

ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH, LEASOWE

PROFILE

Thank you for requesting a copy of the St Chad's Parish Profile. It is compiled with the intention of giving an accurate insight to the life and ministry of the church.

If you:

- are ready for a Pioneering challenge
- have a heart for the Gospel,
- have a Vision for God's Kingdom breaking into Leasowe
- are a Leader who likes to get stuck in and set an example
- are deeply rooted in prayer
- can work alone but will value and build teams and work alongside others
- have a love for God's people and are approachable
- have a pastor's heart with a natural empathy
- are comfortable with and committed to engaging with our local schools

then we would very much like to meet you.

WHAT ST CHAD'S HAS TO OFFER

- A significant challenge for someone who likes to build up rather than maintain
- An opportunity for someone with Vision to lead the church in to the future
- A place for a family to put down roots and join a vibrant community
- An enthusiastic and faithful people who are looking forward to what God is going to do in Leasowe

We can be found on the internet: <https://www.stchadschurchleasowe.co.uk/>

Margaret Northam
Carol Jones
Churchwardens



FACTS

STAFF

Vacancy

Incumbent for Leasowe

OTHER OFFICERS

CHURCH WARDENS

Margaret Northam
Carol Jones

margaretnortham@yahoo.co.uk
caroljones737@hotmail.com

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDEN/TREASURER

Jonathan Mills

jonathanmills50@hotmail.com

PCC/CHURCH SECRETARY

Les Coates

lesmcoates@hotmail.co.uk

LAY READER (Emeritus)

Diana Jones

diana.jones3@btinternet.com

During the current interregnum, those named above have operated as a 'Leadership Team', together with former Church Warden, Allen Price (allen.price@hotmail.com) and Retired Clergy Revd Chris Bray (clb53@mac.com)

LEASOWE

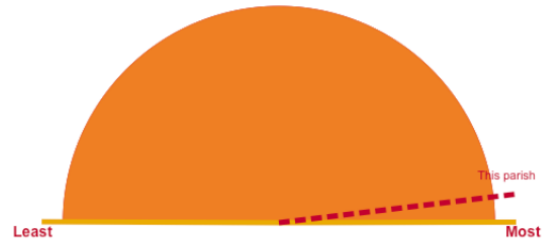
Leasowe is a dormitory area that presents a mix of former council housing and a typical suburban residential area of traditional build. The church building finds itself right on the 'divide' between the two. The council housing is now run by a housing association and some of these homes are privately owned. The population presents average affluence to the one part and significant hardship to the other, with all the usual issues associated with both types of living.

The Church Urban Fund (CUF) confirms that Leasowe, St Chad is one of the most deprived parishes in the country:

Overall Deprivation

The population of this parish is **7168**. It ranks **472** out of **12382**, where 1 is the most deprived parish.

This means that the parish is among the most deprived in the country.



Further statistics are available on the CUF “look up tool”: <https://cuf.org.uk/parish/590139>

Leasowe is part of the Deanery of Wallasey in the Diocese of Chester. Employment is found throughout the area and in Wirral, Liverpool, Chester and even North Wales. Formerly companies such as Squibb Pharmaceuticals and Cadburys were major employers in the parish and the immediate area. Some large concerns no longer exist whilst others have ‘sized-down’ considerably over recent years. There are very few social facilities to be found in the area. There is no Public House on the Estate. The Millennium Centre (in the centre of the estate) has been an important resource with its meeting places and library; there was a small café which closed during COVID and which has not reopened so there is now much less activity there – (perhaps an opportunity for the church to have a presence there?) There are two medical centres, one of which includes a pharmacy and a dentistry practice. There is a Leisure Centre right in the heart of the estate which is well used by folk from all over the greater Wallasey area. There are few shops with a small Heron Supermarket and Sayers in the centre of the estate and a Tesco Express located on the edge of the parish towards Moreton. There is a Hotel, Leasowe Castle, within in the parish but this does not tend to cater for locals from Leasowe, rather for clientele from wider areas of the Wirral. There is also a coastal Golf Course and access to the Beach within the Parish.

There are good road, motorway and rail links connecting the parish with the larger centres of Liscard (10 minutes), Birkenhead (15 minutes), Liverpool (20 minutes), Chester (30 minutes), North Wales (30 minutes) and even the Lake District (90 minutes). The parish is a mere ten minutes’ drive from the ferry service to Ireland!!

'Life Expectancy Wirral' was developed in 2009 by the Diocese in response to the existing 12- year gap in life expectancy between people on Merseyside and those on Deeside. In 2016 this scheme developed into something wider and became 'Transforming Lives Together'. Over the years St Chad’s has been

working together with St John's, Meols and have developed a close relationship. Members from St John's assist in the running of our Clothes Swap Shop. The joint venture is appreciated on both sides.

THE CONGREGATION

Those attending services and ministering are roughly split 50/50 to those who live within the parish area and those who live outside. Those who live outside of the parish area are, nonetheless, very close.

CHURCH SERVICES AND WORSHIP

USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

9.00 am	Prayer	3/4
10:15am	Holy Communion (CW Order 1) 4 th Sunday Morning Praise (Service of the Word) (Opportunity for Baptisms)	16-30
3.00 pm:	4 th Sunday HC (CW Order 2).	7-10

TRADITION

Church members come from a variety of Anglican Church backgrounds and also from other Church backgrounds. Over the last 20 years, forms of worship have evolved from Services led by Robed Clergy/Readers and a Robed Choir with Organist to a much more informal pattern. Clergy do not usually wear robes for the services which are clearly Anglican but fairly informal. Orders of Service and Worship Songs are displayed on a Screen.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

There is a committed core of 20 folks who worship regularly at one or two services on a Sunday. Our main Service is at 10.15 and is usually Holy Communion but when we have a Service of the Word, once or twice a month, we celebrate the Lord's supper in the afternoon at 3 pm.

Generally, during the Interregnum, we have been able to have a Service of Holy Communion each Sunday because of a Retired Clergy member. We seek to be flexible in our worship. Patterns of worship are not static, and we are

able to respond creatively as opportunities arise. In the last 12 months we have had an afternoon of worship which included a Read Through of the Book of Revelation with Worship Songs from Revelation which followed a 6th month in depth Study of Revelation which folks from St Chad's and other Churches attended. St Chad's members along with friends from the local community provided afternoon tea for 50 afterwards. We periodically offer Prayer for Healing at our Services. Some of our members attend the monthly Wirral Filling Station. We are a traditional church which is open to change with an evangelical bent and heart. Our two church musicians play at a monthly "Pint of Praise" in a Wallasey Pub.

Music

Given the size of the congregation, the musical worship is very varied. We are fortunate to have two guitarists, who lead worship more often than not. No-one claims to have sufficient skills to play the lovely organ installed in the church. When it is appropriate, we sing along to CD's of organ music created for this purpose. Newer pieces, in terms of age and our experience are regularly introduced. The music group currently choose which pieces to offer with requests from appointed preachers readily accepted.

Lay leadership & ministry

The parish has one Lay Reader Emeritus, Diana Jones. Lay people read and lead intercessions. There is significant Lay input in leading worship, preaching, preparing and presenting Bible studies, and many other initiatives.

Prayer

Increasingly, St Chad's is a fellowship committed to Prayer. There are 3 Prayer Meetings:

On Tuesday after Food Bank, Swap Shop and Debt Counselling at 1 pm where 8 or 9 meet.

On Sunday morning at 9 am before the main service at 10.15 am where 3 or 4 meet.

On Saturday at 8 am, a Revival Prayer Meeting with St Chad's Members and others from Churches around the Wirral when up to 14 meet (with 2 joining the Meeting on Zoom from Liverpool). We want to see Jesus lifted high. We want to share the love of Jesus to all the folk in the area. We want to be committed in our discipleship that we may give a glimpse of the glory of God and His Kingdom.

Bible Study.

We have started Bible Studies in the Community to extend our witness away from the Church plant. These offer food, fellowship and learning together from the Bible. These are meetings designed for friends and neighbours to be invited.

Children's Work

Our work with children and young people is very poor at the moment and little provision is made for them. This needs addressing urgently although we have good relationships with the schools in the area. See below.

SCHOOLS

In the parish we have 5 state schools one of which is Holy Spirit Joint Catholic and Church of England Primary School. The incumbent would be one of the governors' vacancies to be filled. St. Chad's members hold regular assemblies at the school and the school regularly holds events and services at the Parish Church such as Harvest festival, Christingle, Carol and Easter services; it's so lovely to see so many children and parents filling the church. We have a warm relationship with the staff, parents and children.



Leasowe Primary School also welcomes contact with and input from the Church. Members of St Chad's led a Christmas Service at the school last year and provided a lesson for Yr 6 for a project they were completing.

Our nearest school, Castleway School has always been keen to associate themselves with the church and use the building for End of term services.

Claremount School has had a long and strong partnership with St Chad's where they have made use of facilities at the Church for a lunch-time club. This stopped during COVID and links have only recently been reestablished.

We have contact with 4 of the 5 schools. The fifth school, The Observatory School, is a recently established School for those with Special Educational Needs up to age 16. St Chad's will be keen to make contact with the school in 2024.

SOCIAL CARE AND COMMUNITY

St Chad's is committed to being effectively involved with those in our community. Leasowe has a strong sense of community. St Chad's is recognised as part of that. Church activities are supported by parishioners, eg. Summer and Winter Fairs, Carol Services, School Services. This sense of community is a Mission opportunity to be nurtured.

- **The Foodbank** provides compassionate practical support to people in crisis. It is linked to the Trussell Trust. Church members staff this each week on a Tuesday morning
- **The Swap Shop** resources local families in the provision of children's clothing. We wash and iron children's clothes for the community for ages ranging from newborn to 14 years of age. We have a number of volunteers coming from both the church and the local community. We invite people to rest and have a cup of tea and a chat if they wish; this is a warm safe space for some people. On this basis we see approximately 30 to 40 people every Tuesday between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. We are grateful to the members of St John's Meols who faithfully support and help us to resource this.





- **Debt Counselling.** Wirral Debt Counselling provides a much needed resource for our area and is staffed by people with the necessary expertise to give advice.
- A **Sing and Sign Group** meets at St Chad's and provides weekly social sessions for teenage and adult members with a variety of disabilities. Up to 100 people attend. We were pleased to welcome them to participate in our Carol Service where they led a couple of songs this last Christmas.



Sing and Sign contributed to the Carol Service 2023



Sing and Sign fill the hall with up to 100 people

- A **Mums and Tots Group** takes place on Thursday morning. A group from the Seacombe Centre run this and it is starting to grow in popularity. They are very welcoming and keen for Church involvement and support.
- **Scouts** Since COVID the thriving groups have no longer been viable due to lack of Scout Leadership and they have stopped in the last 6 months. There has been an important relationship with the Church in the past.
- **The Barbara Roberts Dance School** The Dance School at St Chad's has been running for 40 years or so (Shirley Ballas was one of the originals!). The School continues but has now relocated (2023) to better facilities. This is a further indication of the urgent need for refurbishment of our ageing Hall facilities.

CHURCH BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The parish was established in the early part of the 1950's by incorporating areas formerly part of the parishes of Christchurch, Moreton; St Oswald's, Bidston; and St Hilary's, Wallasey Village. The Bishop of Chester is named as patron. 2024 marks the 70th year anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone and we will be celebrating that with events this year.



The current Parish Church building was constructed in the 1960's and stands as a testament to the commitment and fortitude of the people of the parish at that time. It forms part of a 'campus' of buildings that include a linking corridor, off which is a Lady Chapel, Vestry, Office space (currently used to accommodate the Wirral Debt Advisory Service), further office space (referred to as 'The Hub'), a small hall and the original church building, now used as the church hall. Toilet and kitchen facilities are situated in the original building.

The Church Hall is in need of refurbishment and members of the PCC are pursuing how we can fund this.

Mention must be made of the outstanding stained-glass 'dalle de verre' windows in the main church building, designed by Pierre Fourmaintraux. Depicting Calvary, the Holy Spirit and each of the four Gospels, they are a source of pleasure, awe and no little encouragement.



St Chad's is situated in a corner position on Twickenham Drive and Castleway North with the land mainly set to lawn. There is a small car park with an entrance on Castleway North. There is no graveyard.

The Vicarage is a modern substantial building next to the church offering spacious family accommodation and office space. There are gardens to the front and rear and a large, attached garage. There is a choice of Primary and Secondary Schools in the area and easy access to the attractive Beach Front and the delights of the Wirral Countryside.



PASTORAL SUPPORT

Members of the church provide strong pastoral support for church members and also for those in the community. The Leasowe Estate has a strong community identity and St Chad's Church is thoroughly involved.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

There is great potential for Mission and effective Outreach through the Schools. The Headteacher at Holy Spirit School, Joanne Cartmell, has encouraged regular involvement from members of the church. During the interregnum, regular assemblies have been taken and particular lessons taught from St Chad's members; this has led to greater contact with both parents and pupils.

Leasowe Primary School is also very keen to have Church involvement. The Deputy Head Ms. Kamperman has arranged St Chad's involvement with the school over Christmas.

Claremount School has long been involved with St Chad's and post COVID is eager to re-establish strong ties.

The provision of outside resources from such as YFC or lay workers based in the parish could be a very fruitful addition to this ministry. There is a great willingness from parents, children and caregivers to engage with the church and Christ when given opportunity.

Prayer walking around the parish provides many opportunities for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

'PRAY4LEASOWE' has been developed giving the opportunity for anyone wanting a prayer which can either be dropped into our post box, or sent to: pray4leasowe@gmail.com

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

St Chad's is a member of the Village Churches Together Ecumenical group. The committee meets 4 times a year and amongst other things, arranges joint events such as Lent groups, and a Street Nativity and the local Methodist Church (in Wallasey) hosts a Christmas day lunch for the lonely in the area. There is an annual Covenant service where promises to work together are renewed. Village Churches Together is also part of the umbrella group of Wallasey Churches Together which pre COVID, arranged outreach events and continues to arrange Easter events such as Dawn Worship and Walk of Witness.

FINANCES

St Chad's has various revenue streams varying from "Regular Giving" of the congregation making up around 60%, with the rest being made up of Gift Aid tax reclaim, hall hire revenue, as well as normal fees from services such as

funerals. If a few words were to be used to describe our financial situation, "Hand to Mouth" is certainly accurate. Despite our limited resource, we have increased our Parish Share contribution in 2023 compared to the previous year.

Although challenged financially, St Chad's has a proven track record of supporting community projects such as being a distribution centre for the Wirral Foodbank, a widely used Clothes Swap Shop, and Debt Advice Service.

We are provided with what we need to serve Christ here in Leasowe, and we thank our Lord and Saviour for his gifts.

LEADERSHIP

St Chad's needs a significant input of energetic and imaginative Leadership which

- Revives an ageing Church and Replants the Church across this Parish
- Encourages and leads the Church into Mission
- Provide Outreach and Ministry into
 - The Schools
 - The Community of Leasowe
- Seeks resources to share ministry across the Parish
- who can train and encourage St Chad's to be active in pastoral care and evangelism

Appendix A: Last Set of Accounts
ST CHAD'S CHURCH LEASOWE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Accounting Policies

The financial statements of St Chad's Parish Leasowe P.C.C have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments Basis.

Funds

General fund represents the funds of the P.C.C. That are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purpose of the P.C.C. The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the P.C.C. can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, not those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

	2023	2022
RECEIPTS		
<u>Incoming resources from donors</u>		
Planned Giving	£11,454.00	£10,202.00
Collection & Other Giving		
Income Tax Recovered	£ 5,419.00	£ 2,314.00
	£16,873.00	£12,516.00
<u>Other Voluntary Income resources</u>		
Donations	£ -	£ 3,130.00
Summer/Autumn Fairs	£ 1,361.00	£ 1,100.00
Coffee Mornings / Drop In	£ -	£ -
Sponsored Ride	£ -	£ -
Grants	£ -	£ 2,300.00
	£ 1,361.00	£ 6,530.00
<u>Income from Charitable & Ancillary Trading</u>		
Sale of Magazine		
Church Hall Letting	£ 4,808.00	£ 7,930.00
Fees	£ 80.00	£ -
Recovered clergy fees/council tax/photocopies	£ -	£ -
	£ 4,888.00	£ 7,930.00
<u>Income from other investments</u>		
Bank Interest CBF	£ 55.00	£ 32.00
<u>Total Receipts</u>	£23,177.00	£27,008.00

PAYMENTS	2023		2022	
Grants				
Overseas Missions	£ -		£ 250.00	
Home Mission	£ 300.00		£ 300.00	
		£ 300.00		£ 550.00
Activities relating to the work of the Church				
Parish Share	£ 8,400.00		£ 7,200.00	
Church Office	£ 1,065.00		£ 1,982.00	
Church Running Costs(insurance/sundries	£ 5,636.00		£ 4,606.00	
Cost of services	£ -		£ -	
Magazine Costs	£ -		£ -	
Church Maintenance	£ 1,741.00		£ 854.00	
Organist	£ -		£ -	
Vicarage	£ 2,738.00		£ 2,979.00	
Church Hall Running Costs	£ 4,959.00		£ 5,603.00	
Vicars Expenses	£ -		£ -	
St Chads Youth Project	£ -		£ -	
St Chads Tots Project	£ -		£ -	
petty cash	£ -		£ -	
		£ 24,539.00		£ 23,224.00
Total Payments		£ 24,839.00		£ 23,774.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-£ 1,662.00		£ 3,234.00	
Bank Accounts 01 Jan	£ 12,994.00		£ 9,760.00	
Bank Accounts 31 Dec		£ 11,332.00		£ 12,994.00