

Parish Fact Sheet

Incumbent



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: Ellesmere Port DATE: September 2023

DEANERY: Wirral South

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

1. Number of C of E churches /places of worship in the parish: 2
2. Population. 32,219
3. Number on electoral roll. 173
4. Usual Sunday attendance (*taken from last annual return*)

under 16 years of age: 12 16 and over: 110
5. PCC ordinary income (*i.e. total of voluntary income and other ordinary income taken from last annual return*): £ 154,441
6. Average weekly gift per regular giver: £ 11.50

PERSONNEL

1. Name of (former) incumbent:
Rev Canon Gordon McGuinness
2. Name(s) of Assistant Clergy (*indicate whether stipendiary (SM) or self-supporting (SSM)*):
Rev Gillian Foster [sm] Revd Dr Gordon Welch SSM with PTO
3. Name(s) of Readers, Pastoral Workers and any other licensed lay workers:
Susan Johnson [PW] Kathryn Lyth [PW] Frank Mawdsley Reader (Em)
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

Ricky Montgomery - [SSM Curate in training] - 10 hours plus Sundays
Gemma Alexander-Bloomfield [CW] - 35 hours
Charmaine Maw [Admin] 15 hours

THE PARISH

1. Is the parish inner urban/urban/suburban/village/scattered rural?

Urban

2. Is the population

(a) static rising or falling? Rising

(b) settled or mobile? Settled

3. Is the population

(a) Predominantly retired/middle-aged/young families? 23%/35%/42%

(b) Does it include: professional/executive/manual/unemployed? Yes All

(c) Describe any ethnic groups resident in the parish:

The demographics for Parish from 2011 as provided by the diocese : the ethnicity of the town as:
94% British, 1% Irish, 2% other white, 3% other. 98% speak English as a first language.

4. Estimate the proportion of housing:

(a) owner-occupied: 59.44%

(b) local authority: 28%

(c) privately rented: 12.56%

5. Please list:

(a) number and types of schools in the parish:

9 primary schools including Ellesmere Port Christ Church - Church of England school [voluntary aided].

Plus 3 senior schools including Ellesmere Port Church of England College

(b) number of nursing homes/elderly persons' homes: 12

(c) any youth centres? 3

(d) any community centres? 9

(e) name(s) of hospitals in the parish: Ellesmere Port Cottage Hospital

6. Name of hospital, if any, of which the incumbent is chaplain:
0
7. Does the incumbent have specific civic responsibilities? If so, what?
St Thomas hosts annual Civic Service
8. Are there any links with local industry?
We have links with some of the businesses through our fundraising.
9. Does the parish have any significant social problems, e.g. high unemployment?
high deprivation & high level of unemployment in some areas

CHURCH SERVICES

1. How do you describe the church tradition?
Traditional catholic / modern catholic / central / open evangelical / conservative evangelical or some other label?
Open Evangelical

2. Give the pattern of Sunday services:

St Thomas
9am Common Worship Holy Communion service with traditional hymns and organ
10.45am First Sunday – Café Church, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Family Communion Service or Service of the Word. Members of the laity are also involved in this service leading intercessions and readings

St Lawrence
11am Common Worship Holy Communion Service or Service of the Word – with traditional hymns with organ. Members of the laity are also involved in this service leading intercessions and readings.
4pm Second Sunday ABC service.

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

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|--|------------------|
| Is there a traditional use of eucharist vestments? | Yes/No <u>no</u> |
| coloured stoles? | Yes/No <u>no</u> |
| scarf and hood? | Yes/No <u>no</u> |

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

9am - Hymns Ancient & Modern
11am - Anglican Hymns Old and New

5. (a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?

26%

- (b) Does any one age group, gender or social class predominate in the congregation?

Retired - females

6. Average number of communicants on a normal Sunday: 110 [over 3 services]

7. Numbers during the last year

of baptisms: 22 _____

of confirmation candidates: 0 _____

of weddings: 5 _____

of funerals in church: 43 _____

in crematoria: 22 _____

BUILDINGS AND CHURCHYARD

1. (a) Name of the parish church; St Thomas & All Saints

(b) Year(s) built; 1957

(c) Date of last quinquennial inspection; 2017

(d) List any urgent repair work still to be done:

Nothing urgent is required, but we are currently raising funds for reordering of the main building.

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

St Lawrence - Stoak built approx 1300 grade two* listed building.

We are currently looking to repair the drive but the building is in good order.

Last quinquennial inspection 2019

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

Yes/No No - carpets & curtains required throughout

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

(Give addresses, use and condition)

Church Hall - St Thomas Church -reasonably good condition

Church & Hall of St Francis - Seymour Drive, Overpool, Ellesmere Port [rented out as a children's nursery]

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|-------------------------|
| 5. | Has the church got a churchyard? | Yes/No | <u>yes- St Lawrence</u> |
| | Is it still in use? | Yes/No | <u>yes</u> |
| | How many new graves were opened last year? | | <u>0</u> |
| | How many re-openings were there last year? | | <u>3</u> |
| | Estimate how many years are available for new graves: | | <u>nil</u> |
| | Is there a special area for the interment of ashes? | | <u>yes</u> |

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.

Christmas Fair
Bacon & Sausage butty mornings
Cake sale Days
Afternoon Teas

4. (a) What was the amount of expenses paid last year to the:
incumbent £ 2,778.52 assistant clergy £ 1,448.51

(b) Were these the full amounts claimed? If not, why not?

YES Does the PCC pay a lump sum or reimburse actual expenses claimed?

Reimburse actual expenses on a monthly basis

Is a claim form used? yes

5. What is the current amount of Parish Share payable by the parish? £ 102,509.40
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: £ _____
- 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 yes
- Please give brief details with costs and how they are to be met.

We have the Beacon Project which is the re-ordering of St Thomas Church. Cost is CIRA £600,000 and we have approx £271,000 in place. We are seeking grants to fund the balance.

CHURCH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROVISION

1. (a) Is there a church school in the parish? Yes/No yes
- Is it controlled or aided? Yes/No Aided
- (b) Number of children on roll: 200
- Is the number static/rising/falling? rising

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

4 church members are on the board of governors
Messy Church
Lay led assembly team
Clergy lead assemblies

Services in church

Class visits to church

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

New Build in last ten years

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

- (a) children:

Ignite at St Thomas service

ABC once a month at St Lawrence

Tom's Tots - starting September 2023

Pre-pandemic we had two flourishing cell groups teaching our children and young people. These met after school and were lay-led. One group specifically focused on key stage 2 children and the other key stage 3 and 4 children. Sadly, post COVID these groups did not re-convene due to the older students moving on, this together with the 3 lay leaders moving on to new posts meant that these groups did not start up again. This is an area of our church life which could grow and develop and to which we could invite the many children and young people that we currently work with in our community outreach.

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|--|
| Teaching and preaching through Sunday services |
| Cell groups |
| Discipleship courses |

- (a) children: Toms Tots (15) ABC (20)
- (b) young people: Scout group (130)
- (c) adults: PALS (50) Tea for 2 (25)

- | |
|---|
| <p>We presently have 4 cell groups that meet every two weeks at various times in people's homes. Each group is made up of between 8 – 10 people and there are currently 32 members.</p> |
|---|

5. Are the leaders clergy or lay? Lay

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

Lay leadership is strong in the parish. The laity are encouraged to 'have a go', to dip their toe in the water with regards to leadership. Through encouragement we have one person who joined our church, became children and family worker and then went on to ordination. Another joined our church and got involved with community work and has recently been appointed our Community Development Worker. Encouragement is given through taking the lead in services such as cafe church and previously 'Praise and Worship' evenings. Others have been part of a leadership team overseeing a CPAS Falcon Camp.

2. Does the parish have a discipleship course? (e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, Christianity Explored). Not at present, but we have done Alpha, Start Course, Christianity Explored and the Bible Course

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

Encouraged to join Foundation for Ministry Course led by Chester Diocese.
Encouraged to attend conferences - such as Leading your Church into Growth, Food Summit
Parish weekends - deeper teaching and learning from each other

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

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

Clergy meet informally with other local church leaders.
Christmas and Easter joining together for singing in The Port Arcades.

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

No

3. What informal contacts are there?

Contacts with
Our Lady and Star of the Sea
Centre for Renewal
Trinity Methodist Church
URC, Chester Road
Salvation Army



OUTREACH AND MISSION

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

We give what we can afford [which has been less in recent years due to effects of covid pandemic on our funding].

We have responded to appeals in Ukraine, Pakistan, Christian aid and Tear Fund.

We also have links [alongside Christ Church school] to Nyakatukura Primary School in Uganda

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

CPAS - Falcon Camp

Contact Centre

Shoe Box Appeal

Mission through our work in the community - supporting families, school work

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

no

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

Funeral follow up - invited to a monthly afternoon tea, invited to annual memorial service and Blue Christmas service

Weddings - informal follow up by associate rector as and when

Baptisms - families invited to cafe church service and also to ABC service at St Lawrence

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

Trussell Trust Food Bank

Our Food Initiative Group

Warm Hub

Support for refugees

Contact Centre

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

Yes, largely informal from members of the congregation

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

Pre-pandemic we had two flourishing cell groups teaching our children and young people. These met after school and were lay-led. One group specifically focused on key stage 2 children, the other key stage 3 and 4 children. Sadly, post COVID these groups did not re-convene due to the older students moving on, this together with the 3 lay leaders moving on to new posts meant these groups did not continue.

PUBLICATIONS

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Complete the Beacon Project is top of the list!
Continue to grow the church and in our own personal discipleship.
Church plant - so many new builds around the area that are not being reached
Build on the foundations laid by the Community Development Worker

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

Children and Young People
Young adults

Signed on behalf of the PCC: 

Office held: Treasurer

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.