St. Chad's, Over, Winsford, Cheshire



Parish Profile 2021

Our Vision Statement;

We will have a church at St Chad's which:

- Will be the place where spiritual awareness can grow, through prayer, worship and service
- Will serve the community in openness and generosity of Spirit
- Will continue to grow and thrive as an enthusiastic and involved congregation
- Will seek to address the important area of Christian Stewardship

Contents

Vision statement	2
Welcome	3
Introduction	3
Social demographics in the parish	4
Worship	6
Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals	9
Outreach to the community	10
Church buildings	11
Vicarage	11
Church Hall	12
Schools and Church Education	12
Other institutions/organisations in the parish	15
Finances	15
Support for the Church overseas and home missions and charities	16
Church organisations	16
Lay leadership and ministry	18
Ecumenical relations	19
Outreach and mission	19
Developing our Church life	19
What I'm looking for in a Vicar	21
What St Chad's means to me	22
Person Specification	22
Map showing the parish boundary	23
Map showing the location of the Vicarage, Church, Church Hall	
and Church School	24
Dashboard for the parish	25



Welcome

Thank you for thinking about St Chad's as your next parish. We are praying for the right person to answer God's call to this parish - is it you? If it is, a warm welcome awaits you.

As with any parish, 2020/21 has been difficult, but we have been blessed with

great leadership from the previous incumbent and our curate. Throughout this profile we frequently refer to "Prior to lockdown", but we are starting to come out of this now and looking to resume many of the previous activities that have sadly been on hold, and at the same time looking forward to the new things that God has in store for us this year and over the next few years.

Introduction and Background

The parish of St Chad's has a population of approximately 11,000 with an Electoral Roll of 128. It is situated in Mid Cheshire, in the town of Winsford within the unitary authority of Cheshire West and Chester. The parish could be described as a mixture of urban and rural, with housing and green fields. New housing developments within the parish over the last few years have seen a growth in population numbers. Jobs in the service sector predominate, although the headquarters of both Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire Brigade are situated in the town. Ethnically, 96% of the population is classed as white British.

Winsford dates back to the 13th century when the Abbot of Vale Royal granted a charter to form a trading town near to the abbey. Winsford is made up of three parishes Over, St Chads, and Wharton. These ancient parishes were combined to form Winsford in the 19th century Winsford as a town developed as the result of large salt deposits which are relatively easy to mine. Improvements to the river in 1721 had allowed river barges to reach Winsford and by the 1830s salt works had emerged along the river. Salt is still an important part of the town economy; Salt Union Ltd operate the UK's biggest rock salt mine here and the road salt mined keeps much of the country's roads ice free during the winter months. Recently a £20m development of the town centre has been announced with work due to start in 2022. Geographically, St Chad's has parish boundaries with St John's. Over to the St North. Bartholomew's, Church Minshull to the South, Christ Church, Wharton to the East and St David's. Wettenhall to West. the (Please see the map on page 12.) church The is situated 300 metres off Swanlow Lane. It is a Grade II* listed building, surrounded by а conservation area, although current development plans could see housing encroach upon that conservation area.

The history of the church building is fascinating. St Chad's dates from 1307, with extensions built in 1543 and 1925 providing the current layout. Some medieval glass still remains in the church along with a fragment of a Saxon cross.



A Hidden Place of Worship written by Tony Bostock provides an insight into the history of the church <u>http://</u> www.tonybostock.com/St%20Chads.pdf

Until recently we have been blessed with a curate, Rev Joe Smith, but Joe is now moving on to his own incumbency. We have a retired priest, Rev Janet Bacon,

who moved into the parish in late 2019, and who is happy to support the incumbent by preaching, presiding and leading services.

Our regular congregation tends to be made up of 75% female 25% male and more than 50% are in the 60+ age group. Approximately 25% of the Electoral Roll come from outside the parish boundaries. We have few regular members of the congregation under the age of 16. During 2019, the weekly average attendance for this age group was 6. Average Sunday attendance for 2019 (including morning and evening worship) works out at about 65 for those in the 16+ category.

Social demographics in the parish

(although not reflected in our regular congregation)
30% of households are headed by a lone parent.
15% of the population are classed as in working age poverty.
20% of over 60s are classed as in pensioner poverty.
29% of working age persons (16-74) have no qualifications.
23% of children under 16 are in poverty.
25% live in social housing
28% live alone
16% of the population are over 65 years old
(Figures taken from Church of England Research and Statistics Spotlight on Over St Chad's Parish)



Within its context, the parish of Over is a diverse and widespread community. According to council data, the parish consists of over 13,600 persons, with the majority of inhabitants aged between 16-44. Although diverse in age, education, and employment, over 95.6% of the population are registered as White British, with only 4.4% identifying as Minority Ethnic Group.

Socially. the town of Winsford sadlv high is known for its rates of unemployment, benefit claimants, and a lack of local opportunities. It is estimated that over 21.2% of households in the parish of Over are receiving Council and benefits support, compared to 13.2% in Cheshire West and Chester. However, it is also recognised that the majority of properties in Over are 'owned with a mortgage', followed closely by 'owned outright'. 5 The housing style therefore, is a mixed economy of detached, semi-detached, and terraced properties.

Encouragingly, the parish of Over boasts a population of residents who identify more-so to be in 'very good' health or indeed, 'good' health. 68.6% of the population are deemed to be 'economically active', noting a considerable percentage of persons in professional occupations, elementary occupations and administrative and secretarial occupations. This being the case however, education statistics for the parish are generally quite poor, with the majority of inhabitants having gained no GCSE – higher education level qualifications. Areas of multiple deprivation, therefore, are considerable in the parish, with over 30% of residents living in quintiles 'one and two', registering amongst the most deprived in England.

Education, skills, and training, therefore, appear to be a considerable factor in this trend. Perhaps this is also exacerbated by poor transport links and a lack of local career opportunities.

With 21.3% of the population consisting of young people aged 0-15, 9.7% of families are identified as 'lone parent' households. This is notably higher than the rest of England, which is currently averaged at 7.1%. Single pensioners are also identifiable within the parish, making up around 11.3% of the population. Social isolation, therefore, is a significant concern for persons in the local area

Throughout this Profile, you will come across "Post-it" notes highlighting some of the criteria and values that the parishioners said they would like to see in their next Vicar. The full list is on page 21.



Worship

Up until the Pandemic, St Chad's tradition of worship was centred on the Eucharist. Both Common Worship (CW) and the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) were used following the liturgical seasons of the year. A contemporary style of service was started in 2019 in the Church Hall on one Sunday evening a month which was starting to grow until Lockdown.



Other forms of worship were used from time to time, for example reflective Taize services and a special service for wedding couples who were preparing for their marriage during that year.

It should be noted that St Chad's is one of only two parishes within a fairly wide radius that offers this Eucharist-based tradition.

We have no robed choir, but a small and enthusiastic Music Group. In addition to voices a 2 manual pipe organ (which was rebuilt in 1987 by George Sixsmith & Co), Clarinova and guitar bolster our musical offerings.

During Lockdown, the services have been a mixture of live and pre-recorded worship, streamed on Facebook Live. We believe that this has enabled parishioners to join in with the worship that wouldn't normally have been able to attend in person, as well as engaging with new "attenders". We are working to encourage them to attend in person as Lockdown eases. It is anticipated that for the foreseeable future, we will continue to stream services from the Church on Facebook Live, in order to maintain contact



with these new people and others for whom this is a good first introduction to St Chad's.

"St Chad's means everything to me. I've been coming here since I was four and it is what centres me in my faith. I can feel the years of prayer within these walls. If I'm feeling down, I picture myself sitting in the pew looking towards the altar and that brings me comfort and peace."

Sunday

Prior to Lockdown there was a BCP Holy Communion service at 8.30 am every Sunday. It is not known at this stage what will be happening about this when Lockdown eases.

The main (10.00 am) Sunday service, generally, is a CW Holy Communion service with hymns and worship songs. Organ and/or music group lead the singing.

On the first Sunday of the month, the 10.00 am service is a Family service, and Baptism families are encouraged to attend this service in particular. The young people and children are really eager and enjoy participating in worship, whether online or in church.

Lam wanting... someone who will respect tradition whilst integrating change.

There have been regular healing services, sometimes as part of the morning service and also separate afternoon services. The service is based around the Church of England "Celebration of Healing and Wholeness" and prayers for healing are offered after receiving communion.

Baptisms are usually conducted at 12 noon and 1pm, following the main morning service, but on occasion will take place during the 10.00 am service.

The Sunday afternoon (4.00 pm) service has been a mixture of BCP Evensong – said or sung, BCP Holy Communion with hymns, Healing service, Taize service, and occasional specially focused services, such as Remembrance Sunday, All Saints'/All Souls,' Christmas Carols, Winsford Town Council Civic.

Midweek

Up until Lockdown on Wednesday mornings (10.00 am) there was a said, regular CW Holy Communion service held in the Lady Chapel, which was very popular and growing.

Local schools use St Chad's for assemblies and special services. In particular St Chad's C of E school celebrates Harvest, Christmas and Easter at the church. Other local schools have visited the Church for their seasonal celebration and also



as part of the children's learning about the Church, the Church's seasons and symbolism. The Churchyard has proved fruitful for geology lessons, and the War memorial has been a useful part of their history lessons.

Other organisations sometimes hold their special services at St Chad's (eg Deanery Mothers' Union and the Royal British Legion).





Presentation of a cheque to the Salvation Army

8

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals



During 2019, 20 baptisms were celebrated in St Chad's. Families are encouraged to attend for a few weeks before booking the Baptism and then attend Baptism preparation sessions.

St Chad's is a popular venue for weddings. Wedding couples are

encouraged to attend our "special service for wedding couples to get a flavour of some of the readings and music that may suit them and to start their wedding preparation with St Chad's. In 2019 we celebrated the weddings of 4 couples, and 2 renewals of vows, and to date have a total of 8 booked for 2021, and 5 for 2022.

In 2019 30 funerals took place in church, (and 6 Interment of Ashes) along with a number conducted by St Chad's clergy in crematoria. Our Pastoral Worker

In 2019;

20 Baptisms 4 weddings 2 renewals of vows 30 funerals 6 interment of ashes

has developed very good relationships with the local Funeral Directors, and has produced a Bereavement booklet which one the of the Funeral Directors has printed for us.

"The support I received from the community at St Chad's in the weeks, months and years after my husband died helped to reignite and strengthen my faith. I feel supported by my friends in the Church and know that I will always find help here."



Outreach to the Community



"TOTS"

Before the pandemic we ran a weekly "TOTS" session at the Church Hall and all Baptism families were encouraged to attend this, and it was very popular. Once a term the



Nursery teacher at St Chad's School would come along and lead the activities and this was an ideal opportunity to build continuity between TOTS and the School.

Messy Church

Over the last 6 years we have established a thriving "Messy Church". Held in the Church Hall on a Saturday afternoon approximately 6 times a year. Initially, previous Baptism families and children from the schools were invited and it has proved very popular with over 25 children at times, resulting in a waiting list being needed. The donkey (to the left) was made at an Easter Messy Church. Church members were very keen to help, with about 15 regular volunteers.

Hutts Lunch

Weekly Hutts lunches (so called because of the community centre known as the Hutts was

originally on the site of the hall) were established in 2018 for those in the community who were isolated, lonely or vulnerable, and took the form of a hot meal (and pudding!) followed by activities such as dominoes, draughts and jigsaw puzzles. These were very well supported with up to 15 attending regularly, and it built its own relationships away from the lunches. There was a small dedicated team of volunteers, which included a lady seeking to gain



experience in this area in order to improve her job prospects and life skills. We would like to continue with the lunches and offer opportunities for volunteers when circumstances permit.

Christmas Tree Festival



The first festival was held in 2015 and has always been very popular. Trees designed and decorated by a whole host of local businesses, charities, schools and local church and community groups adorn the church, which is open to the public over 2 weekends at the beginning of December. During the week in-between community groups, such as Cubs, Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies, play groups and nurseries visit by arrangement. Nursing homes have also brought residents along to share in Afternoon Tea during quieter times. It has also proved to be a valuable fundraising event (although this was not the initial intention) and the proceeds have been shared each year with a different charity, such as MIND, Salvation Army, Mid-Cheshire Foodbank, Cotswold House.

Church Buildings

St Chad's Church...

dates from 1307 with extensions built in 1543 and 1925 providing the current layout. It is mostly in the perpendicular style and in good general repair. The most recent quinquennial inspection did not identify any major issues. (See link above for further information on the church history).

There is a graveyard in the church grounds which is still in use and has designated areas for interment of ashes.



Vicarage



The vicarage is a modern four bedroomed house with three reception rooms. There is a study which can be accessed without entering the main house and which is available for parish use. Fitted throughout with uPVC double glazed windows, the diocesan survey found the house in a good state of repair. The floor plan, plot outline and more photographs are in a separate appendix



Church Hall



Sited half a mile away from the church, the Church Hall was built in 1986, is decorated to a good standard and is fitted with a commercial standard kitchen. This is regularly used by church groups and the community. The re-decoration and updating of the kitchen have made the Hall more attractive to hirers and we have consequently experienced an increase in bookings. It has also meant that the Hutts lunches could be hosted here.





Schools and Church Education

Situated within the Parish are five schools:

St Chad's C of E Primary and Nursery School – 214 pupils. (This is an aided school).

Darnhall Primary School – 349 pupils

Over Hall Primary School - 200 pupils

Hebden Green Community School – 140 pupils

Oaklands School - 162 pupils

St Chad's C of E Primary School is directly linked to the church. The Incumbent is a Foundation Governor and the church appoints 2 further governors to the school and in normal times the clergy visit weekly to take assembly in school. During Lockdown we have continued assemblies online.

We have also developed an "Open the Book" team who go into the school approximately 9 times a year to present bible stories to children in an accessible manner. Members of the congregation use Open the Book to act out the bible stories in a way that engages the

children. This link gives further information on Open the Book: <u>http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/</u><u>about-bible-society/our-work/open-the-book/</u>

At one church event, a child coming into the church with his family saw one of the Open the Book team and said *"I know you – you come to our school to do "Open the Book!"*

Within St Chad's school, members of the congregation attend school to hear children read. We also support lunch-time and after school groups, such as art, craft and choir. One outcome from the art group has been the display of the children's pictures of the stations of the cross. In 2019, a collaboration between the Church and the School resulted in a "St Chad's has talent" competition and the finalists came and performed at a Church Fair before the final which was held in the School. The judges were drawn from both the Church and the School.

St Chad's Headteacher, Mrs Natalie Hughes has written;

We enjoy a close relationship with St Chad's church and many members of the church family support us in several different ways, including leading collective worship, being governors and reading volunteers and even running our choir!

Church led collective worship is something our children look forward to each week. Rev Joe links his weekly worship to our planning, which is always based on our current Christian value. Worship alternates between KS1 and KS2 each week. We are so grateful that Rev Joe has been able to continue this for us throughout the pandemic and although his collective worship sessions are currently virtual, they are still something the children love to listen to and reflect upon.

We visit church regularly (pre pandemic) and are welcomed at Harvest, Christmas and Easter for whole school services, which staff, parents and children alike look forward to each year. Our children lead the services and we always fully appreciate the support we receive in holding our services and the encouragement and praise the children are given for their efforts in end of service reflections, prayers and blessings.

We are also invited into church to take part in events and services such as the Christmas tree festival – another highlight we look forward to. We are lucky enough to be able to use church to support our RE learning and know that we will always be accommodated and made welcome when we ask to visit and that Rev Joe and other church members will help our children to deepen their knowledge and understanding.

Our links with church are extremely important to us and when developing our school vision 'A Future with Hope' based on Jeremiah 29:11, it was our church family we turned to in the first instance to help us develop a vision which captured our ethos and vision for all members of our school community.

What our children would like in their new vicar:

Someone who is kind and happy to help us.

Someone who is caring and who will listen to us.

- We hope that our new vicar will want to lead collective worship for us and will organise more 'Open the Book' worship sessions for us.
- We would like our new vicar to invite us into church and do fun activities with us!

There is a concerted wish on both sides to keep a strong link between the Church and the School, and this has been shown recently in the art work that has been displayed at the Church and the Hall during Holy Week, as well as Years 5 & 6 visiting the Church on Maundy Thursday leaving their prayers on our gate. The Head Teacher (and all the staff) are keen to maintain this relationship.

During lockdown we have kept contact with all the schools, which has included, for example, an online Christingle service.

We have developed a range of learning opportunities for schools in church, such as telling a range of Bible stories using a Jesse Tree made by the Craft Group and interactive telling of the Nativity and Easter stories.













Winsford Academy - although outside the parish of St Chad's, our primary schools are feeders to the Academy which was formed in September 2010 from the merger of the two secondary schools in the town. In September 2013 the school moved into a new state of the art learning academy.

Other institutions/organisations in the parish

There are two nursing homes in the parish: Overdene and Westwood Court, plus two sites of sheltered accommodation: Bennett Court and Haslemere. Holy Communion would normally be taken to the residents of Westwood Court on a monthly basis, and Christmas Carols are sung at Bennett Court, jointly with members of St Andrew's Methodist Church.

Cotswold House is a refuge for young homeless women within the parish which we have supported in a number of ways.

St Luke's (Cheshire) Hospice is also situated within the parish, although the hospice has its own chaplain.

The Headquarters of Cheshire Constabulary are located just outside the parish boundary, but there is a Police Station as well as the County Fire & Rescue HQ and Ambulance Station in Winsford town centre, which is within the parish of St Chad's.

Finances

Full details of how income is made up can be found in the accounts for 2020, but consists of income from donors in the form of free will offerings, gift aid, open plate collections and occasional envelopes. Donations and legacies add to the income which is also drawn from fees for hiring out the Church Hall and Statutory Fees. Fund raising, magazine sales and grants / charitable donations, along with a small amount of interest and dividends make up the total income.

St Chad's continues to meet in full its financial obligations to the Diocese for payment of the Parish Share. However, it should be noted that St Chad's is running at a deficit and we are eating into parish reserves every year. Christian Stewardship is an important area of our mission and a challenge for the PCC.

Support for the Church overseas and home missions and charities

Members of St Chad's support Christian Aid, and in recent years house-to-house collections have been replaced with fundraising activities such as cake sales and Sunday morning breakfasts. We have regularly supported the Operation Christmas Child appeal, last year we

collected over 29 shoeboxes, but nearer to 60 in 2019. We support Cotswold House, a refuge for young homeless women within the parish, with practical gifts of food, toiletries, etc throughout the year and with special gifts at Christmas. Members of the congregation use collection boxes for the Children's Society throughout the year and we support a child through World Vision. We have also supported the SCBU at Leighton Hospital and Forever Angels – a charity supporting babies in Africa. Knitted



teddies, dolls and blankets have been sent to some of these charities and other overseas charities.

Church organisations

During 2020 we have had an Alpha course which started just before Lockdown, but carried on using Skype. This was followed by a Bible Study course ("Lyfe") meeting in the church grounds, with those unable to be physically present again using Skype. 2 Farsi speakers joined these courses, and so Farsi translations were obtained. One of these men was baptised when lockdown permitted, and they both regularly join the online Sunday services, along with more of their friends. During both Advent 2020 and Lent 2021 there have been 2 groups (one afternoon and one evening) following the York courses "Living in the Light" and "Caring for Creation". This took place over Zoom enabling those who wished to join to do so, including one lady in Paris! Those without the appropriate technology were able to follow the course booklets.. A further course is planned for Summer 2021.



Prior to Lockdown, the Mothers' Union met monthly in the Church Hall where members enjoyed a variety of presentations; take part in fund raising events for Mothers' Union Charities; enjoying a Mystery Trip and supporting the principles of the Mothers' Union movement. There are currently 25 members

St Chad's Bell Ringers practice every Wednesday evening and are available to ring for Weddings when required.

The Bingo group meets monthly and raises funds for the church throughout the year as well as enjoying a cup of tea and a chat.



Pentecost Sunday



Men's Group





St Chad's Primary School Nativity



100 Club draw takes place at Bingo and again supports fund raising.

Prior to Lockdown, a Craft Group met weekly in the Church Hall and has been very productive in producing, amongst other things: knitted garments for premature babies; twiddlemuffs and fiddlepinnies for members of local care homes; organising and making items for Spring and Christmas Fairs; a Jesse Tree and making stoles for our curate and an ordinand who was on placement at St Chad's.

The Men's Group was meeting at the "Old Star" pub once a month for Saturday breakfasts, but recently a "virtual pub" has been taking place over Zoom one evening a month. In 2019 the Group linked up with the YMCA in Crewe to support the homeless and a number have learned to handle a narrow boat in order to give disadvantaged people a day out.

The Friends of St Chad's Churchyard was in an embryonic state at the start of 2020, and there are a number of people who are very keen to progress this once circumstances allow. There is a properly drawn up constitution (in consultation with the Diocese), the aim being to improve the environment, educational and ecological aspects of the churchyard. Through discussions with the Friends, we were delighted that the Princes Trust chose to



undertake a project in the grounds in 2020 which opened up a route to the Roman well.

Lay leadership and ministry



There is a small "Family Service Group" that has planned and organised this service each month. There is also a Ministry Team that meets to plan worship.

We have a good number of people who are keen to lead the intercessions and read, either live in church or on pre-recorded video.

At present we have one lady in training to be a Pastoral Worker, We also have a lady who is a licensed Pastoral Worker, who has recently moved to the parish and her licence will be officially transferred to St Chad's in October. Recently, they have been ministering to our members who don't have internet connections by supplying copies of the weekly service, daily prayer readings, prayer activities, telephone contact. They have set up prayer stations in church and have been verging at funerals.

Ecumenical relations

We are active in Churches Together and have particularly strong links with St Andrew's Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Salvation Army and the Storehouse (free) Church. Our relationships with other churches in the area are good and members of other congregations attend our services (particularly the Service of Light on Easter morning).

Outreach and mission

As mentioned above, our Baptism policy brings families presenting children for baptism into church to the family services held on the first Sunday in the month. We run events, such as May Day Fayre, Bonfire celebrations, that bring significant numbers of the community into church and the church surroundings. The clergy visit schools, other than just the church school, and schools are invited into church for the major festivals. The All Souls service provides opportunities for members of the community who have lost loved ones to come and remember them in St Chad's.

The introduction of Healing Services has brought another dimension to worship in St Chad's. Prior to Lockdown Healing services have been part of the morning service, afternoon service and Wednesday morning service.

Wellbeing Winsford

St Chad's have been part of the "Well-being" Week in Winsford, which has included prayer chains, children's activities, treasure hunts and opportunities to talk.

The Facebook page is regularly maintained and updated and forms another point of contact for the church. There are currently in excess of 600

followers. The website is maintained through A Church Near You. More information and news can be found on the following sites:

https://www.facebook.com/stchadsover/ http://www.achurchnearyou.com/over-st-chad

Developing our Church Life

We have developed our skills in working together over the past few years, and wish to continue in this vein to strengthen and grow the vision and mission of St Chad's.

Bonfire

Over the last few years St Chad's Bonfire has become an established event within the local community. The hard work of church members in sourcing wood, building the bonfire, providing refreshments and stewarding the event has brought over 750 people annually to the church grounds to enjoy the bonfire and firework display. There is a strong community feel to this event, and people appreciate the church hosting it, and it is a means of people making contact with the church.

"Fairs"

Spring and Autumn Fairs have been held over recent years. We have over 50 church members involved with organisation and manning stalls and activities throughout the day.

Christmas Tree Festival

As mentioned previously, this has been a very successful event, uniting the church community, businesses, charities, schools and nurseries since its inception in 2015.

Although we weren't able to hold these events in 2020, we and our supporters are very much looking forward to being able to host them again.

Children and Communion

PCC members have been considering the admission of children to communion prior to confirmation and, although there is still some reticence, this is an area we want to explore further.

The future:

- We want to build on the work done
- To further develop a range of worship, both formal and informal
- To work collaboratively with other churches and colleagues in Winsford
- To continue to develop and encourage work with schools and young people
- To continue to improve our teamwork and communication
- Develop Home Groups to cover the whole year
- Address the shortfall in the church's finances
- Identify and develop peoples hidden gifts, talents and vocations



We are open to new ideas. We are prepared to take risks and try new things. We are looking for someone to help us to continue in this vein.

We asked our congregation to tell us what they are looking for in a Vicar, and here are a selection of their answers...

- Someone with a pastoral heart
- Good people management skills
- Someone who can listen
- Willing to encourage and support others in their own ministry
- Willing to continue with a wide range of services
- Someone who is caring and interacts well with people
- Someone who is prayerful
- Has a sense of humour
- Will continue to support Messy Church, Tots and Hutts Lunch
- Will maintain the Eucharistic tradition
- Willing to reach out to the community
- Eager to attract families, and youth
- Important to support musical direction / Director of Music
- Welcoming
- Empathetic
- Will continue to develop the Christian ethos of the school
- Explore talents
- Respect tradition whilst integrating change
- Reach out to the community and engage widely with events happening in the town
- See how we can address gaps in our provision for certain groups
- Be able to explore new ways of working and make some of our services more child friendly / accessible to young people and newcomers who may not be confident church goers
- Willing to move the church forward whilst respecting the established traditions of St Chad's
- Someone who will continue the inclusiveness of St Chad's spiritual pathway,
- will be inclusive in dealings with members of the congregation
- Someone who will treat innovation with care for the congregation's views
- Someone who will have a care for my spiritual needs
- When preaching can engage me so that the Gospel relates to me today
- Will promote environmental awareness, care for God's creation and support the diocesan initiative to become an eco-diocese
- Will maintain a good work/life balance

And similarly, we asked them what St Chad's means to me...

- Good mix of the old and the new
- Love the architecture and the windows
- This is a special place
- Been part of my life / a backdrop to my life
- Middle of the road Church range of services means it has something that appeals to many different types of tradition
- The peace that flows over you as you walk down the Church drive
- The warm welcome you always receive
- To me it's a very loving place I have only to be inside to feel welcomed
- My immediate impression when I arrived here 10 years ago was one of welcome and that has stayed with me since
- St Chad's welcomed my son and me when I felt we were not welcome elsewhere and it has always continued to do so
- St Chad's is a community that helps me grow in my Christian faith
- The church family has supported me unreservedly in the highs and the lows over the last 10 years
- Through St Chad's I have been able to deepen my faith and be supported to find my vocation

Person Specification

And so, in summary, we are looking for a prayerful person who will:

- Nurture and support us and the wider community to deepen our faith in God
- Reach out to and increase our involvement with all sections of our community
- Communicate the faith clearly and creatively
- Support teamwork and improve communication
- Encourage existing members of the church to use their gifts and talents more widely
- Encourage members of the congregation in their Christian discipleship in everyday life, Monday to Saturday and not just on a Sunday
- Maintain our tradition of liturgy, music and worship and embrace opportunities for growth
- Encourage and support the growth of relationships between St Chad's Church and the schools in the parish



Map showing the location of the Vicarage, Church, Church Hall and Church School.



Dashboard for the parish

