



Parish of St Christopher, Pott Shrigley

Parish Profile – June 2022

Welcome to St Christopher's, Pott Shrigley

We're delighted that you are reading our parish profile, and we hope that it provides you with a good introduction to our church. We pray that God will guide the process by which we and our next priest-in-charge find each other.

St Christopher's is the parish church of Pott Shrigley near Macclesfield, Cheshire. The church and much of the village lie in the Peak District National Park or associated conservation areas. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty (or at least we think so!).

Our congregation is drawn from a wide circle of neighbouring towns and villages and is a united family with a balance of all ages and both sexes. Our theology can best be described as evangelical, and preaching forms a major part of our services. The whole ethos of the church is firmly rooted in the Bible. We would welcome a female or male minister.

During the covid pandemic we quickly moved to livestreaming a weekly service, a practice we maintain even now restrictions are largely lifted.

Our children's work is especially important to us, including our links to the neighbouring Pott Shrigley Church School. We have a strong foundation of home groups to support and encourage us in our faith, and a weekly prayer meeting. We pray for both to grow.

We give financial and prayer support to missionaries in Malawi and Thailand. The church tithes all its income and supports a range of organisations both overseas and in the UK in their Christian work including an active role in [HOPE in North East Cheshire](#).

Our departing priest-in-charge, Rev. David Swales, has been with us for five years and is now retiring as planned. We are grateful to him and his wife Kim for their ministry with us and for David's positive leadership of our church, particularly through the pandemic.

Our congregation is stable and committed and has largely weathered the challenges of the pandemic. Embracing technology through our livestreaming and having an increased (but still very modest!) profile on social media has allowed us to reach out to new people.

We are now looking for our next priest-in-charge to lead us in our continuing journey with God. We know that there is more to do to grow our faith, our discipleship and our impact as we seek to move on from the pandemic, re-establishing outreach activities while continuing to develop new ones.

If you would like to have an informal chat, arrange a visit or make an application please see page 23 for how to do this.

Yours in Christ,

Andy Phillips, churchwarden & parish representative

Yvonne Foster, parish representative

David Gem, churchwarden



Our Vision

To know Christ and make Him known, to grow in our faith, and to reach every corner of the parish and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ's saving grace. We will do this in His service with compassion, mercy, love and humility in obedience to His call upon our lives.

We are committed to ensuring that the church is vibrant and viable both now and in the future. The primary activities we seek to achieve are:

- Promoting Christian learning and growth across all age ranges through:
 - Preaching God's word in services and by livestreaming the services online
 - Encouraging several home study and prayer groups (open to all)
 - Weekly prayer group meetings (open to all)
 - Junior Church (for primary school children)
 - Youth Church (for secondary schoolchildren and young persons)
 - Praise and Play (for preschool children and their parent/carer)
 - Occasional courses – e.g. last Lent Course we studied Tom Wright's 'Luke for Everyone' (open to all).
- Promoting and conducting regular worship services and occasional offices (weddings, funerals and baptisms) that are accessible to all and relevant to the congregation.
- Maintaining and developing music, singing and bell ringing to support the above.
- Actively supporting the work of Pott Shrigley Church School.
- Providing pastoral support to the members of the church (wherever they are) and the inhabitants of Pott Shrigley (whoever they are).
- Role-modelling Christian use of financial resources by the giving of a proportion of our income to charitable causes, both in and outside the parish.
- Communicating and promoting the Good News of Christ and the work of the church via:
 - The church and parish magazine, HotPott
 - Livestreaming services including making recordings available
 - The church website and social media.
- Maintaining the church building and churchyard to provide appropriately supportive and safe environments for church activities in line with its status as a Grade 1 listed building situated in the Peak District National Park.

More information about these activities can be found on the following pages.



Pott Shrigley Church: where are we?

St Christopher's and the village of Pott Shrigley lie approximately five miles north-east of Macclesfield and immediately north-east of the small town of Bollington, nestling in the foothills where the land rises from the Cheshire plain into the Peak District. When it was formed, the western boundary of the Peak District National Park was specifically extended to include much of the village; the church and the vicarage both lie in the National Park.

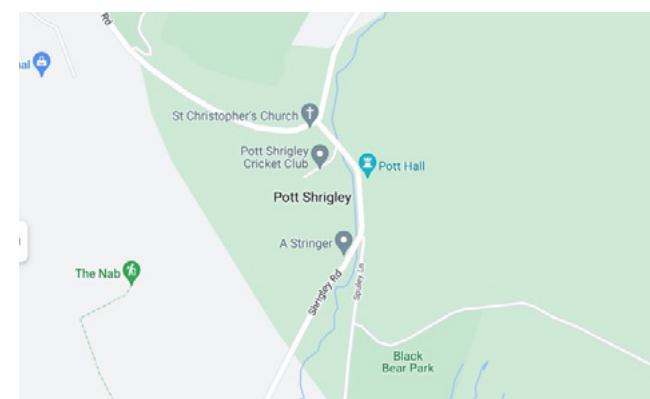
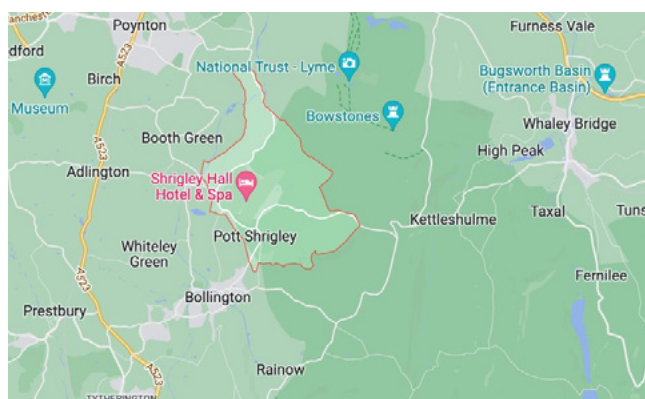
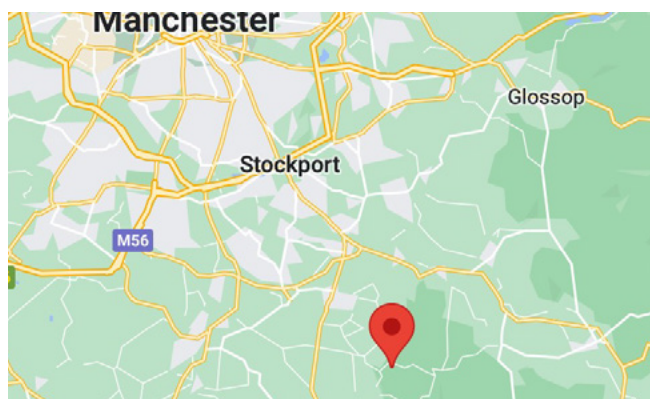
Virtually we can be found at
www.pottshrigleychurch.org.uk



Home
Sunday Services

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, POTT SHRIGLEY WELCOME

Welcome to the website of St Christopher's Church.
We are a friendly family-oriented church situated in the village of Pott Shrigley on the edge of the Peak District.
We are within easy reach of Bollington and Macclesfield.
We warmly welcome you to join us at our **Sunday services**. Our service times are 8.30am and 10.45am.
More information about us and our activities can be found by using the links to the left.
If you have any questions about St Christopher's or the Christian faith then please do get **in touch**
or ask at any of our Sunday services.



Pott Shrigley village and surrounding area



Centre of Pott Shrigley: school / village hall & church

The village is mostly a scattered rural community; the centre of the village comprises the church, the village hall (which also accommodates Pott Shrigley Church School), the cricket club and a cluster of attractive houses and cottages. A maintained field lying between the churchyard and the cricket club is the village green, available for community events. The village hall is owned and run by an independent charity. The majority of the village hall provides the accommodation for the school, whilst the church makes regular use of it in the evening and at weekends. The village hall organises various social and fundraising events during the year, operates a very successful monthly community cinema, and is available for private bookings.

Nowadays dominated by sheep farming, the surrounding land previously served industrial uses



Sheep in field opposite church

such as coal mining, clay digging, brick making and quarrying. Two small industrial estates survive in the village housing a range of small light-industry businesses, one based in the former Hammond Brickworks and the other in the former Nab Quarry.

The 4-star Shrigley Hall Hotel & Spa is situated to the north-west of the church. The village also has two coffee shops / cafés: Kickback Coffee about 0.5 miles up Bakestonedale Road and The Coffee Tavern approximately 1.5 miles away towards Poynton. The nearby town of Bollington has a range of local shops, four primary schools, a medical centre, a dental practice and an excellent range of restaurants and pubs.

Macclesfield (5 miles away) provides the services of a larger town, and Manchester is only 20 miles away. Alternatively, the former spa town of Buxton



Shrigley Hall Hotel & Spa

and its Opera House are 11 miles away. Manchester Airport can be reached in under 30 minutes, and the direct Macclesfield to Euston service gets you to central London in 1 hour 40 minutes. The village and surrounding area are very popular with visiting hill-walkers, cyclists and motorists. For those of us fortunate enough to live here, we get all this on our doorsteps!

Looking at the 2011 census data could give the impression that the population of Pott Shrigley is small (269). However, this small civic population should not be confused with the size and energy of the church congregation. Prior to covid, over 80 people attended the Sunday services, travelling from Bollington, Macclesfield, other neighbouring villages and further afield to do so.

About us



St Christopher's Church currently has 115 names on the electoral roll, 80 – 85% of whom live outside Pott Shrigley. Although some probably attend from habit and loyalty, we believe that many come because of our Bible-based ministry as well as the warm and welcoming nature of the fellowship. We have strong friendships across and within the age ranges in the congregation.

Prior to covid the congregation at our 8:30am service was typically 15-30 people. Attendance at a typical 10:45am service was 60-80 adults and 10-15 children, more during a family service. Post-covid, attendance is now returning to close to these numbers.



We believe family is an important part of God's plan for a healthy society. We recognise that there is a range of views and practices as to how families are structured and a number of unresolved issues - but our main concern is to support all families and people the best way we can.

Our theology can best be described as evangelical. Preaching forms a major part of services and is on the whole expository, and the ethos of the church is firmly rooted in the Bible, the Word of God. To get a feel of our style of worship we recommend visiting our [YouTube channel](#), which has recordings from our 10:45am services since March 2020.

More information about our services can be found on pages 9-13 along with details of our children's ministry on page 14.



As a church, in February 2019 we prayerfully decided against a building project to construct an extension to the church to form a new church room (as a venue for a crèche and for serving drinks after our services). Instead, under Rev. David's leadership we began a spiritual building programme, with an initiative called Upward and Onward. The planned away days associated with this programme were then curtailed due to covid, and for the last two years adapting to the pandemic has been at the forefront of our planning. See page 8 for more details of our covid journey.

We now have the opportunity to restart this period of reflection and planning with a new priest-in-charge as we seek God's will and guidance for the future of our church.



Mission Opportunities in our Community

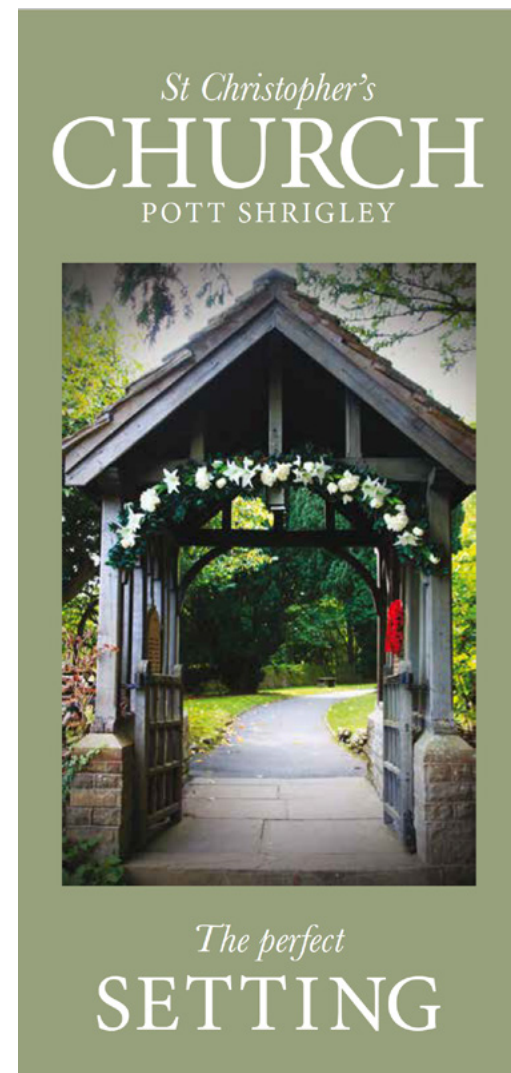
We have established activities for outward looking mission in the following four areas and have seen new opportunities arise online during covid. We are open to God's calling on future priorities.

1. Families: We have strong links with Pott Shrigley Church School and often visit to lead worship. The children regularly share songs with us during all-age family services. We also present each child with an age-appropriate Bible, at both Key Stage 1 and 2. Before covid, a Praise & Play group used to meet weekly in church, regularly drawing in 15 preschool children and their parents/guardians. New members joined via word-of-mouth recommendation. Now a casualty of covid, we seek to rebuild this, or another opportunity, to reach preschoolers and their families who are not regular churchgoers, to encourage them to feel at home in the church building and attracted to the Christian faith.

2. Wedding, Funerals & Baptisms: The beautiful setting of the church and the nearby location of Shrigley Hall Hotel for wedding receptions bring numerous enquiries about weddings. Our approach is to welcome wedding couples into the congregation, and to seek to draw them closer to God and Jesus as they attend services and prepare for their wedding. Many retain an active link through subsequent baptisms of children. The church conducts many funerals and this is an opportunity to support the bereaved and help them find God's hope and comfort.

3. Older People: Pre-covid St Christopher's Church Guild met on a monthly basis in church and comprised a mix of members and non-members of the congregation above retirement age. The programme routinely included worship and prayers, outside speakers and outings; it sought to attract non-members to the Christian faith. This group has sadly disbanded since covid – many of its regular members are no longer with us or are too infirm. We pray for guidance in how to support those in care homes in a structured cross-parish way (there are no care homes in our parish) and how to sensitively develop new social activities and community within this demographic.

4. Personal Witness: We all have multiple opportunities in our work and social lives to be faithful witnesses for Christ; we endeavour to support each other in taking these opportunities to invite friends and colleagues to church and encouraging them to explore the Christian faith more deeply.



Through the Pandemic

Throughout the pandemic we have sought to maintain, as far as possible, the practice of meeting together (in person and online). We have been **livestreaming services** from the very beginning of the pandemic, with our first virtual service being our Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March 2020.

During lockdown, we maintained the contributions of many church members, pre-recording readings, prayers and songs for use in the virtual services. As soon as it was allowed, we moved to livestreaming services from the church building, and then with a congregation again as lockdowns eased.

Thanks to the tech team (one behind the camera and one on the streaming software) we have constantly invested in and improved our livestream to adapt to changes and to make the process simpler, with an aim to reach a plug-in-and-play setup, so that livestreaming our services is something we can maintain on a perpetual basis (we're nearly there with this goal).

All our livestreamed services are available from both **Facebook** and **YouTube** and are archived in our [YouTube channel](#). We have regular viewers of our livestream services who would not be able to attend church in person (including overseas viewers). At least one local care home streams our Sunday service each week for its residents.

Our church **WhatsApp group**, SPICE, was set up in the early days of the pandemic to keep members of St Christopher's in touch with each other when attending church in person was not possible. SPICE

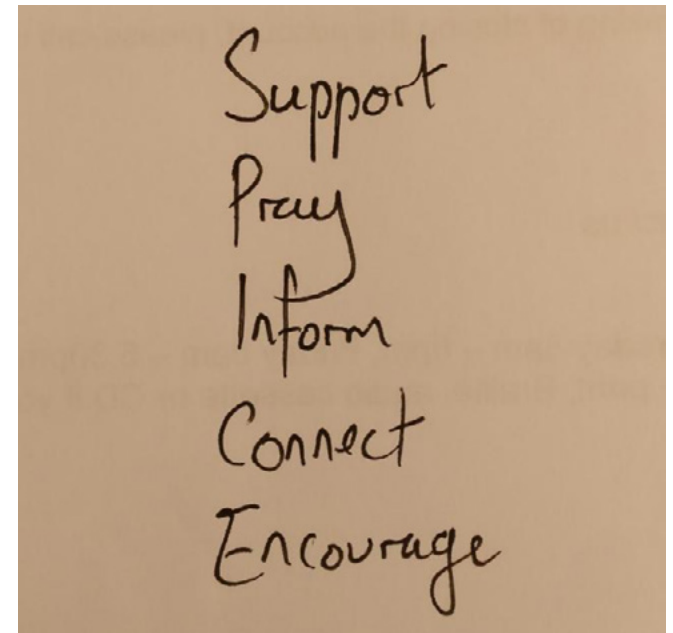
stands for Support, Pray, Inform, Connect, Encourage and the group has shared thousands of messages of news, updates, matters for prayer, spiritual input, requests for help or information, even just messages of support to those stuck at home.

The SPICE WhatsApp group has also been the means by which our weekly prayer time flourished during the pandemic and WhatsApp prayers continue alongside our in-person prayer meeting on a Tuesday evening. This provides an opportunity for many members of the congregation to take part who would not otherwise have made it to church.

Before public worship was permitted, we accelerated our plans to have our **church open** during the day to allow access for prayer by arranging for the building to be unlocked each morning, then inspected, cleaned and locked each evening. A team of volunteers formed a rota for the opening/closing duties. Keeping the church building open as a welcoming space is a practice we hope to maintain long term.

Zoom meetings allowed many of our activities to continue during covid, including the PCC, Junior Church and Youth Church and our home groups.

We pray that we (and our new priest-in-charge) will have wisdom in making decisions over the coming months and years regarding how to discern and keep what is good from our covid practices alongside seeking to rebuild/re-establish what has been lost.



Weekly Services

Sunday services are held at 8:30am (for approximately 40 minutes) and at 10:45am (for approximately 1 hour). Preaching forms a major part of both services. The 8:30am service is Holy Communion or Morning Prayer. The service presents an opportunity for more quiet contemplation and prayer.

Our 10:45am service is livestreamed to both Facebook and YouTube. We have a service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday of the month is usually a Family Service, with active participation and leadership (readings, prayers and singing) from members of Junior Church, Youth Church and Pott Shrigley Church School. All other Sundays follow Morning Worship.

Prior to the pandemic, we used our own bespoke service booklet containing the order of service and Mission Praise for a range of traditional hymns and more contemporary worship songs.

Currently, the words of the service are projected onto a large screen at the front of church allowing for more flexible liturgy and song choices (whilst generally maintaining the format of common worship). Worship songs and hymns are accompanied either by the (electronic) organ or by keyboard and a small range of solo instruments. Most of the congregation sing, guided by a non-robed singing group.

Members of the congregation give the Bible readings and lead pre-prepared intercessory prayers from the lectern. Worshippers are encouraged to join the prayer and reading rotas.



Weekly Services (continued)

We have toys and activity folders to engage children in church, and the boxed pews help to give families a bit of wriggle room with the security of a closing door at each end. Our crèche facilities are temporarily out of action (the space is currently used for the livestream desk).

Primary school-aged children attend Junior Church during part of the 10:45am service on the first two Sundays of each month. Youth Church meet during the 10:45am service on either the second or fourth Sunday of the month. Please see page 14 for more information on Junior Church, Youth Church and other children's activities.

Drinks and biscuits are served after the 10:45am service, and virtually all the congregation remain for 15 – 20 minutes and longer to enjoy conversation, an important aspect of our church's fellowship.

Our family services involve children and young people from both school and church families sharing readings, prayers and songs with us. Our Pott Puppets group also feature occasionally.

St Christopher's six bells are rung regularly before the 10:45am Sunday morning service, calling people to worship and reminding our local population as well as passing walkers and cyclists that our church is active and serving God. The ringers are all members of the regular congregation.

Our outdoor space has been a real blessing to us as we have been able to hold services outdoors during the summer months, allowing for greater numbers to attend in person during covid restrictions. Refreshments have also been hosted outside (weather permitting) as social distancing made it impossible to serve refreshments inside due to the limited flexible space within the building.



Christmas at Pott Shrigley



Our popular Carols by Candlelight services are held on the two Sundays immediately prior to Christmas. The service comprises Bible readings and traditional carols, and a short talk based on a contemporary theme to lead into the core of the Christmas message and Christian faith. When we instigated these services, 21 years ago, we had concerns that people would not want to venture out on a dark evening in an unlit, rural location. God had other plans, and the service is now repeated three times to accommodate the number of people who want to attend (typically 500+ across the three services). During the pandemic, our Carols by Candlelight service was held [virtually in 2020](#) and outdoors in 2021 (with a [pre-recorded version online](#)).

Christmas is also celebrated by Holy Communion at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve (a popular service for guests at Shrigley Hall Hotel) and [Family Communion](#)

CHRISTMAS 2021
@ Pott Shrigley

Sunday 12 December
Christingle 10.45am

Sunday 19 December
Carol Service Outdoors! 6.30pm
(no service 10.45am)

Thursday 23 December
Carol Service Outdoors! 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Holy Communion 11.30pm

Christmas Day Family Worship 10am

Sunday Services 8.30am and 10.45am unless stated otherwise.

Join us online @ www.pottshrigleychurch.org.uk

St Christopher's Church, Shrigley Road, Pott Shrigley SK10 5RT



on Christmas Day.

We also hold an all-age [Family Christingle Service](#) early in December, raising money for the Children's Society.



Easter and Other Celebrations

Good Friday has traditionally been a full day of events at Pott Shrigley Church. We start with a service of [Reflections Around the Cross](#), followed by hot cross buns and, for many, participation in St Christopher's annual Good Friday walk and picnic. Over the years the walkers have ranged in age from a few weeks to 90+ years, and the route is set accordingly. The third part of the day sees as many as 60 of the church family enjoying an evening curry in the local Indian restaurant in Bollington. The various activities of the day provide great opportunities to maintain and strengthen links and friendships within the congregation, and to invite friends and newcomers to join in.

On [Easter Day](#) we have an all-age Family Service at 10:45 am.

[Mothering Sunday](#) (March), [Rose Queen](#) (June), [Harvest Festival](#) (September) and [Christingle](#) (December) are also celebrated with all-age/family services arranged on the appropriate Sunday at 10:45am. These services also have a special contribution from the children of Pott Shrigley Church School.

Rose Queen has been a tradition at Pott Shrigley stretching back 90 years. The Rose Queen weekend comprises a procession, crowning of the Rose Queen and Rose Bud followed by a fête on the village green with traditional stalls. Recently this event has tied in with the Shrigley Stag Fell Race, a 10km run around the local area. Our family service on the following Sunday continues the celebrations.



Occasional Services and Confirmations

St Christopher's
CHURCH
POTT SHRIGLEY

Would you like to get married
in the beautiful village Pott Shrigley?

Find out more contact:
Rev David Swales, Vicar of Pott Shrigley
Email: vicar@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk
Tel: **01625 575 846**

Mrs Pam Cooke,
Pott Shrigley Weddings Co-ordinator
Email: weddings@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk



On average 12 **weddings** are conducted each year (in the last year we have had 18 as covid-postponed events take place). We praise God that the couple have chosen a Christian service and setting for their wedding, and seek to ensure, as a positive expression of our faith, that their wedding service becomes a truly treasured memory for them. Each service also provides the opportunity to present a Christian example and deliver the Christian message to the 50 – 100 guests in attendance. A small but encouraging number of couples have become regular members of the congregation.

Approximately 12 infant **baptisms** are conducted each year. Some take place within the 10:45am service but the rise in the number of people attending a baptism coupled with the general fullness of the church for regular services means that an increasing number are conducted as separate services, usually just after the 10:45am service.

In the last year 20 **funerals** were held.

Confirmation classes and services are organised every 2 -3 years. In the past five years we have seen 10 of our youth group members confirmed as well as a number of adult confirmands.



Children and Young People

Our children and young people are a big part of the life of the church, and we have a range of regular groups for different ages. We currently have a good number of families with children of all ages attending St Christopher's. Several of the primary school-aged children attend Pott Shrigley Church School, but over half go to other schools in the area.

Praise and Play

We would love to see this group restart. Prior to covid our Praise and Play group (for babies and preschoolers and their associated parent/guardians) met most term-time Thursday mornings in church. It provided an opportunity for parents/grandparents/carers to meet each other whilst the children played in the church and welcomed approximately 15 babies/preschoolers each week. The programme included a Bible story, arts and crafts followed by teas, coffees, drinks and biscuits (all provided free of charge). The majority of the families were not regular churchgoers on joining, so it was an ideal occasion to make them feel welcome and at home in the church and attracted to the Christian faith.

Crèche

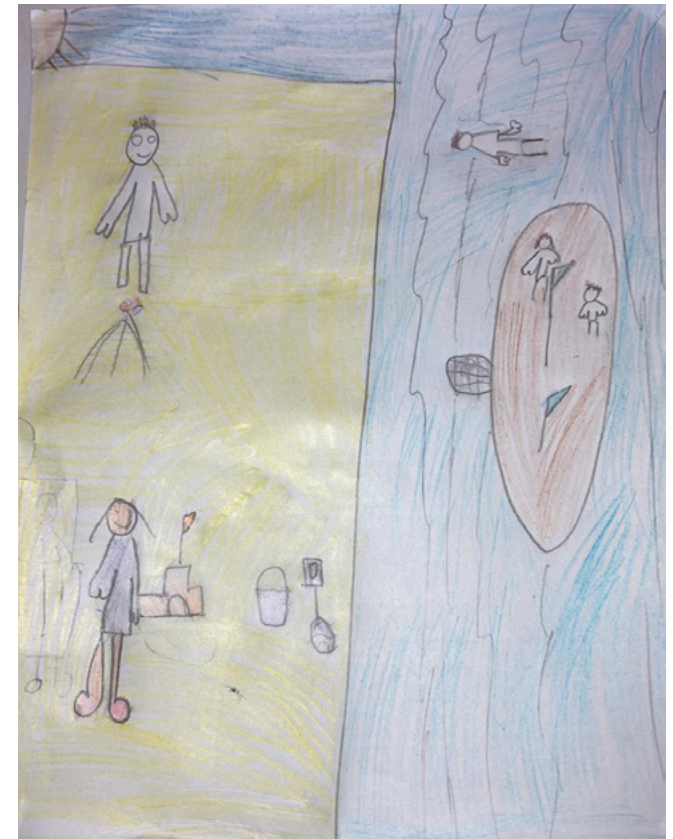
We are working towards a dedicated crèche area. Pre-covid we ran a small crèche facility during each service in our bell tower space. This space is currently used by the livestreaming team with the door to outside left open for ventilation (so not ideal for small children!). Instead, we offer toys and colouring packs to keep children entertained in the pews.

Junior Church

Our popular Junior Church meets on the first two Sundays of the month, except during the school holidays, and caters for 3 to 11 year olds. The children join in the first part of the 10:45am service and then leave to attend their own worship in the village hall. Numbers can vary and we typically have between 3 and 15 children attend. We are always delighted to welcome any visiting children. Our Junior Church ministry team is made up of four adult volunteers, all of whom are DBS checked and share the duties on a rota basis. Most weeks we tell God's word in the form of a story using Godly Play techniques. We include arts, crafts and music as part of our worship, and always have a time of prayer. Our Junior church children are encouraged to come to and take an active part in our monthly Family Services.

Youth Church

Our Youth Church is for those aged 11 years or more and meets twice a month, once during the 10:45am service and once on a Sunday evening. Sessions generally start with a game or activity followed by age-appropriate Bible teaching. We have also social meetings (often involving ice cream!). We have approximately 6 to 8 young people as regular attenders (and four leaders). Youth Church members also take an active part in our monthly family services, and in November 2021 rose to the occasion of planning and conducting a whole [family service](#) themselves.



Child's picture created during Junior church

Our children and young people are an amazing blessing to the church and we are keen to continue to re-establish, grow and develop our activities for them as they develop and deepen in their own faith.

Prayer and Spiritual Growth

Prayer

A weekly prayer meeting is held in church on a Tuesday evening. During covid restrictions this pivoted online to a SPICE WhatsApp group managed by our departing priest-in-charge. WhatsApp prayer now continues alongside a return to in-person meetings.

Over recent years we have started a practice of prayer walks, initially as part of [Thy Kingdom Come](#), and we continue to pray together in this way for God to work in the lives of the people in our community. We are currently holding prayer walks around our local area as we prepare for [Festival Manchester](#).

Home Groups

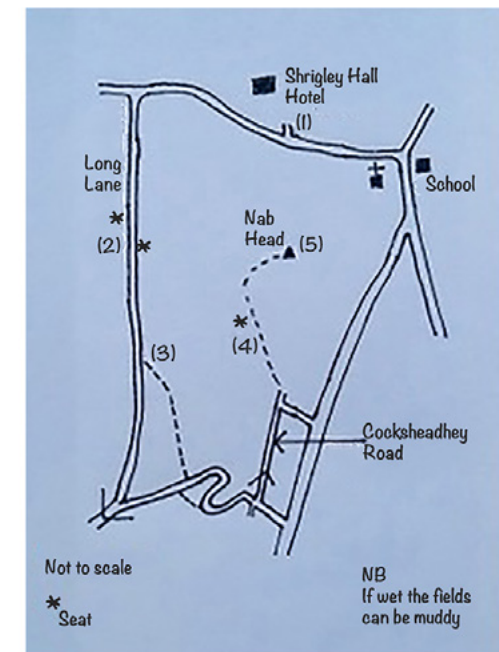
We have three home groups which meet each week on different days, with approximately 30 members of the congregation involved in a group. We would like to restart a daytime home group to cater for those who find going out at night problematic.

These home groups are an opportunity to get to know people more deeply, discuss matters of faith together, learn from the Bible, and support one another in prayer and practical ways. Some home groups regularly share prayer requests by email or similar means to ensure inclusion and support of as many members of the group as possible. The home groups have successfully nurtured a number of adult confirmands.



Prayer Walk

Start: St Christopher's Church, Pott Shrigley



The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face towards you
and give you peace.

Missionary Support and Charitable Giving



Megumi and Helen Fazakerley

As a church, we provide prayer and financial support to two missionary families:

Megumi and Helen Fazakerley in their work with [SIM](#) in Malawi: Megumi is a member of the teaching staff at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi and Helen provides pastoral support and care to the wider SIM team members in Malawi.

Johnny and Ann McClean in their work with [UFM Worldwide](#) in Bangkok, Thailand: Johnny spends much of his time helping, alongside a Thai pastor, to run the New City Fellowship Church, which is situated in a deprived part of the city. He is also a member of the [Langham Partnership](#), a worldwide organisation founded by John Stott when vicar of All Souls,



Johnny and Ann McClean

Langham Place. As such he is involved in extensive training and encouragement of Thai pastors up and down the country, holding meetings in the flesh or online, and running a number of preaching clubs where pastors gather to seek to improve the scope and nature of their preaching.

Ann teaches at an international school where their three children were/are being educated; this gives her many opportunities to witness to staff, students and parents and also helps support the family's missionary work financially.

We play a full part in the very active [HOPE in North East Cheshire](#) which encourages shared initiatives in mission and service.



We also support [Hope Central](#), a Christian charity committed to bringing hope and relieving poverty in Cheshire East, by having a food bank collection box in church.

This year, under the auspices of a small UK-registered charity, the [Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust](#), we have bought and fitted out a mobile education van in Nigeria. This van, equipped with teaching aids and volunteer teachers, will travel around displacement camps and host villages and enable educators to hold classes to help provide displaced children in the north with education amid the ongoing conflict.



Pott Shrigley Church School



There is one primary school in the parish, [Pott Shrigley Church School](#), a voluntary aided Church of England school with the PCC involved in the appointment of foundation governors. The school, which was reported as 'Good' by Ofsted in 2019, is situated opposite the church.



The priest-in-charge is an ex-officio member of the governing body and we expect this arrangement to continue. A member of the PCC is also currently chair of governors.

Pott Shrigley is a small rural school, (approximately 30 children at present, three teachers, plus support staff) and provides a safe, secure and caring Christian environment, where every individual is accepted and respected. It gives access to a curriculum and range of learning experiences of the highest standard, priding itself with strong Christian values at the heart of all it does.



There is a long history of active contribution to school life from St Christopher's Church and previous priests-in-charge regularly led collective worship. The school children and staff are invited to take an active part in all Family Services at Pott Shrigley Church.



Parish Magazine: HotPott



Our parish magazine, HotPott, contains an eclectic mixture of articles including a letter from the priest-in-charge, updates from our missionaries, PCC news, recipes, local history, poems, cartoons and a crossword as well as church rotas and calendars.

The publication has 10 monthly issues per year – with combined issues for July/August and December/January. It is put together by a team of volunteers, with contributions from members of the congregation. We feel this serves an important purpose in bringing together members of the church family and publicising church life to a wider audience.

Advertising and a modest subscription fee mean that it runs at a slight profit allowing us to distribute free copies to the wider community (Shrigley Hall, Bollington Library etc.) as part of our church outreach.

We have an ongoing partnership with the parish council, who publish a summary of their meetings in the magazine and also fund the distribution of the Christmas edition of HotPott to all non-subscribing Pott Shrigley households free of charge.

HotPott can also be viewed electronically via the church's website www.pottshrigleychurch.org.uk (an online archive of 70 issues spanning seven years).



Bellringing



St Christopher's has six bells, the three heavier ones being the oldest bells hung for ringing in Cheshire, dating from 1439 with the tenor being recast in 1607. Three lighter bells were added in 1986 to make the current ring of six.

The bells are rung for the 10:45am Sunday service. They are also rung for weddings, Christmas and other occasional services. The band currently has eight ringers, all of whom are members of the regular congregation. The band practices on Thursday evenings. The bells are also available for peals and quarter peals from time to time.



The Church Building and Churchyard



The church is a Grade 1 listed building, and is the result of development and building across many centuries. The earliest part of the church – the chancel – is probably late Norman, the nave dates from the 12th or 13th century, the north aisle probably dates from the 14th century. More evidence exists to show that the south aisle and the beam roof to the chancel and nave were completed in the late 15th century, and the tower was added in the early 16th century. The church is built in millstone grit with sandstone dressings to windows and doorways; the roof is of local Kerridge stone tiles.

The majority of the windows are stained glass – most are Victorian although some small parts of the original mediaeval stained glass are incorporated in the east window. The tower has a ring of six bells, three of which date from the early 1400s and are



amongst the oldest bells in the north-west.

The interior of the church is simple and attractive. Seating is in box pews, which are believed to have been imported from Gawsworth, a nearby church, in the 19th century. The church can seat approximately 120 adults in comfort, but the flexibility of the box pews allows many more to be fitted in when needed. A full survey of the church was undertaken by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies producing a detailed record, a bound copy of which is kept in church.

Despite its age, we are blessed that the building has been well cared for across its history and is in good, sound condition. A small modern extension was added approximately 20 years ago to provide a toilet and the central heating and electrics are generally in good order. A new easy-access path was created this



year to create a permanent solution to the two steps at the lychgate (replacing a temporary ramp).

The churchyard remains open for burials. The earliest graves marked by stones date from 1768 and 1782, but many early graves are not marked with a memorial.

PCC and Finance

PCC: The PCC has 20 members including deanery synod representatives, our lay reader emeritus, Dr John Ryley, and the churchwardens. We are blessed with very capable individuals filling the roles of PCC treasurer and secretary. Our norm is to elect a chairman from amongst PCC members such that this burden does not fall on the priest-in-charge. Our Annual Church Meeting receives audited accounts, as well as reports from organisations in all areas of church life, and is well attended by members of the congregation.

As a whole, St Christopher's is blessed by having many members of the PCC and congregation who are willing to take a lead in organising, or play an active role in supporting, the life and workings of the church. All are volunteers; we have no paid staff. This not only spreads the workload across many people but contributes strongly to the sense of it being 'our' church.

Finance: In 2021 we had a total income of £81,865 (a decrease of £14,241 from 2020) and total payments of £104,230 (an increase of £10,244 from 2020). This gave us a total deficit of £22,365 on receipts against payments, in contrast to the previous year where receipts exceeded payments. This large deficit was primarily caused by the timing of gift aid claims (£23k in 2020, £0 in 2021) and a number of major works funded, including a new sound and internet streaming system in church and the creation of a easy-access path from the lychgate.

Virtually all income is raised from the congregation; a small surplus is also generated via wedding services.



We tithe all our income by donating 10% of annual income to support a number of missionaries and a range of charities. Thanks to a number of legacies, we have reserves of approximately £170,000. For a number of years, the PCC considered using this money towards a building project to construct a small extension to the church to provide a new church room, and plans were drawn up and discussed. In 2019 we decided against the project.

We pay our full Parish Share, which is set at the highest socio-economic rating of 145% and the cost of maintaining a Grade 1 listed church building is

significant. Overall, the church has enjoyed a period of financial stability for the last 10 – 15 years with income meeting or modestly exceeding expenditure. However, while regular giving has remained stable for a number of years, our outgoings have increased year on year, and we recognise that our expenditure is soon likely to regularly exceed our income. With our healthy financial situation, this is not immediately precarious, but we seek to prayerfully consider ways to increase income to a level that covers our expenses.



The Vicarage



The vicarage is situated on Spuley Lane, approximately 700 yards from the church. Built in stone in 1952, it is a detached, five-bedroom house set in generous gardens of lawns, mature shrubs and trees surrounded by fields and woodland.



The main lounge is both spacious and comfortable; with a wonderful view from the large south-facing windows and a lovely parquet floor.



One of the bedrooms has an open fireplace and has routinely been used as a private lounge / sitting room by previous residents.

There is an attached single garage and large space for parking. The house has oil-fired central heating, uPVC double glazing throughout and cavity wall insulation.



Our Next Priest-in-Charge

We're looking for a priest-in-charge to lead our ministry and guide our group of active lay volunteers: someone who is sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and has a deep Christian faith based on the Bible. Whilst continuing to build on the strong foundations and growth established and nurtured by our previous priests-in-charge, we want someone who, together with us will prayerfully discern God's will for the future ministry of our church, and provide dynamic leadership.

As a church, we value Bible teaching that brings God's word alive in ways that are relevant to our lives. We want our new priest-in-charge to be a strong expository teacher who is experienced in conducting reverent and lively worship.

Our children and young people are a big part of the life of the church - our priest-in-charge will need a passion for working with children, be able to relate well with them and encourage their faith, both in church and in the village school.

Our priest-in-charge must have a passion for engaging with our wider community across all ages.

We hope that our next priest-in-charge will also be effective and comfortable in the following areas :

- Able to conduct sensitive and supportive pastoral work with all ages across the congregation and those coming to us for weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- Able to motivate and foster teamwork between the large number of volunteers who support the work and running of the church, and encourage and nurture new people to take on support and

leadership roles

- Able to relate to, and empathise with, wedding couples and conduct an effective evangelical ministry among them. Similarly with those bringing their children for baptism, or grieving relatives preparing for a funeral. We have a welcoming approach to couples seeking to get married in the church, to baptism families and to those who have been bereaved, regarding these as mission opportunities for the church, and would want this to continue.

The rural nature of the parish means that a valid UK driving licence and car are required. Basic IT skills (PowerPoint, e-mail) are also required.

The role is part-time at 0.5 full time equivalent (FTE) and flexibility of which days are worked is desirable. The benefice of Pott Shrigley has been suspended since 2001, hence the advertised role is that of priest-in-charge.

If you would like to ask any questions or have an exploratory discussion about whether this role may be for you, please feel free to contact either of the parish representatives:

Andy Phillips: 07881 358976,
andyphillips@totalise.co.uk

Yvonne Foster: 07842 428496,
yfoster56@icloud.com

The application form and information about the application process can be found on the Diocese of Chester website www.chester.anglican.org .

Thank you for reading our parish profile.

