt) for about 25 children and young people to learn about God and deepen their faith. In the church building there is a creche space to support those with babies and toddlers during services. We've also recently been greatly blessed by training and a clearer focus on issues of safeguarding. It is difficult to put into words exactly how this has happened ... all that can be said is God is good!

Three years ago, we launched Crypt, our 11+ youth group with only 2 leaders and no regular location for them to meet. This group has grown and flourished despite lockdowns. As well as meeting during the service to do Bible study, they have regular socials, including a weekend away in the first year, and a new 'pudding and pondering' evening twice a month to discuss deeper aspects of faith. Three years on, we now have a few 14+ young people who form a group but have no fixed location to meet; we're waiting on God for his provision on this!

To encourage us to think outside the 'Sunday morning box' and widen our horizons the children's ministry leaders have been focusing on working out the five 'purpose driven' principles of:

Discipleship, Fellowship, Worship, Evangelism and Service.

Examples of this include:

- A joint worship time between the Gems and Rock-Solid group
- Community outreach in the form of Messy church and a Light Party
- The launch of 'tots and tinies', – a toddler group with time to play, crafts, snack, Bible story and songs
- Family events such as a picnic at the local retreat centre in Foxhill, a BBQ and a Christmas Eve walk up Helsby Hill
- The youth serving in various aspects of church life, including the worship and host teams
- A family service when the children's groups were unable to meet in person in lockdown

God is good. He keeps surprising us as we step out in faith, maybe we shouldn't find it quite so astonishing and amazing, but we do! God is good.



Rock Solid wearing 'The Armour of God'



Crypt 'Wide Games' in the park



Our Creche Space



Family Service Creativity





# Fun and Fellowship



Reconnect Events 2021:  
(Clockwise from Top Left)  
Walking group on bridge  
Evening worship as part of  
Christ Church camping  
week  
Women's coffee meet-Up  
Bonfire night and fireworks  
Bowling trip



To the Right:  
Student weekend away  
Barn dance  
Week at New Wine



Church trip to Talacre beach



Christ the King, banquet and quiz night



Team preparing for  
Mother's Day (above)



Men's mountain biking  
weekend (right)





## Connect Groups

Christ Church has several 'Connect Groups' each involving around 6-10 people. They meet midweek to support one another in their walk of faith and to increase the experience of church as a community.



Each group focuses on something of their own choosing. This usually involves a study; looking at a Bible passage or following a study book, sometimes watching films or TV shows to stimulate discussion, as well as a time of prayer.

This is an area we think needs stronger leadership. It is a key opportunity for growth. We believe that vibrant, spirit-led connect groups play an important part in the deepening of faith and discipleship of members of the congregation.

## Alpha

In previous years, the Alpha course was run by Christ Church interns with more of a student focus and including a Holy Spirit away day at Foxhill, the diocesan retreat centre (see photo below)

More recently 'The Net' (a 'fresh expression' linked with Christ Church) has been running the Alpha course and encouraging people to explore faith.



## Online

We see use of the internet as a tool for evangelism, of primary importance to enable us to reach out and make the good news of Jesus accessible to all. We also use it to communicate with church members, keep administration as easy and efficient as possible and ultimately to support outreach. To that end we have recently invested in ChurchSuite.

Our technical systems allow us to broadcast Sunday services on Facebook Live. In the week following we provide a cut down sermon only video and from that produce an audio only podcast, available on all major podcast platforms. We give thanks that God has provided us with a team of enthusiastic and committed volunteers who have helped us invest efficiently in broadcasting equipment. A playlist of all our video sermons is available on [Facebook](#), the podcast is hosted on [Acast](#).



We pray that the new incumbent will appreciate the importance of digital evangelism and be ready to take us forward. We hope they will fully support the team God has given us for this new ministry and will actively involve the church by encouraging members to like and share our digital material. The new Vicar must feel comfortable preaching to a camera as well as a live congregation and be ready to embrace our remote congregation. No Doubt there are further innovations and practices to develop, and we look forward to doing so with their full support.



## Drop In

A team of volunteer members of Christ Church open the church building to homeless and vulnerable guests on Sunday afternoons. We offer soup, sandwiches and cake as well as donated clothes and, importantly, arm-chairs and sofas for a friendly chat or just somewhere to get your head down after an uncomfortable night. Our Drop-In is currently the only respite shelter open anywhere in Chester on a Sunday. Many guests struggle with a combination of complex problems including addiction to alcohol or drugs, loneliness, missing home and family, as well as mental health issues. Our guests appreciate meeting in church and the environment inspires meaningful conversations and sometimes an opportunity to pray with an individual or to light a candle when someone is troubled. We hope that our guests will meet the love of Christ in the warmth of a non-judgemental welcome, a listening ear and a relaxed atmosphere, with plenty of laughter.



## Community Links



### **Café 71**

We have built up a good relationship with Café 71, just around the corner from the church. Home to the 'Spider Project' it offers support and structured therapy programmes for those with mental health issues and is attended by many of our Drop-In guests.

### **Community Leaders Lunch**

Once a term Christ Church invites all the leaders in the community, including local council members and Police Community Support Officers, to get together and discuss what is going on in the local area.

### **Newtown Community Group**

Over the years Christ Church has actively contributed and assisted with the vibrant gardening club, which works hard to maintain and improve the area. We have also co-hosted a Fun Day in the Park with music, games, face-painting and food.

### **Salvation Army**

Over Christmas we worked in partnership with the Salvation Army to provide over 100 hampers to those who need them most. We also hosted a joint carol service on the church green.



### **Christian Union**

Christ Church continues to have strong links with the University Christian Union and supports them wherever possible.



### **Cheshire Foodbank**

We have always supported Cheshire Foodbank and the church was used as a storage and distribution hub during lockdown. For more information [click here](#)



# Safeguarding

At Christ Church, we seek to promote a safe environment, culture and activities in order to include a wide range of children, young people and adults. Everyone at Christ Church shares this responsibility, but not everyone is responsible for everything! We believe safeguarding is about how we treat each other and the quality of our relationships but we also seek to fulfil our responsibilities as laid down by the Church of England and Chester Diocese Safeguarding team.

To this end we have adopted "Promoting a Safer Church" the House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and seek to fulfil our key safeguarding responsibilities outlined in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook [[link to these documents](#)]

We have developed a range of guidance to support safe recruitment, including about applying for Disclosure and Barring Service checks. We have also produced a handy guide for anyone taking, storing and sharing images in Christ Church [[link to guide](#)]

We have promoted Basic Awareness and Foundations safeguarding training as appropriate for PCC members and for all our Children's, Youth and Drop-In volunteers.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is a member of the PCC, safeguarding is a standing agenda item and the PSO works to an agreed action plan. In addition, the PSO meets regularly with the clergy (or Wardens in a vacancy period) to discuss safeguarding concerns, incidents and administration.

We believe and trust that safeguarding supports ministry and outreach rather than preventing or constraining it. But safeguarding is a process not an event and we are conscious there is more to be done.





# Church Spaces

## Church Building

Christ Church is a Grade II listed building, dating back to 1838, designed by the architect John Douglas, one of the most influential church architects and personally responsible for the design of over 50 churches across the North West of England and North Wales, as well as significant features within the city of Chester. Externally, the former, and now de-consecrated graveyard provides an open grass area which is enjoyed by the locals during clement weather and is used by Christ Church for events such as the Drop-In annual B-B-Q.

The interior of the Church is stunning with the majority of the stained-glass windows having been designed by the renowned Charles Kempe, who also designed the reredos to which carvings by Joseph Mayer of Oberammergau were added. We are particularly proud of our Brindley & Foster two-manual organ which is considered one of the finest in the North West, although costly to maintain and service.

The latest Quinquennial Report (2021) did not identify any grave or critical issues, but we do know that the flooring requires significant attention and the electrics, whilst adequate, would benefit from modernisation. Also, in order to meet the Church of England's environmental plans to become Carbon Neutral by 2030, we would need to re-consider the heating.

The currently suspended Renewed Space 3 project, with architect drawings already complete and means of funding investigated, has long been a cherished part of our vision. It includes rebuilding of the vestry, windows looking out on to the street, accessible toilets, kitchen, more storage space and extra meeting rooms. RS3, once complete, will open up the potential of our church building as a performance venue and for community use.

[Click here](#) to see our plans for RS3



Exterior and Interior views of Christ Church



Our Outside Space, transformed into a place for the community to reflect during Advent



Our wonderful maintenance team and volunteers tidying and cleaning church on one of our bi-annual Maintenance days. Bacon sandwiches provided!





## Mission House

The Mission House is located directly opposite the main church building on the corner of Church Street and Cornwall Street.

On the ground floor there is a fully fitted kitchen area, two toilets, including a baby change facility and a large meeting room.

Upstairs there are two small offices and one large meeting room with retracting presentation screen.

The Mission House hosts two of our three children's ministry groups on a Sunday and a host of other internal and external activities throughout the week. In all, over 50 different organisations have used our facilities making it a tremendous asset for us.



## Vicarage



Located in the newly built Black Diamond Park estate, approximately a 3 – 5 minutes' walk from the church the vicarage is somewhat unique in that it is actually two attached houses, which after construction were converted into one.

There are therefore two front doors and each side is a mirror image of the other. It has five bedrooms and a single large grassed garden area to the rear, with dedicated off-street parking and two garages.

Benefitting from being a relatively new-build, it is much less expensive to heat and routine maintenance is considerably simpler than in older properties. The PCC maintains a fund to ensure that it is well-placed to fulfil its share of responsibilities in respect of the maintenance of the vicarage.

The vicarage boasts a great central Chester location, a 10 minute walk from the city centre, the Cathedral, the new Storyhouse theatre and Northgate leisure centre and 5 mins from the central bus and train stations.



# Finances

The Finance Team at Christ Church currently consists of six members of the congregation, managing donations, bookkeeping, payroll, general banking and treasury tasks.

## Income

Income is generated from donations to the church (including giving from the congregation and associated Gift Aid claims), church fees and rental of rooms (the church building and Mission House) and grants from a small number of organisations. Our Annual income was £126,990 in 2019 and £116,223 in 2020.

## Expenditure

Our Parish Share was £61,184 in 2020.

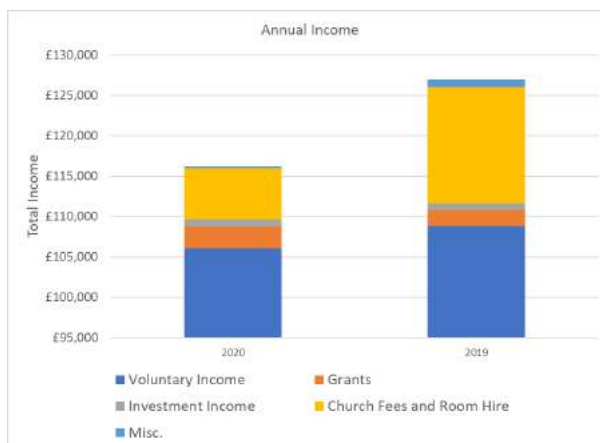
We employ a Church Administrator for 16 hours per week and a cleaner for the Mission House

## Giving

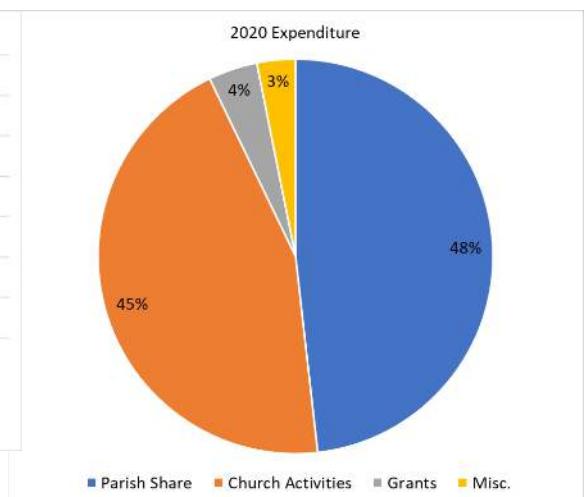
Funds are set aside each year for Outward Giving (£5000 in 2020; £4600 in 2019). This giving is intended to bless what God is doing beyond our ministries, in line with our values and goals. This giving has recently supported projects and organisations such as:

- West Cheshire Food Bank
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- Chester University CU
- Chester Street Pastors
- The Light Project
- Chester Diocese Congo Link

We also have a generosity fund which people who have links with Christchurch can apply for to meet an urgent need



\*Reduced church and room hire in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions



# Wider Links and Diocese



The Light College and Collective – Offering University Degree courses in Theology, Mission and Evangelism. For more information [click here](#)



Wider Churches – Christ Church is part of 'Link Up' that connects many of Chester's church leaders together. For more information [click here](#)



The Net is a fresh expression meeting aimed at engaging people with no faith or new to faith. It has been set up by our Associate Vicar, Rev Glyn Jones, who is a gifted communicator and evangelist, in conjunction with Hoole Baptist Church and St Peter's Church. The Net has run several alpha courses over the past 14 months which have seen several members of our congregation move in to owning their faith. For more information [click here](#)



The Chester Diocese extends from Wirral in the West to Macclesfield in the East. Bishop Mark is the recently appointed Bishop of Chester.

## Further Afield

As part of Chester Diocese, Christ Church is privileged to be linked to the Anglican Diocese of Aru and Boga in North East DR Congo. Christ Church has been involved in a number of visits to Congo and has hosted two Congolese visitors.



The link aims to be one church in different places, developing a world- wide understanding of the kingdom of God by: Praying for one another regularly; Finding ways of doing things together and by learning from one another through the exchange of information and visits; Sharing problems, joy's and opportunities and offering mutual support. Christ Church is also glad to support the Congo financially. For more information [click here](#)





# The City of Chester



The city is an immensely popular tourist destination and has Chester Cathedral at its heart. Dedicated to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Chester Cathedral has been the seat of the Bishop of Chester since 1541. Open not only for religious worship but also for concerts and art exhibitions, it is a major feature of the city. The almost complete Roman-era city walls, the many remains of its Roman roots and subsequent history have created a popular destination for visitors from throughout the globe. In addition, the famous "Rows", Victorian restorations originating from the original 'Black and White Revivalist' architecture give the city centre an almost unique character.

All shopping tastes are catered for be it the "Rows" in the centre, the "Greyhound" retail park on the outskirts or the "Cheshire Oaks" retail outlet just 4 miles away. The "Liverpool One" and "Trafford Centre" shopping centres, two of the UK's largest are also only a relatively short journey away by car or public transport.

Chester is also home to the largest single-site zoo in the UK, an attraction which has been repeatedly improved and expanded over recent years. The city's proximity to Snowdonia and the North Wales coast is also a major and attractive feature of Chester.

Demographically, Chester is, like many cities, very mixed and continues to change. The city centre features many modern developments and recent conversions of previously industrial buildings into modern apartment living. Further out from the centre, a wide range of different neighbourhoods provide housing for the extremely privileged, though to the most deprived. A characteristic of the relatively small scale of the city means that it is not un-common for such contradictions to be located extremely closely to each other.





# The Parish



The parish (population 2861) comprises two distinct areas, Newtown and Northgate Village, separated and bordered by main roads and railway lines. Of the 116 church members (Electoral Roll 2020) over 90% live outside of the parish, as far afield as Frodsham to the East of the city, Saughall to the West and Holt in North Wales. Historically a significant number of regular worshippers have come from the University student population, many of whom have remained in Chester after graduation and become members of Christ Church. The growth in the number of alternative places of worship, together with the much smaller size of the Christian Union over recent years has, however, impacted on this.

Although Christ Church is only a brief walk from the centre of the city, it is not on a through route and is concealed, surrounded by Victorian terraced houses and so remains unknown to many. Security screens placed on the church windows some years ago, means that often the perception is that the building isn't in use. The lack of access and visibility is a challenge requiring us to publicise our activities throughout the parish and we have done so through repeatedly undertaking leaflet drops. However, as a result of COVID-19 and the need to conduct services on-line, our digital evangelism capability has been positively enhanced



## Newtown

This is where Christ Church and the Mission House are located and is currently our main focus for outreach. The area immediately surrounding the church mainly consists of Victorian terraced housing, with tower blocks, new retirement flats, sheltered and student accommodation close by.

Recent development has seen the building of a new housing estate called Black Diamond Park, which includes 120 flats and houses and has a community feel. This is where the vicarage is situated

Newtown has various facilities including St Anne's Park with a playground, the Little Theatre, restaurants and The Royal Mail Sorting Office and is within walking distance of Chester's Bus and Train Stations. The Fire Station and Ambulance Station are also located near the church.

The area has its share of social challenges and occasional anti-social behaviour. However, the demographic has been changing over recent years with more young professionals and families moving into the area, including members of our congregation. We have built and maintained good relationships with the Newtown Community Group and local Police and Community Support Officers.



## Northgate Village

This area lies immediately north of Newtown. The 'Village' contains the Northgate Ponds, a lovely open space with ponds, open grass areas and one of the many exits from the 'Greenway' cycle network. Northgate Village is a unit of approximately 240 houses and includes a Medical Centre, some sheltered housing and the city's largest council run leisure centre, the Northgate Arena.

The Duchess Place development offers approximately 130 flats and town houses which are mainly occupied by young professionals. Most recently has been the construction of the Abbott's Wood retirement complex. This large retirement 'village' contains 175 flats within a single complex which also includes residents' restaurant and additional leisure facilities. Finally, a considerable amount of student accommodation is also present in the area, especially in the Victoria Road area where a number of modern accommodation blocks have been built in recent years.



# Personal Profile

		Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>	<p>Ordained priest in the Church of England with some experience in a parish church setting</p> <p>A graduate in Theology or Biblical Studies or equivalent</p> <p>In date Safeguarding training at the appropriate level</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p>	<p>*</p>
<b>Theological Position</b>	<p>Able to be led by the Spirit within the charismatic, broadly open evangelical tradition in informal worship and bold gospel preaching</p> <p>Comfortable leading liturgical, contemplative and eucharistic worship</p> <p>A Bible student, eager to engage reflectively and adventurously with scripture and to read widely and critically beyond</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	
<b>Experience of</b>	<p>Bible-based preaching and teaching, engaging, challenging and relevant to contemporary issues</p> <p>Encouraging a congregation to walk with Jesus in everyday life Monday to Saturday, as well as on a Sunday</p> <p>Collaborative leadership, delegating, nurturing, equipping and empowering ministry leads.</p> <p>Working flexibly within teams, both with paid staff and volunteers, to encourage personal development and shared responsibility.</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	





# Personal Profile Continued

<b>Experience of</b>	<p>Working confidently within a range of pastoral situations</p> <p>Managing conflict with sensitivity, grace and with confidence</p> <p>Providing leadership on safeguarding and encouraging all to contribute to creating a safer church</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	
<b>Ministerial Giftings</b>	<p>An outward looking, adventurous, visionary leader who can sensitively lead the church through transition</p> <p>A pastor, an empathetic listener, approachable, caring deeply for all people</p> <p>Able to lead intentional mission into un-churched communities who will seek God's heart for Christ Church's role as a Parish Church in Newtown</p> <p>Able to graciously lead and relate to a church congregation that's made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds with different positions on life and faith</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	
<b>Personal Attributes</b>	<p>Loves Jesus, Prayerful, guided by the Spirit</p> <p>Creative, innovative, with a sense of humour, ready to have fun</p> <p>Confident interpersonal and communication skills across a range of media</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	



We pray that as you read this profile the Holy Spirit will help you discern whether to move forward with an application and we look forward to meeting you.

## Contact Details

**Prospective applicants are welcome to discuss the post with:**

**The Ven Dr Michael Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester**

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**Or**

**The Ven Kevin Roberts, Simeon's Trustee**

**M: 07880 762868**

**E: [kevin.roberts@simeons.org.uk](mailto:kevin.roberts@simeons.org.uk)**

**Applications should be submitted to this email address**

