

The Crewe Parishes of St Andrew with St John the Baptist All Saints with St Paul and St Peter Joint Parish Profile



Associate Minister for Crewe Person Specification

This post is for 2 days plus Sunday in the week and comes with
0.15 stipend (£3,983.70) and Vicarage

We would love an Associate Minister with the following qualities:

- Committed to working with the Priest-in-Charge and other clergy and lay people in ministering across the three parishes
- Comfortable with exercising ministry to the whole people of God in the existing inclusive Liberal Catholic/Central Traditions
- Will affirm and support a culture of welcome and inclusion to our churches and happy with the use of our churches in serving the community
- Encourage lay people to use their gifts in serving God and our communities
- The person will be happy to take occasional/pastoral offices as they arise
- Someone who will be cheerful, responsive and flexible to emerging needs of our Churches and communities
- The person is happy with ministry amongst schools, young people, and families across the parishes
- The person is happy to engage with the emerging need of using online platforms to propagate the mission of the parishes
- The person is happy to give two days plus Sunday in a week and work within the ministry schedule agreed with the Priest-in-Charge.

The Town of Crewe

The beginnings of the modern settlement of Crewe were not laid down until 1843 by Joseph Locke in order to consolidate the "railway colony" that had grown up since around 1840–41 in the area near to the railway junction station (opened in 1837). Even though it was called Crewe by many from the start, the town was actually named after the railway station, rather than the other way round.

The coming of the railway led to the development of Crewe and while most of the manufacturing industry directly associated with the railway has disappeared, the town continues to play a role as a major communications hub. Indeed, Crewe Station - proposed to become a HS2 hub - is located within the Parish.

Bentley Motors is a major employer in the town and there are a number of local business parks offering significant employment opportunities.

A new Lifestyle Centre has recently been constructed in the town centre, and the redevelopment of the bus station together with a new shopping centre is planned. The M6 motorway is only a few miles away.

The Cheshire campus of Manchester Metropolitan University recently closed but the University of Buckingham has plans to take over the site.

There are good social activities on offer in the town with a very active theatre, choirs, a thriving u3a, and many types of sports and dancing available. There is a good range of restaurants on Nantwich Road, also within the Parish.



Queen's Park



Market Hall

Introduction:

It can be seen from the following profiles that previously the churches of All Saints and St Peter's have worked quite closely together. Recently they have been joined by St Andrew's and are working towards a united benefice.

The Parish of St. Andrew with St. John the Baptist



“St Andrew's has a family feeling; it's my family”

The Parish of Crewe St. Andrew with St. John the Baptist covers a large area of south and part of central Crewe. It includes significant areas of social deprivation, and a diverse range of residential, retail and commercial development. The original Parishes of St. Andrew and St. John the Baptist were merged in 1994 with the closure of St. John's Parish church. When Christ Church in the centre of Crewe closed in 2014, this was also incorporated within the Parish.

Most of Crewe railway station is contained within its boundaries, as is Crewe Alexandra's football stadium. The population of St Andrew's and St John's Parish is circa 13,000.

The busy A534 Nantwich Road, approximately a mile away from the town centre, goes through the middle of the Parish and is a bustling shopping and leisure area. This was the original boundary between the Parish of St. Andrew and the Parish of St. John the Baptist.

The town centre of Crewe, on the northern edge of the Parish, and which offers many facilities, is now contained within the parish boundary following the closure of Christ Church in 2014.

The Parish Church of St. Andrew is in a residential area of mixed housing. To the north east of Nantwich Road can be found the more dense pattern of urban development; the Victorian grid pattern of terraced housing being the norm. Many of these houses have been converted into multi-occupancy dwellings and are privately rented out, many to migrant workers. Here can be found many different nationalities, mostly from Eastern Europe and there is a growing Muslim community of Somali origin. To the north west of Nantwich Road, close to the

vicarage, there is the relatively prosperous Rosehill Estate.

On the south side of Nantwich Road there is a mix of privately owned and social housing, including a new elderly care village 'Belong', and a local doctors' surgery. Again, on the whole, the more prosperous area tends to be at the western end.

There are two state primary schools and one secondary school in the parish, as well as a state nursery school and Cheshire College South and West, which provides Sixth Form education for a substantial area of Cheshire.

The Parish lies within the Cheshire East local authority and encompasses Crewe Central and Crewe South electoral wards. Recent socio-economic data can be found on Cheshire East's website or on the following link:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/cheshire_east_area_profiles/ward-profiles/ward-profiles.aspx

St. Andrew's Church

Worship and Ministry at St Andrew's Church

Since March 2020 the regular worship at St. Andrew's church, as with all churches has been severely disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During lockdown, services continued online being streamed on our Facebook group. Following the end of lockdown, limited worship has taken place in the church with live streaming of a service from one of the three churches (All Saints, St. Andrew or St. Peter) each Sunday.

At the beginning of August 2020 Rev. Dr. Oliver Igwe was installed as Priest-in-Charge to the three parishes.

The following details describe the pattern of services that were in place before the restrictions.

Sunday:

8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist; BCP used on 1st Sunday of each month

9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist – Depending upon the Sunday of the month a variety of communion services is provided to appeal to all ages. The Making Waves Kids Club provides fun, interactive Bible teaching and creative activities for children during the services.

4.00 p.m. Book of Common Prayer Evensong. Eucharist celebrated on 1st Sunday of each month.

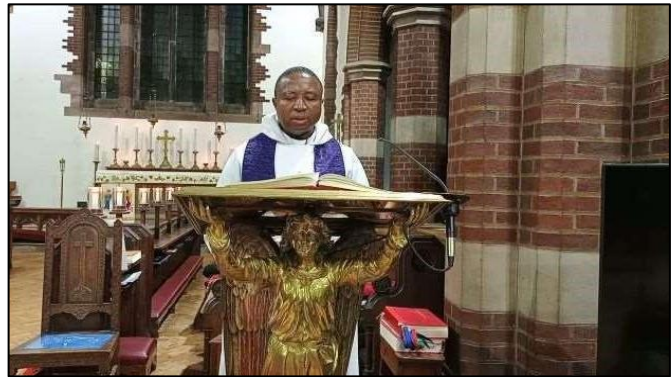
Tuesday: 6.30 p.m. "Open" Service – informal worship and discussion in church. This has

continued during the pandemic as an online meeting via Zoom.

Thursday: 10a.m. Said Eucharist

Baptisms are usually held at noon on Sundays. Shared services are also held with other local churches.

On the first Sunday of the month the 9.30am is a family friendly communion service “Breaking Bread” where the service and activities are especially planned for children and families and where our informal music group plays and sings.



On the third Sunday a more formal service is held, using traditional language with communion taken at the High Altar.

The church also keeps the usual church festivals throughout the year. We participate in services organised by Churches Together in Crewe, and St Andrew’s takes its turn in hosting these services.



Vestments are worn at all Eucharistic services. There is a team of 15 servers including 6 who regularly assist with the administration of the chalice at Holy Communion. We currently have a retired Priest, Revd. Hazel Rugman who helps out with services.

There is a very active children’s ministry team at St Andrew’s, with Making Waves Kids’ Club which meets during the main 9:30 service on Sundays. On the first Sunday “Breaking Bread” service the children are present for the whole service, whereas on the other Sundays they move to the vestry following the start of the service where they have their own worship and craft activities before rejoining the service to show the congregation what they have been doing.



There is a good musical tradition which we are keen to continue. The choir leads the 9.30am Eucharist service and sings at weddings and funerals when required.

Our choir is augmented by other local choirs for special services at Christmas and Easter and for occasional concerts. The church has a modern Wyvern 3 manual electric organ.

Our informal music group features singers, piano, guitars and drums, and they play and sing modern hymns and Taize chants.

Members of the congregation read the lessons and prepare and deliver intercessions at the main Sunday service. We also have a friendly and welcoming team of sidespeople.



We have a small, but dedicated team of flower arrangers who keep the church looking beautiful especially at major festivals.

Currently, St Andrew's has 116 on the electoral roll (2020), 74 of whom live within the parish.

Attendance over the three main Sunday services is typically between 80 and 100

and between 15 and 20 at the Thursday morning service. However up to 200 or more people can attend on special occasions such as a parade service with the uniformed organisations, Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday or a Christmas service.

The Parochial Church Council meets around six times a year. The Church has designated health and safety, fire safety and child protection officers. Safeguarding, and Health and Safety policies are in place.

The Standing Committee is an active body meeting when required in accordance with its delegated powers.

Outreach

We seek to connect with the local community in many different ways. Our current outreach projects include:-

- Little Fish – a playgroup for children 0-4 and their adults;
- Seedlings – a similar project held at our neighbouring church of All Saints
- Saturday Café, providing home-made soup, sandwiches and desserts at low prices;
- Asylum-seekers English conversation café, where people from many different countries come to engage socially and improve their English.
- Night Shelter project for the homeless people, together with YMCA

- “Open” is a gathering held on Tuesday nights, open to anyone, where discussions and reflection on Christian themes takes place.
- Church at the the Brookhouse is an informal service held once a month at ‘Belong’ care village, attended by residents, staff, and others from the local community.
- Summer Holiday Lunch Club – feeding local children during the holidays. Play Weeks – play provision in church for children during the summer holidays.
- ‘Experience Easter’ and ‘Experience Christmas’ – art, craft, and other activities for families, linked to the themes of Easter and Christmas, and open to any children and families from the local community.
- Lunchtime Prayer Hour in which the church building is open to anyone for prayer, has been organised at certain times. It is hoped to be able to hold this on a more regular basis.
- Art Club and Dance to Health are opportunities to engage with local people who attend these groups.
- Mettle, a group for teenagers meets on Wednesday Evenings.

Financial help is given to the Children’s Society through home collection boxes and the annual Christingle Service. We also support Christian Aid and local charities.

St Andrew’s is one of Cheshire East’s Connected Communities – an outpost for various community projects, e.g. Young Carers meetings; ‘New Beginnings’ for exoffenders; Cheshire Police projects.

A youth club on Thursday nights had just started when lockdown meant it had to close. This met a need for young people who did not necessarily go to the church but live in the area.



What People say about St Andrews

"St Andrew's - that's the happy church on Bedford Street isn't it?"

"I love coming to St Andrew's because, being on my own, the friendly people there care and are really my family now"

"It's a place of many aspects - quiet times for reflection, and yet there is quite a buzz about the place when we meet together as a congregation or there is a function on at the church"

"I was made to feel very welcome from day one and that's continued."

"Lots of things to do - there is always something going on and the children are made to really feel part of things."

"I've developed my understanding of God and drawn closer to Him since I've been coming to this Church."

"I enjoy the hymns and singing praises." "I love the feel of the place."

Social Activities

Our parishioners enjoy many social activities as members of the organisations affiliated to the church. Tea dances, hoe-downs and a Summer and Christmas Fair are held during the year. There are also occasional concerts featuring local choirs and orchestras and an annual pantomime.



The Summer Fair – pictured right

St Andrew's has a FaceBook page and a website:

<https://www.facebook.com/CreweStAndrews>

<https://standrewscrewe.com/>



Ladies' Open Group

This group meets on alternate Thursday evenings throughout the year and has a varied programme with talks, activities and outings.

The Andrews Panto and Play Society

Each January The Andrews Panto and Play Society (TAPPS) performs a pantomime with full houses of approximately 80 for each of the four performances. An annual variety show and play reading evenings are also very successful.



Dance To Health

Classes for anyone, including the elderly and disabled, who want to improve their health, co-ordination and balance, are held on Wednesdays in the Church Hall.

Art Club

Open to church members and local residents alike, an opportunity to experiment and improve in using watercolours.

Diamonds

Diamonds is a social group for church members aged 50 and over, meeting on alternate Monday afternoons in the Church Hall. Talks, quizzes, keep fit, games afternoons and outings all feature on the programme for the year.

Uniformed Organisations

At St. Andrew's we are fortunate to have an affiliated Scout group, The 1st SW Cheshire 'The Andrew's'. There is also a Brownie group and a rainbow group.

Scouts meet on a Friday night but there are also many other 'meetings' throughout the year on activities which include camping, climbing, canoeing/kayaking, hiking, abseiling, shooting, to name but a few.

Cubs - We currently have 21 boys and 9 girls in our pack with 8 leaders and 3 young leaders. We meet on a Wednesday evening and hold many other activities throughout the year. Each year we complete two camps plus a night hike as well as taking part in the many district events that are organized.

We enjoy a full and varied programme of activities which include survival, climbing, skiing, rafting, fundraising, community projects and much more, all of this goes towards the ultimate award in cubs, The chief scouts silver award.

Brownies - At the present time the 4th Crewe St. Andrew with St. John the Baptist Brownie Unit has twenty Brownies and four Leaders plus unit helpers. They meet during term time on Wednesday evenings.

Rainbows - There are at the moment eleven Rainbows aged five to seven and two Leaders plus unit helpers. They meet during term time on Wednesday evenings.

Church Buildings

The Church

The construction of St Andrews Church building was commenced in 1932 but had not been completed by the time of World War 2. A temporary wooden gable end was then constructed at the western end of the partially completed church building. Work was recommenced in 1959 to complete the building and this was finally finished in 1965.



The church building has been described as Gothic, in a free decorated style. It is a modern family church built of brick, with stone and cast stone dressings and a Westmorland Slate roof which was thoroughly overhauled and repaired in 2016. Internally the building has a light and spacious welcoming feel due mainly to the predominantly clear glass windows, broad nave and high ceiling.

To commemorate the merger of St Andrew's Parish and St John's Parish in 1994, four stained glass windows were taken from St John's church building and installed at St Andrew's in 1999 including a beautiful Bromsgrove Guild rose window designed by A. J. Davies.

The Rose window depicting the Ascension is shown on the right.

Christ Church, another associated church in the centre of Crewe, closed in 2014 and we welcomed the remaining congregation to our church.

The last Quinquennial report on St Andrews church building was in 2016 and the most urgent item of work identified - a major roof overhaul - has now been completed.



Other recent works include the installation of a disabled person's ramp, new steps and handrails at the main entrance to the Church building were completed in February 2020 and the replacement of all the chairs in the main body of the church with more modern upholstered chairs.

Church Hall

In addition to being used for parish events, the Church Hall is open for use by the local community, but due to its condition, its replacement with a modern multi-functional building is a major priority. The Church sponsors various social clubs and uniformed organisations that use this facility.

Scout Hall

This is adjacent to the Church Hall and is owned by the Scouts who pay ground rent to the church.



The Parish of All Saints' with St. Paul

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 an unusual 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 history of sharing a Vicar with St Peter and more recently with St Andrews as well. These congregations meet together at regular social events and at various services throughout the year. All three Churches have individual PCC meetings.

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 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 St Peters.

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' and St Peter's 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.



A vicarage is attached to All Saints building with a separate entrance, which would be suitable as a residence for an Associate Minister. The property comprises of a large lounge and kitchen, a small dining room with hatch through to the kitchen, downstairs toilet, 4 bedrooms, and a bathroom upstairs.

There is a garage with ample parking to the front, and an enclosed garden to the rear.

What we would like in the future at All Saints

- All Saints' realise that the post of associate minister is on a part-time basis. 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 associate minister to encourage 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 our associate minister would support these.
- All Saints' positively encourages lay leadership. We would like our associate minister 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.

The Parish of St Peter's

Introduction

St Peter's is a welcoming, inclusive church with a friendly, committed congregation all pulling together for the common good. Our PCC has always worked well with the incumbent and we have a strong ethos of lay involvement – virtually all the congregation are actively and substantially involved in mission and worship as well as in organising and attending social events throughout the year.

We have been blessed with an excellent lay reader, a creative, hard-working and enthusiastic curate and recently a Priest-in-Charge who are working across the three parishes of St Peter's, All Saints' and St Andrew's. A Community Development Worker, Becky Hurst, is also working across all three parishes. Crewe Town Council have just agreed



to extend the work that they do with St Peter's by funding Becky to work on various community-engagement projects. We are already working closely with All Saints' and our Prayer Labyrinth formed part of the Love Crewe initiative in 2016 and 2017.

We provide a wide range of children's ministry ranging from Godly Play for the youngest in our congregation and we have a children's corner for babies and toddlers used by families at weddings and baptisms. We also have an active and committed Rainbow and Brownie pack, which meets in our church hall and attends our regular all-age services, and strong links with local primary schools (see below).

We recently held a pet blessing service – promoted in the local paper and on Radio Stoke - which saw a church full of people and animals including a chicken, some rabbits, a few dogs and some caterpillars. We have become much more adept at publicising our services lately with poster, flyers and a popular Facebook page all spreading the good news of what is going on at St Peter's.

The church also has a strong tradition of providing pastoral care to older members of the community including residents at Station House, a local care home. Our church community enjoys a Grade II listed church, now the closest to Crewe town centre and ideally placed to minister to the Grand Junction retail park. The church is also close to the site of the University of Buckingham's Apollo Health Campus and the Booth Hall of Residence, used by Leighton Hospital to house international nurses when they first move to the UK, both of which might provide opportunities for mission and serving new communities of people.

Worship

St Peter's is a traditional Anglican church, celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday morning and using Common Worship with a traditional repertoire of hymns – we also hold a joint sung Evensong service once every two months. Although we have no permanent organist now, we have a church organ which we would like to see used more regularly.



our prayer Labyrinth

We are a liberal, inclusive parish and offer a positive welcome to everyone. While this is the core of our identity we are open to other styles of worship. We had a pet-blessing service recently and in 2016 and 2017 we had a labyrinth with prayer stations which proved very successful in encouraging people from inside and outside the parish to explore their spirituality and relationship with God.

Children's ministry caters to toddlers and younger children and is based on Godly Play which aims to help children develop their own spirituality and to familiarise them with adult forms of prayer and worship at an appropriate level.

Regular Sunday morning worship is supplemented by our Wednesday services which we regard as an equally important part of our work. Our Wednesday morning services are open to all-comers and begin with Morning Prayer which includes a discussion of the Bible readings and open prayer. After Morning Prayer the church is open to visitors and we then celebrate Eucharist in a side chapel while the church remains open and the informal, friendly and inclusive nature of the service has reached people who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to take part in worship, including people with autism and dementia.

Our previous incumbent worked hard to build relationships with local primary schools who hold Christmas and Harvest services in the church and there is a Rainbows and Brownies pack based in the church hall who come to all-age worship services, raise funds for the church and put on a nativity play at Christmas. Our previous incumbent and curate also visited local secondary schools. Our new Priest-in-Charge worked together with our curate and community worker to produce a virtual harvest service which was circulated to the schools for use during this year's harvest.

Mission and Engagement

The church's engagement takes a variety of forms including Coffee Stop and Crafty Natter on the first Saturday of the month – an open church drop-in where people are encouraged to bring their own craft projects or just drop in for a chat and a cuppa.



Our first Prayer Labyrinth (see

Introduction above) formed part of the Love Crewe initiative and our 2nd labyrinth was held during Lent. We have begun to promote our services more effectively with service cards delivered to local houses promoting, for example, our Mothering Sunday service, frequently refreshed posters outside the church to publicise services and a popular Facebook page which attracts interest from across the whole community.

The church clearly enjoys affection in the local community – something reflected in the number of funerals and baptisms we carry out. We also collect for Christian Aid week and support the local food bank. The church hall provides facilities for a local nursery, a local Rainbows and Brownies pack, a stamp-collectors club and a local amateur dramatic group among others. Some members of St Peters also help with meals at Hungerford Hub.

We have regular social evenings which have now continued on Zoom whilst such groups are not permitted. The church wardens and some of the PCC members of all three churches have met together socially to encourage friendship and “getting to know each other”. We have a combined magazine with All Saints. Several events are organised together with All Saints.

Our Parish

St Peter's is an urban parish and the closest church to Crewe's town centre. The church also has the Grand Junction Retail Park on its doorstep with a huge number of people passing close to it every day. The parish contains two primary schools with which our previous incumbent built close links and a care home for adults with profound disabilities which we have had links with in the past. The church is also close to the site of the University of Buckingham's Apollo Health Campus and the Booth Hall of Residence, used by Leighton Hospital to house international nurses when they first move to the UK, both of which might provide opportunities for mission and serving new communities of people. We now have a large group of people from India using St Peter's for their weekly worship whilst they have been in Crewe, prior to moving on to Wigan and Manchester.

Potential for growth includes:

- Developing our ministry among staff and shoppers at the nearby Grand Junction Retail Park. Two years ago, for the first time, we opened the church in the week before Christmas to encourage people to drop in and escape the busyness of secular Christmas preparations
- Developing our ministry to families with children coming for baptism and inviting them to attend all-age worship, Mothering Sunday, Christingle etc
- Developing our ministry to children and younger people
- Developing our ministry to NHS staff living in the Booth Hall of residence at the former Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) site
- Developing our ministry to staff and students at the University of Buckingham's Apollo Health Campus
- A potential sale of our church hall building which could be used to finance ministry and redevelopment of the church to include community facilities
- Potential use of the church for civic occasions, events and concerts
- We are in the process of starting Two's Company, a telephone befriending service

Challenges include:

- We would like to grow our congregation with more active members
- We have stable, but precarious finances
- Retaining flexibility while establishing a consistent identity
- Continuing and developing pastoral care in the context of a small congregation

What aspects of our church life do we want to develop over the next five years?

- Mission and outreach, including to the Grand Junction retail park, NHS staff living in Booth Hall and students and staff at the Apollo Health Campus
- Follow up with baptism families
- Grow the church, spiritually and numerically
- Continue to provide services outside Sunday morning
- Engage more with local community
- Develop a consistent identity for the church for publicity purposes
- Develop St Peter's as Crewe's civic church