



St John the Evangelist Over

Parish Profile



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Profile Summary

Where are we?

We are a conservative evangelical church based on Delamere Street in Winsford in Cheshire. When the church was built in 1860 it was in the centre of the Parish of Over, which at that time consisted of the Parishes of St Mary's Whitegate and St Chad's Over. Our Parish of St John The Evangelist Over was formed later from part of these two parishes.

Who are we?

We are a church family which is dedicated to promoting the Gospel according to the historic tradition and doctrine of the Church of England as expressed within the 39 Articles of Religion. We declare a classic reformed theology emphasising the sovereignty of God, the truth and authority of the Bible, the pastoral care of all God's people, and the priority of evangelism.

Although we may be low in numbers, we are passionate about living our lives to honour God and promote his work in our church. We are outward facing to the local community, seeking to connect with it in relevant ways to meet its needs. We seek to worship God in order to be equipped and renewed in service in leading others to Christ.



Profile Summary

About us

We have small teams of church family members who support the vicar in all aspects of running the church. Our family is united in our wish to progress in faith, and to grow our church. We run several midweek fellowship groups and regularly have special outreach events within our community.

We feel we are adaptable, keen to embrace new ideas, and able to rise to challenges together.

About you

We are looking for a mission hearted person who has a spiritual maturity and a teaching ministry rooted in the Bible, who is led by the Holy Spirit to be servant hearted, believing in prayer and evangelism. We would like someone who feels moved by the Holy Spirit to join us and help us on our journey to progress our faith, knowledge and outreach. We are determined to get God's word out into our community and to grow our church.

Our hope/vision for the future

We would like our church to become recognised as a hub in our community, rather than being seen just as an outdated institution. To be a place where people of all needs can come and be supported, whilst hearing about God's word. Our vision statement is 'Growing People in Christ', which we hope to achieve through the three values of 'Knowing his Truth', 'Showing his Love', and 'Sharing his Gospel'.



The Church

Vision & Values

1. Knowing his truth

We seek to do this by...

Engaging in the truth of God's Word

- Communicating God's Word clearly to all ages.
- Growing in knowledge and strengthening our faith.
- Guarding against error.

Trusting in the power of God's Word

- Keeping Bible teaching central.
- Prayer inspired by God's Word.

Developing the ministry of God's Word

- Training and equipping people.
- Providing and managing resources.

2. Showing His Love

We seek to do this through...

Active fellowship

- Gathering, praying, and serving together.
- Building deeper relationships.
- Including all ages and different tastes.

Willing service

- Giving our time, talents and ideas.
- Giving our money.
- Taking opportunities to be trained.
- Organising our resources efficiently.

Godly compassion

- Caring for each other, especially those who are in need.
- Caring for those we encounter in our community.

3. Sharing his gospel

We seek to do this by...

Making disciple-making disciples

- Praying for the lost.
- Serving in evangelism.
- Following up with discipleship.

Supporting mission beyond our church

- Prayer.
- Giving.
- Correspondence.

Maintaining a gospel presence

- Community partnerships and events.
- Social care.
- Political lobbying.

Our Vision statement is 'Growing People in Christ'.

We hope to achieve this vision through three values.

The Wider Context

Living in our Parish

The church is situated on one of the main roads into and out of Winsford in Cheshire. Winsford is now a town of approximately 35,000 people and originally grew because of the salt mining industry in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the late 20th century, particularly 1960s and 1970s, the town saw major expansion as people from Liverpool and Manchester were moved into the area. This led to the development of new industrial areas, new estates of social and private housing, and new leisure and retail outlets. The town centre is currently undergoing a major re-build and redevelopment, making it a more exciting place to live.

The parish's central position means it has easy access to Wales and west coasts as well as to towns in surrounding counties and stunning scenery in the Lake district. It is served by a good road network making access to places further afield easy, and has a local train station with services to Crewe and Liverpool. Local buses help to serve the closer areas.



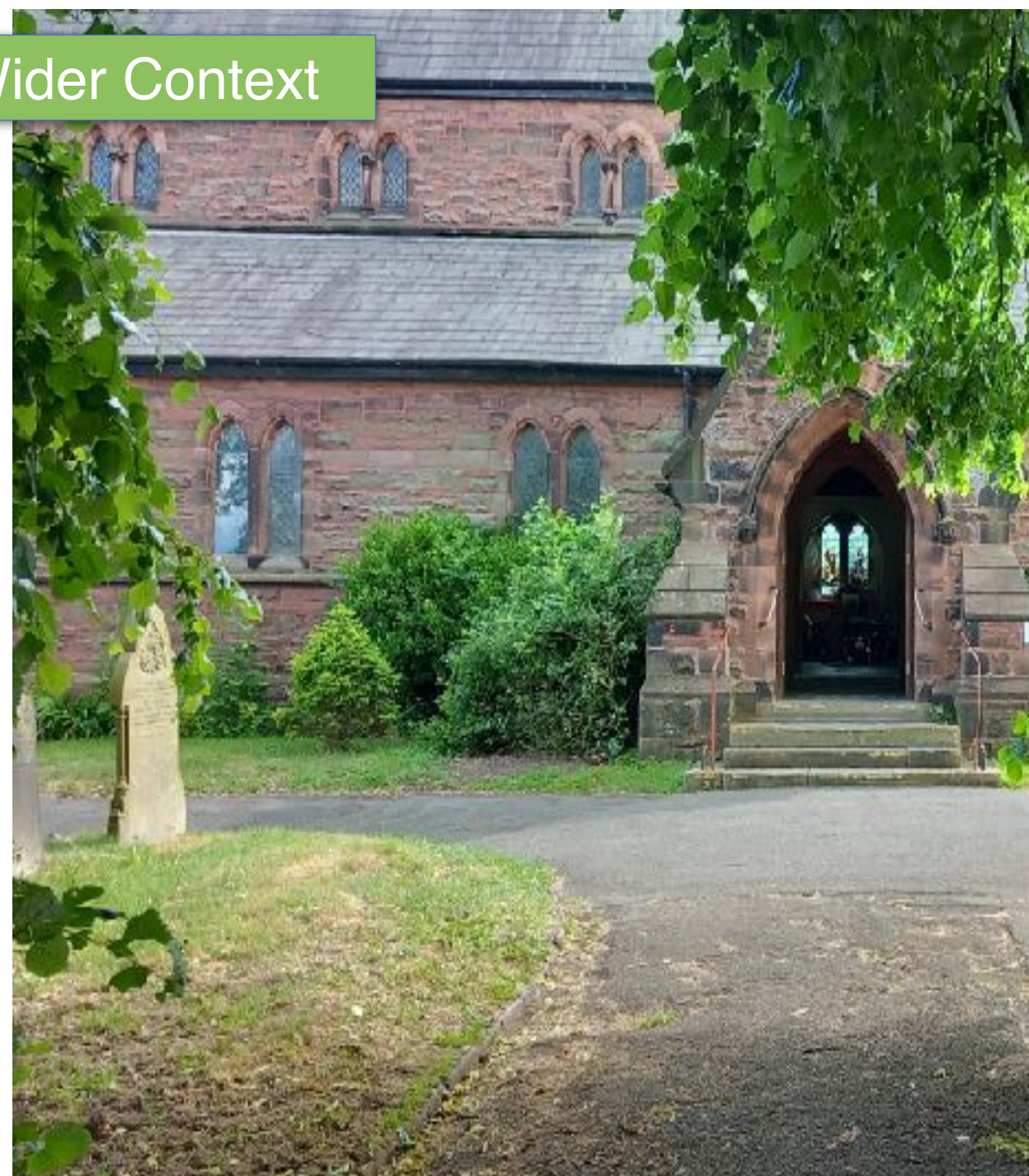
The Wider Context

Church buildings

The church building is Grade II listed and is of sandstone, with a central nave leading to the chancel, and with south and north aisles. It was commissioned in 1860 by Hugh Cholmondeley, 2nd Baron Delamere, as a gift for his wife Sara, and designed by John Douglas. It was consecrated in 1863. A choir vestry was added in 1961, and a Lady Chapel dedicated in 1972 in the north aisle.

The church also owns an accessible community centre on the opposite side of Delamere Street, next to the Vicarage. This has been updated over the last few years and is now used every weekday and most evenings by our community.

The Vicarage is across Delamere Street from the church. It is a 4 bedroom house with garage, large driveway, and gardens to the front and rear. It has a living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, and toilet downstairs. The 4 bedrooms and a family bathroom are upstairs.



Diocese and Deanery

The church is one of 3 Church of England churches in Winsford. The others are Christchurch Wharton and St Chad's Over. We are in the Middlewich Deanery and are part of the Diocese of Chester.

Our church has good links with other evangelical churches in the area. The current minister meets up and prays with leaders from St John's Hartford, Emmanuel Leftwich, Wheelock Heath Baptist Church, Grace Church Sandbach, and Cornerstone Church Crewe.

St John's PCC has passed a resolution under the House of Bishop's Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests in order to reflect its views on the distinctive ministry of men and women.

Wider Affiliations

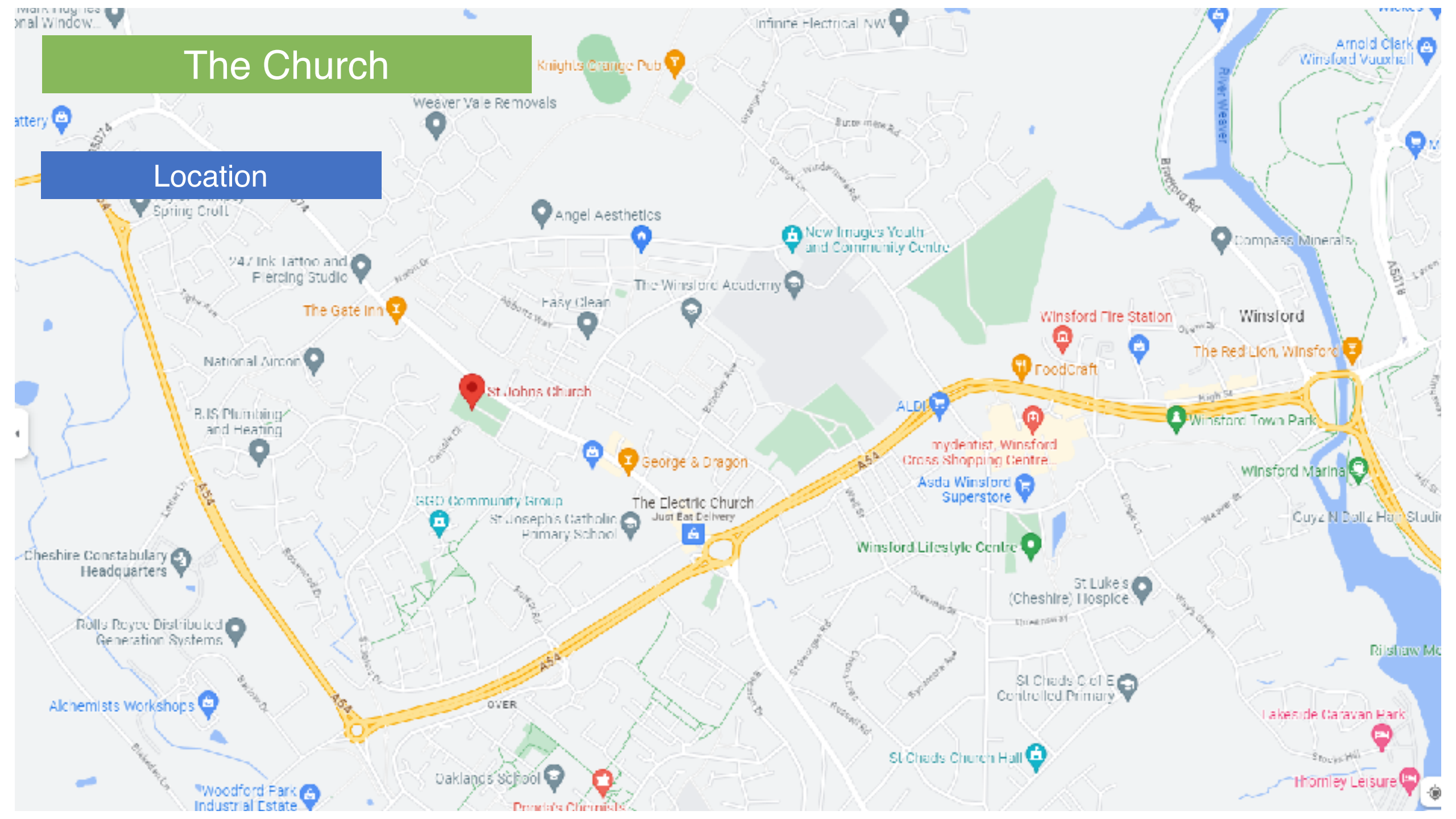
- North West Gospel Partnership - a group of mixed denominational churches which are passionate about the extraordinary message of Jesus Christ, and are committed to supporting, encouraging, and equipping each other in the task of getting that life changing message out across our region.
- Church Society - a fellowship contending to reform and renew the Church of England in biblical faith. The Church Society Trust has recently become our Patron.
- CEEC - The Church of England Evangelical Council seeks to encourage and equip evangelicals in the Church of England to keep mission as a priority.

The Wider Context



The Church

Location



Who we are looking for

We are looking for a mission hearted vicar who is:

- Someone who has a personal and mature faith in Christ
- Someone whose life, spiritual maturity, and teaching ministry is rooted in the Bible and who has a passion to communicate the gospel message effectively
- Someone who is thoroughly prayer based and Holy Spirit led
- Someone who shows love and leadership of their family (if applicable) and a Godly character (Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)
- Someone who is servant hearted, understanding the importance of listening, caring and discerning
- Someone who has a heart for evangelism, the community and the lost
- Someone who is an intuitive and enabling leader who has a heart for people with a vision to grow them in their faith
- Someone who has a desire to be visible and dynamic in the community
- Someone who is social media and tech savvy
- Someone who will encourage the congregation to live out their Christian faith in everyday life, Monday to Saturday, not only on a Sunday
- Someone who will help to foster a good safeguarding culture in the parish

What does the Role Involve?

- Theology based preaching and teaching at Sunday services and throughout the week to enable learning potential and promoting God's word
- Leadership of our PCC and guidance of our other ministry teams
- Safeguarding
- Training leaders to enable learning, pioneering new ways of evangelism, and seeking opportunities to promote the gospel in our community
- Working as part of a team with the church family to ensure we can continue to carry out God's work for years to come
- Willingness to promote and be involved with mission events
- Involvement in local schools and other youth groups.
- Holding assemblies and being an ex officio governor in our church school





About the Parish

Our parish is the smallest of the three Church of England parishes in Winsford, covering an area of 1.9 sq. miles. It is mainly suburban in nature and is considered one of the most deprived in the country, with relatively high levels of child, pensioner, and working age poverty. There is a high level of people without formal qualifications and many single parent families. This can be challenging at times as there is a high incidence of mental health difficulties, but we feel this gives us the ideal opportunity to show what it means to have God's love in your life by how we support them.

At the 2021 census -

Parish population was 9,812 people. However there has been significant influx since then with new housing estates

- Deprivation ranking was 1,706 (with 1 = most deprived and 12,239 = least deprived). Winsford ranks in the 2% of most deprived areas of England (CW&C Council data 2019)
- 52% declared as Christian. 4.9% declared no religion. 4.6% did not answer
- 97.2% were white ethnicity.

About the Parish

Our church school, Over St John's, is a short walk from the church. It is a voluntary controlled Church of England School. There are 3 non denomination primary schools, one RC primary school, and one high school academy in the parish. There is also a Roman Catholic Church and a Pentecostal Church. There are several small shops and a few pubs in the parish with larger supermarkets being available elsewhere in the town.

The parish has a mixture of all ages with the younger people mostly being more transient than many older families who have lived here all their lives. Opportunities for youngsters in the town are limited but we are seeing new growth along with the redevelopment changes. Over the last couple of years we have welcomed several people who have felt drawn to church by their difficulties and have been able to give them comfort and show them God's love.



About the Church Life



Church Life - Leadership Support

We are a church family passionate about supporting our vicar in order that he may support and nurture us. We like to encourage church members into leadership and to take responsibility for various parts of church life. We have identified 7 areas to help this aim.

The seven areas are:

- Gather (Formal and informal teaching)
- Link (Mission)
- Nurture (Children, youth and family)
- Care (Pastoral care and Biblical Counselling)
- Reach (Evangelism)
- Give (Finance)
- Manage (Maintenance)

Most of these now have small groups of volunteers who run them. However, other members of the church family will always come forward to help. Our current incumbent has recently encouraged a few members of the church family to help by leading the service and preaching. This has been very encouraging with them bringing a different style, and allowing the incumbent to not be stretched too thinly.

We have a small but faithful PCC who work as a team with the incumbent to support him and the work of the church.

We have been blessed with having three trainee ministers over the last few years, two of whom continued into ordination into the Church of England, with the third now assisting with the leadership of a community church.

About the Church Life

Leadership



Sarah McClellan (Warden/Safeguarding Officer)

Sarah is married to Alan, and they have lived in Winsford for over 30 years and have 5 adult children. They've have been at St Johns for about 29 years, and Sarah works in a school both teaching and as a 1:1.



Stuart Lamb (Warden)

Stuart came to Christ, when he was younger and when you learned about Jesus when you were at school. Christ has remained with him throughout his life, most importantly when times become difficult.



Alan McClellan (Treasurer)

Alan is originally from Cumbria and has lived in Winsford for over 30 years and has been a member of St John's that whole time.

He's married to Sarah, and together they have five children.



Rachel Jones (PCC Member)

Rachel is 78 years old and discovered a different way of living in 1976 when she was 32.

Rachel helps out with a huge number of different ministries with church, and pretty much ran the kids work with Jean for decades!



Huw Pegler (Planned Giving Officer)

Huw has lived in Winsford for 16 years and has been a Christian for 11. He is married to Sharon and works for a company that assesses cybersecurity and compliance needs.



Ann Lamb (PCC Secretary)

Ann really turned to Christ after attending St John's and hearing God's word properly. She has lived in Winsford for 23 years, with her husband, Stuart.

Outside of church Ann had a long career as a nurse but is now retired.



Wendy Bridle (PCC Member)

Wendy has been a Christian for 28 years. She joined St John's Church 10 years ago and has previously served as a warden and volunteer admin assistant.

A Worshipping People

Sundays

- 1st Sunday - 10.30 am - All Age service in the hall and on zoom, followed by 'bring and share' lunch
- 4.30pm - Prayer and Praise in the hall - informal time of prayer and worship
- 2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.30am - Holy Communion service in church and on zoom, and SJK children's group
- 2.30-4.30pm - 'Open Doors' - a community outreach time, with crafts and activities to meet informally with our local community
- 3rd Sunday - 10.30am - Traditional Holy Communion in church and on zoom, with more formal liturgy. SJK children's group
- 4.30pm - Prayer and Praise in the hall

We currently do not use robes or hymn books at any of our services as we feel a less formal approach is more comfortable and less intimidating, particularly for newcomers.

We believe in having joyful music at these services, which is led by a small music team who, although not professionals, lack nothing in enthusiasm!

We believe the message of the gospel is for people of all ages but that it needs to be taught in different ways for different ages. SJKids runs during the middle part of the communion service to provide children with age-appropriate teaching.

About the Church Life



About the Church Life

A Worshipping People

Weekdays



- Housegroups - we have two house groups who meet evening time. We discuss the Bible passage used in the Sunday service and have a time of prayer. These are very lively meetings as we exchange views and learn together and support each other.
- In the week following the all age service there is a church social rather than house groups.
- 121 Bible reading - we believe it is important for church family members to meet to read the Bible together to encourage each other and pray.
- Mens group - meet for walks and or food, usually food!!
- Ladies Focus group - meet monthly for food and fellowship and occasionally have an outside speaker.
- Tea@2 - a weekday afternoon to provide mainly for retired people who may not have any other contact during the week, but is open to anyone to attend. It is a time of short bible study, prayer, and chat with a brew and cake.
- Drop in cafe - an outreach initiative started in 2023 in the church building during the warmer months for anyone to drop in and have a brew, cake and a chat. It has been a good time to meet with new people from our community.
- Church breakfasts at a local pub on a Saturday morning every couple of months or so which are a lovely time to get together with good food.

A Worshipping People

Discipleship

We believe in our role as disciples to serve and make God's word known to as many in our community as possible and to seek the lost.

We strongly believe in the power of prayer and have a big emphasis on this in the life of our church, both personal and when meeting together. We have seen many answers to prayer over the years. We also have a prayer team who are available at the Sunday services and keep in touch with each other for any special needs as we become aware of them at other times.

We believe everything we have is given to us by God and we need to be wise and generous in how we use it. We encourage regular giving to support the work of the church and to pay our parish share. Historically our church spent many years unable to pay the full parish share, but over the last few years we have turned that around and have now paid in full for several years.

We also believe in supporting mission partners, both at home and overseas. We currently support the North West Gospel Partnership training programme and the Slavic Gospel association. We also sponsor a child through Compassion.

We believe service is a big part of discipleship and encourage all members of our church family to become involved. This can be helping at services or behind the scenes.

About the Church Life



About the Church Life



Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding to minimise the chance that anyone who attends our church might experience any form of abuse. We are also committed to providing clear and effective means of disclosing abuse. We believe that safeguarding is an important means to show our love for our neighbour, and it reflects our belief that all people are created in God's image and are therefore loved by him.

The PCC have adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy statement and we review our policy every year. The policy falls under the Diocese of Chester policy.

We require all our PCC, children's work volunteers, and those working with vulnerable adults to have undergone the required safeguarding training provided by the Diocese of Chester, and to have valid DBS certificates.

About the Church Life

The Community we serve

- **DFest** - a street festival we run in the summer in partnership with Winsford Town Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council. This provides good outreach in our community
- **Foodbank** - run in church weekly for the Mid Cheshire Branch of the Trussell Trust
- **GGO** - a volunteer run community group on the local housing estate which has had joint events with us and attends the Sunday 'Open Door'
- **Vivo Care Choices** - an adult social care group providing support for people with learning difficulties and autism, older people with dementia. It is affiliated with, and run by, Cheshire West and Chester Council. They use the hall 8am-5pm Monday to Friday
- **Other Organisations** - the hall is used weekday evenings by uniform organisations and a martial arts club. There is the occasional use of the hall for parties
- **Church School** - Over St John's Church of England School, which is voluntary controlled
- **Other Schools** - the current incumbent has some involvement in several other local schools, both primary and the high school academy





About the Church Life

The Community we serve

Occasional offices in 2023

- We had 1 wedding in 2023 and have 2 booked for 2024
- We had 7 thanksgiving services and 1 baptism in 2023
- We did 10 funeral services in church, of which 3 had churchyard burials, 4 had burials at civic cemeteries, and 3 were followed by cremation. The vicar also carried out 5 services at a crematorium, of which there are 3 fairly locally.

Condition of Buildings

Whilst we believe the church is not the building but the people, we are aware our buildings are our outward face in the community, and need to be welcoming and useful.

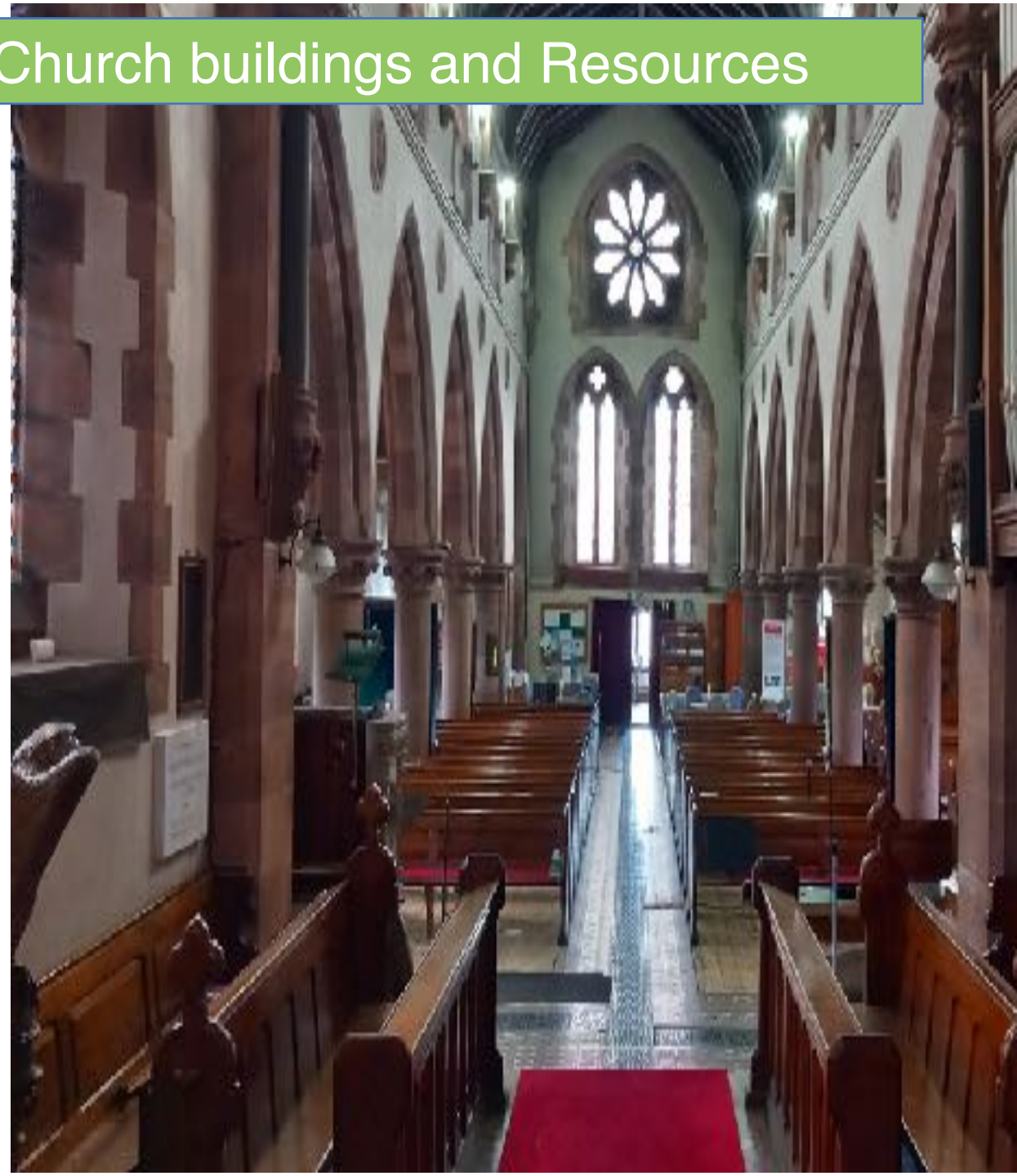
The Church

The church is a Grade II listed sandstone building. It is not currently a very easy space in which to hold a wider variety of events and has an outdated heating system and electrics. Our last Quinquennial was held in July 2022, at which time there were no immediate urgent issues identified, but some lesser structural tidying matters and updating work was advised.

Our aim is to address these issues along with some restructuring to help us use the space better. We have consulted with our church architect about this. We would like to renew the heating and electrics to reduce our carbon footprint, as well as changing the space to provide more meeting areas and a better kitchen. We applied early 2024 for a grant from the diocesan Mission for Buildings advisor to commission our architect do a feasibility study. The plan is to incorporate work advised in the Quinquennial report as we were advised that it would be better financially to do all the work together where possible.

We know this will be a long term project as we will then have to apply for further grants in order for any work to proceed as we have no spare funds. We have members from the church who are willing and able to help progress this.

Church buildings and Resources



Church buildings and Resources

Condition of Buildings

Church Hall

This building was originally funded and built as a community centre in the 1970s. Over the last 5 years or so we have had the interior considerably updated with grant funding and now have a church office, an upgraded kitchen, upgraded heating system, and accessible toilet and external access ramp. More recently we have had cavity wall insulation and insulation on the ceiling installed to try to make heating it more efficient.

With rents from the regular hall users the hall is self funding for which we praise God regularly as it used to be a drain on our finances. The power of prayer was very evident in all this work.



Finances

Church buildings and Resources

Total income for 2023 was £127,000

We have paid our parish share, in full, for 8 years

We have had ministry trainees for much of that time, although our last trainee left in the middle of last year

We spent nearly £10,000 in capital on the hall in 2023 and £27,718 in 2022

	Church hall	Main account	Ministry trainee
income	29,961	87,126	9,917
outgoing	24,227	89,226	14,526
Difference	5,734	(2,100)	(4,609)



Church buildings and Resources

Finances

Our giving was nearly £60,000 last year

Our mission support was £3,485

The hall is well utilised and gave an income of £29,961



Buildings

Church Building



View of building from Whitby's Lane gate



View of entrance from Delamere St gate.



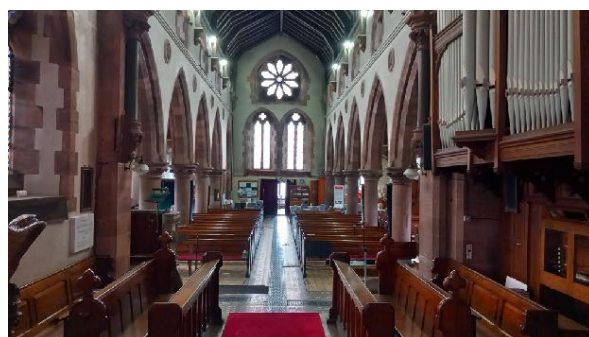
View of Whitby's Lane gate from entrance



View of Delamere St gate from entrance



View of the front of the building



View of back of building from table



Vestry/Creche room



Back room/Children's work area

Buildings

Church Hall



View of hall from car park



Main corridor



Kitchen



Church Office



View of hall and stage



View of back of building from stage



Vivo 'Green Team' shed/allotment

Buildings

Vicarage



View of front of Vicarage and front garden.



View from Vicarage down the drive



View of front of Vicarage



View of front of Vicarage



View of back of Vicarage and garden

