



## St. Saviour's Parish Profile



## Mission statement:

**Passion for Christ - Compassion for all.**





## **We welcome you to our Parish of St. Saviour.**



What we are hoping to achieve with this document is to give you, our potential new Vicar, a flavour of the life of our church and the community we serve. It gives you an insight into who we are, what we have achieved, what we are continuing to do now and what we hope to achieve in the future, with your guidance and leadership. We have focused on activities which have taken place over the two years prior to the Pandemic which allows us to include activities which we took part in with our previous vicar, but it also shows what we are capable of as we continue to work as a team.

The vacancy arises following the up-coming retirement of Canon Diane V Cookson. For 26 years Canon Diane has led our worship, cared for us and supported our spiritual development. We have greatly benefitted from her accessible style and have enjoyed her sense of humour. She has taken the fear out of 'change' and we are much richer for her teaching, pastoral care, leadership and compassion. Having begun a new decade, we look forward to embracing our future challenges and goals. We need someone who, whilst acknowledging our inclusive modern catholic tradition, can help us to flourish spiritually and reach out even more into the community, to connect with young families and the elderly alike.

It would be fair to say that since we knew of our vicar was going to leave, many of us are feeling rather sad because she has been part of our lives for a long time and we have come to love her. However, at a recent meeting, she said: *"You are an amazing supportive and encouraging congregation, always happy and eager to try new things. With your new Vicar, you will be able to take the next step, and I know you will give the person every bit of support you have given me. Stay positive, continue to pray and God will send you the right person."*

Like many churches, our average Sunday service attendance has declined slowly over the last ten years with the deaths of some devout members. However, we still continue to grow. We have a committed, strong core of around 70 - 80 people who attend worship, many of whom are either part of the Ministry Team, PCC members, sing in the choir or help in other areas. There is also a core of 'at home members' who worship using text, email or CD of the Sunday worship. We are keen that you get a feeling for our dedication, and our mutual desire to grow as a Christian community. We have, therefore, included a number of sections together with photographs to show the various aspects of our church and the wonderful Christian people we have in our midst. We sincerely hope, if you believe you are the right person for us, that you will join us and help us to build our future together.







## **Around about us:**

St. Saviour's Parish Church is situated close to shops including a pharmacy and Co-op.

The parish has a population of around 9,000 with a fairly stable mixed demographic, featuring a mix of privately owned and rented housing, and a small amount of social housing.

The church is set back from the very busy main road, fronted by a pleasant walled garden, and is often referred to as an 'oasis on the Moor'.

It is within a 5-minute walk to Stepping Hill Hospital, which is Stockport NHS Trust's main hospital site. This means the vicar won't have any parking charges!

It is also within walking distance of Sainsbury's and close by there is M&S food, Aldi and Asda.

The popular Handforth Dean and John Lewis shopping centres are a 20-minute drive away.

Beautiful countryside including Lyme Park and the Peak District are a short drive away.



There is a blue cross on the church which lights up at night and is a beacon. It can be seen from many wards in Stepping Hill Hospital and, over the years, has provided comfort to many of the patients and staff.



# **Worship: Sacramental**

## **Sunday worship**

All our worship is thoughtfully planned and prayerfully delivered in a very welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

During Covid-19 we rested the 8.30 a.m. service of Holy Communion and the four people who generally attended now attend the midweek service and are happy to continue doing so.

Our main Sunday morning service is at 10.45 a.m. and is a Sung Eucharist (modern language), with a sermon. Eucharistic vestments are worn and there is a procession with crucifer, acolytes, robed choir, wardens, and vergers. We have a rota of people who robe to assist by holding the chalice in order for the president to intinct because of the new Covid restrictions.



On the second Sunday of every month, we hold a Healing Eucharist at 10.45 a.m. which is very much valued by all who attend. At the service the congregation is invited to lift their hands as the following words are spoken: "May the healing power of the Holy Spirit be in you". Whilst we may not need physical healing, we all need prayer for ourselves or for someone else and the Healing Eucharist embraces that. It's a quiet service with a brief reflection, reflective music and a short time of silence which gives us the opportunity to be at peace for a while in our busy and fragmented lives.

The former incumbent had a completely open policy on Baptisms which usually took place on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.30 p.m. after the morning service. The 10.45 a.m. service is offered but we have found that families prefer a much shorter service. In the past, the vicar accommodated many families by having baptisms on Saturdays.

## **Weekday Worship**

A service of Holy Communion takes place on Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. There is no homily at this service. Reflective music is played during the distribution of Holy Communion. On the first Wednesday of each month, we use votive candles as an aid to prayer and on the third Wednesday we use traditional language.







## **The Choir:**

The Choir consists of 11 sopranos, 3 altos and 2 bass.

The robed choristers appreciate the privilege of leading worship and thoroughly enjoy making music, relishing the development of their musical gifts and self-confidence.

They have the discipline of working as a team and are fully committed to attending choir practice every other Friday evening under the leadership of a Director of Music. The former Director of Music was Canon Diane for the last 26 years as she was a qualified church musician. Sarah Summerton has now taken on this role.

Even after a tiring day, choristers enjoy singing and by the end of practice feel uplifted.

The Choir sings at every Sung Eucharist. St. Saviour's is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and therefore: "Undertake to do our best to promote the cause of good church music and to sing with the spirit and the understanding also".

At the end of 2021 our organist, Andrew Dean went on sabbatical for 12 months and is unlikely to return. With this in mind, we purchased 'Hymnal Plus' which is a mini 'computer' housing thousands of backing tracks. This works extremely well.



Sarah conducting the choir



## Ministry Team:

The Reverend Christine Bull has been our honorary assistant priest for some years.



It is P.C.C. policy that all who minister in the chancel, wear robes.  
 From Left to right: Sylvia Rogers & Aly Truft - are not licensed but assist pastorally  
 Madeleine Watts – a Licensed Pastoral Worker & Parish Nurse  
 Wendy O'Brien - in training to become a Pastoral Worker  
 All four are Eucharistic Ministers who assist with the chalice.







## Church Officials:

Church Wardens: Christine Moore & Linda Shelmerdine.



Trustees: Cathy Finney, Ron Hudson & Lewys Mills  
Deputy Wardens: Angela Wilson (also Verger) & Duncan Watts.

Treasurer: Roger Salt.



Trisha Garratt: PCC Secretary,  
E.R. Officer & Deputy Verger.



Madeleine Watts is our Safeguarding Officer and updates the Health & Safety policy annually.

## PCC members in a meeting at the vicarage pre Covid







## Pastoral Support:



Pastoral support and care of those who are ill and in need is a high priority in the life of St. Saviour's. We are blessed to have a Parish Nurse, who helps mobilise the church to embrace more fully its healing function.

Madeleine Watts is our licensed Pastoral Worker and Parish Nurse. Until March this year she was a Nursing Sister at Stepping Hill Hospital and was led by, and worked alongside our former vicar for 17 years, sharing in pastoral care, concern and the well-being of the congregation. She takes Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.

Most Sundays after worship Madeleine will be found in her Parish Nurse Room where she is available for any medical advice, blood pressure tests or simply to provide a listening confidential ear. In her role as a Parish Nurse, Madeleine has referred many people to their GP or A&E as an emergency and has, in essence, saved lives. To find out more about Parish Nursing UK Ministries please go to the link: [Parish Nursing UK](http://www.parishnursinguk.org.uk)

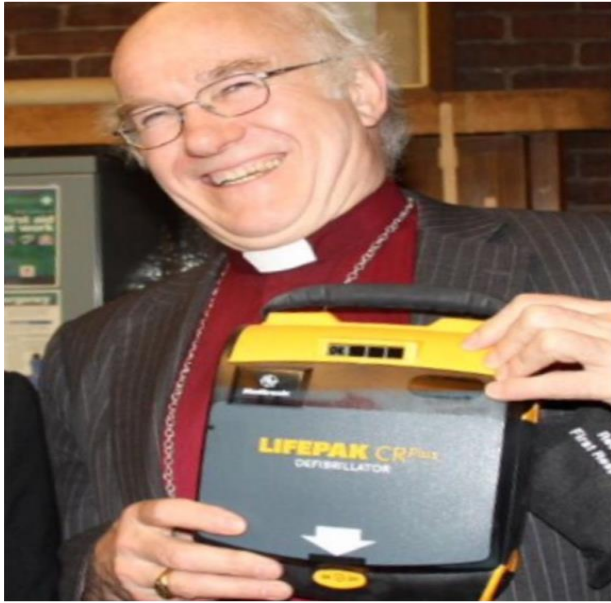
In addition to our Parish Nurse, we have a Pastorate Officer - Aly Tuft - who assists Madeleine and will also work alongside the vicar sharing in pastoral concern. Aly is a retired Nurse Manager and a very knowledgeable nurse who ran the Outpatients' Department at the local hospital. Aly, along with others, take Holy Communion to the housebound and, along with our Parish Nurse, looks after the well-being of the congregation. Aly also has 'Nurse time' at our Community Cafe which is always well received and appreciated by those she has referred to their GP and A&E and, like Madeleine, has, in essence, saved lives.







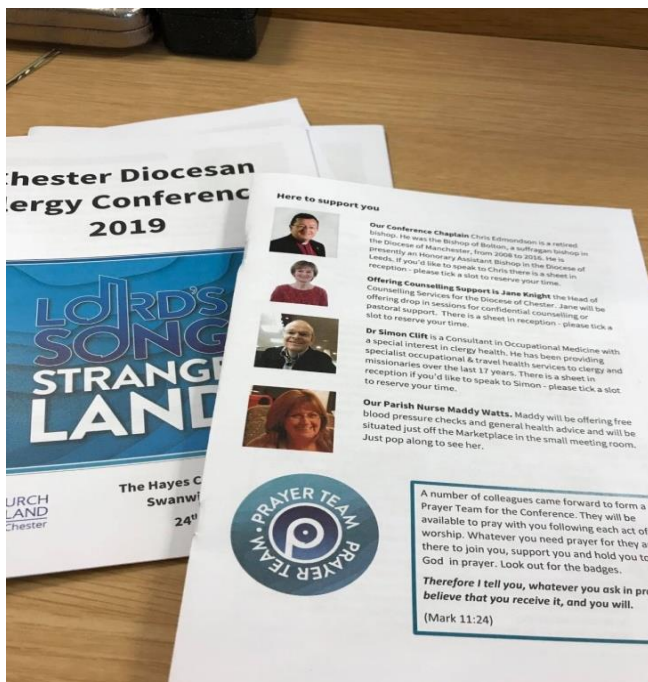
Our Parish Nurse has also been able to minister to the wider community in the name of St. Saviour's.



Former Bishop of Chester in support of defibs!



Teaching community groups CPR



Parish Nursing at Diocesan Conference caring for the clergy



Being affirmed by Archbishop Justin





## Prayer Group:

Every Monday morning for a great number of years, a small Prayer Group met in church seeking God's will for the Parish and praying for the Ministry Team, the various needs, the sick and the community. Sadly, due to the Pandemic this has been suspended and the members pray in their own homes.

There is also a Prayer Board situated near the West Door for people to write special prayer requests. This is known in the community and people pop in to write names on the cards or to light a votive candle.



## Bible Study:

Over the years there have been numerous Bible Study groups in our church, attended by a wide variety of people of all ages. Some have been run during the day, and some in the evening, in order to offer times suitable for all. At the present time there is only one bible study, which meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening.

A few members of our church have completed the Diocesan Foundations for Ministry Course and Wendy will be attending this year's Diocesan Lay Conference.

As a church we have enjoyed Parish Weekends away at Foxhill House, which is the Diocesan Retreat and Conference Centre. These were greatly valued.





## **Worship throughout the year:**



Mothering Sunday is celebrated with a special service and posies of flowers are given out.



Lovely – our 3 little brothers!





## Holy Week:

Palm Sunday & distribution of Palm Crosses

Maundy Thursday 7.30p.m. Foot Washing & Stripping of the altars

Good Friday - The Final Hour



## Easter Day:

Easter Day Eucharist, ending with an Easter Egg hunt in the church.  
We then go into the church hall for a 'Choc Fest'.







## Pentecost:



At this service, the priest anoints the hands of the congregation with the oil of Chrism for their ministry as Christians.

## Harvest:

We generally support a different charity each year. Last year we supported 'Open Doors' after we heard that the North Korean regime was, in effect, starving the people of food. We also regularly donate to the Food Bank, Wellspring which is a local charity for the homeless and F.R.E.S.H. (Food Regularly Every School Holiday) founded by Jeff Bradley, a member of our congregation.

We also donated hundreds of hygiene products to the Women's Refuge.







## Memorial Service

Our former vicar always held a Memorial Service around October for anyone who had been bereaved during the year. They were sent an invitation at the beginning of September, not only to the service but also to an Afternoon Tea in the church hall. This was really valued and appreciated by all who were invited.



## All Souls

Every year, on All Souls, we remember past loved ones by each one of us lighting a candle and placing it on the votive stand during the worship.





## Remembrance Sunday

Our worship contains a short Act of Remembrance at the beginning of the Eucharist.







## Advent & Christmas



Christingle



The Festival of Lessons & Carols is generally held the Sunday before Christmas.

The Christmas Eve Midnight Mass begins at 11.15 p.m.



## **We are an animal friendly church.**

### **Our Pet Service**

The annual Pet Service is now in its 17th year and continues to be popular. Our service has even featured on Songs of Praise. Over the years the congregation has been made up mainly of dogs, a few cats, rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, rats, budgies and a horse!

Lots of home-made pet treats are sold and refreshments are also provided for the humans!

All proceeds go to a chosen animal-based charity such as Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital, SNORS, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Lucky Hens Rescue, Freedom of Spirit Trust for Border Collies, and Guide Dogs for the Blind.







## **Communication in the parish:**

### **Open Church**

The church is open from 11 a.m. until noon Monday to Friday for church members and people from the community to come in for prayer, to light a candle or simply to talk with our volunteers.

### **Church magazine**

A monthly magazine is published using our photocopier with a distribution of 130.

### **Prayer & Action**

A weekly newsletter is printed and given out on a Sunday. This is called 'Prayer & Action'. It gives the calendar for the week, readings and any notices.

### **Website**

Our website is updated every day: [www.stsaviourschurch.org.uk](http://www.stsaviourschurch.org.uk)

St. Saviour's has a dedicated Facebook page and we regularly update [A Church Near You](#)

## **It is important that everyone feels valued and included in the spiritual and social life of our church.**

We are a fully inclusive church and have had conversations with: Living in Love & Faith.

We have provided ramps for ease of access.

There is a wheelchair accessible toilet in the church hall next door.

Wheelchair friendly pews provide a choice of where to sit.

The altar rail is accessible for wheelchair users.

Two lightweight wheelchairs are available for public use.

We have the loop induction system and an excellent sound system updated regularly.

All services are recorded to CD for the housebound & the worship is also emailed or texted.

There is a disabled parking bay close to the church hall entrance.

Holy Communion is taken to the homes of those who are housebound.

Large print hymn books and service books are provided.

Font size can be adjusted to suit a particular need if notice is given.



## Parish Environmentalist

15 years ago, Sarah Summerton was appointed Parish Environmentalist and has highlighted many environmental issues including the problem of sustainability and the importance of recycling, the serious need to reduce single use plastic, our carbon footprint, and how, as a congregation, we need to be aware of our use of palm oil and the devastating effects of deforestation.

We embraced the Kew Garden Grow Wild campaign and created a wildlife area in the church grounds. This includes focusing on our wildlife, in particular nurturing and caring for hedgehogs. She encourages us to get involved in caring for our creation in many and varied ways.

Before the Pandemic Sarah attended 'Creation Celebration' at Chester Zoo where the animals were prayed for, and we are in the process of signing up to become an Eco church.







## Flowers

Our chief Flower Lady is Angela Wilson.



To keep the costs down, we have many tasteful silk flower arrangements. Much thought is put into tailoring these to fit with all the special seasons. Many of the arrangements are simple but beautiful. At Christmas, the altar is turned around to create a crib and at Easter, an Easter Garden.



Above is a photograph of Pat Lainton who was our chief flower lady until 2021 but now helps Angela.





## Schools in Great Moor

As a church community we support the work of our schools. There are no church schools in the parish but we have Great Moor Infant and Primary state schools. The Primary school children come in to St. Saviour's during the year to see what the vicar does and how the church functions. This has always been very much appreciated by the teachers. Our former vicar would also go up to the organ loft and play the organ for them!



There are two other schools nearby, but they are just outside the parish boundaries.

Stockport School is a large, mixed secondary school.

Stockport Grammar is a prestigious independent day school.





## Our volunteers:

### Church Wardens:

Linda is now retired and was an Occupational Health Nurse Manager.

Christine is now retired, having worked in Social Services at the local hospital.

### Deputy Wardens:

Angela works in health and safety risk assessments.

Duncan is a retired builder who looks after the fabric of the church, assisted by our Clerk of Works Bob Howorth.

Trisha Garratt, our P.C.C. Secretary, runs a very efficient rota of volunteers who cover various duties. The Vicar always prepared the staffing rota, and this is being done by Madeleine Watts just during the vacancy.

The church magazine is edited by Linda Shelmerdine, our Church Warden. Trisha prints off the church magazine and collates it for the group of distributors. She also does various other jobs including keeping the chancel immaculate and preparing the choir for all services. She prepares the large print service books and also distributes the CD to the housebound. Trisha is happy to be called upon to do any number of jobs if someone is ill or away.

The dedication and willingness of the volunteers to serve, ensures that all services run smoothly. These people make up the very core of our congregation and their commitment and sense of responsibility is greatly appreciated by all of us.

We currently have 10 sidespeople, three people who write the intercessions and 12 people read lessons.

The church is cleaned every week so that it is immaculate at all times thanks to Sue & John Bougen.

We have several teams responsible for refreshments in the church hall after the services.







## Summer & Christmas Fairs



Over the years our Summer and Christmas Fairs have developed into something rather special for our community, as you can see from the photographs:

Owing to the Pandemic our last Autumn fair was held in the church to allow more social distancing, and this worked well, with many people coming into the church building who had never been in before.

We have raised £30,000 over the last five years from our fairs.





## Community Café

We recognise that significant outreach of our church happens through the Occasional Offices. But our successful GAP (Growth Action Plan) project, the Community Café - is also a huge form of outreach. Unfortunately, we had to suspend the Café throughout Covid but delighted we are back up and running albeit with less volunteers and a reduced menu.

Every Wednesday a group of volunteers from the church run the Community Café, where people from around Great Moor can come and have a Meal Deal for £3 and enjoy fellowship together. They can also see the Parish Nurse or her assistant, Aly. This is a very valued ministry to those who attend.

Many people have been attracted to our church through first coming to the café, and this has enabled their faith to grow and develop. Most importantly, people welcome the fellowship and friendly atmosphere, not to mention the good food prepared by our teams of volunteers!







# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Mothers' Union is a world-wide Society within the Church of England which cares about Marriage and Family Life. Here at St. Saviour's, we care about the plight of women in the world, parenting, literacy and development, violence against women and poverty and over the years we have supported the MU in many and various ways.

A good number of our members have died so now we are a much smaller group. However, those who remain are enthusiastic and committed to the objects and aims of the Mother's Union and we hope the new vicar will be too. At St. Saviour's we meet for worship, recreation, fellowship and occasional talks.

Below are some of our members.





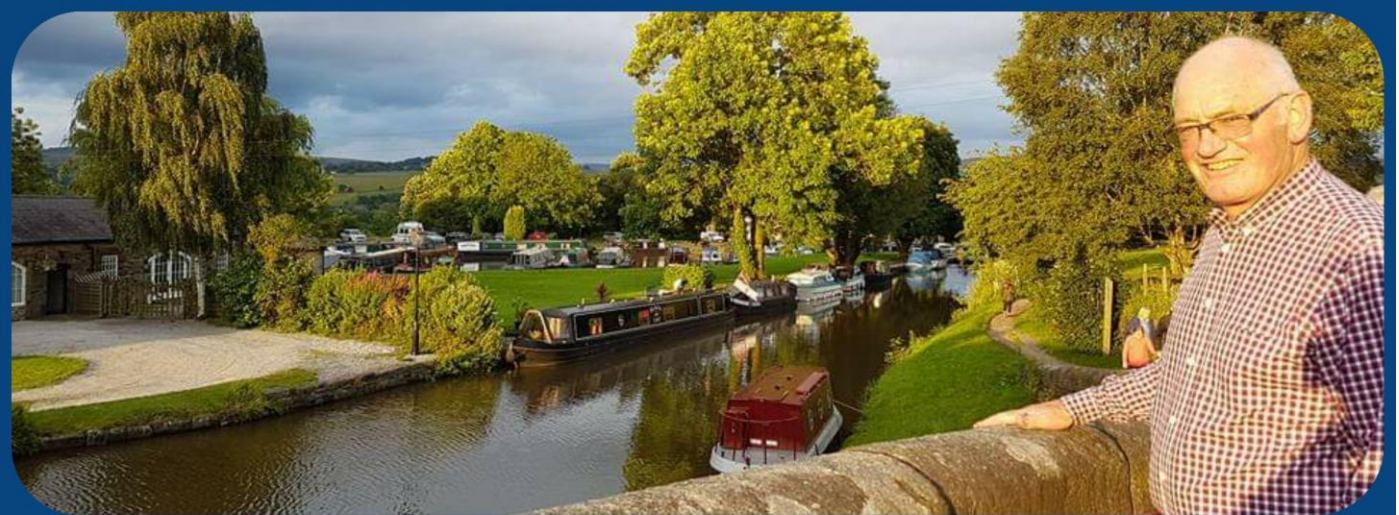


## MENSSA

It sounds like a group of very intelligent people – but in this instance. MENSSA stands for Men's Social Activities, and over the last few years the activities have been very varied. The only stipulation in order to participate is that you must be over 18.

On the third Tuesday of each month a group of us meet up for an evening out. This will consist of something to eat or drink - usually both - and often we take part in an activity of some sort. To date, such activities have included climbing at Pear Mill, a trip around Robinson's Brewery, playing snooker, summer walks, and going to the cinema. New ideas are always welcome. Occasionally partners have been invited.

The atmosphere is very relaxed and informality most definitely is the key. We have members ranging from their twenties to their late seventies. Indeed, this wealth of age and experience is one of the key strengths of the group and what makes nights out so interesting. When the group went climbing the oldest member joined in and the best climber turned out to be one of the senior members. Age is not a barrier to participation; some people may think it is, but the MENSSA group certainly don't believe it is.





## Outward giving:

Collections for the Foodbanks are not restricted to just Harvest time as we have a box permanently positioned at the back of the Church for ongoing donations. The collections from the Christingle Service traditionally go to the Children's Society.

Mention has already been made of some of the charities we have supported.  
Other charities include:







## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2019



Over the last 20 years many pilgrims from St. Saviour's have deepened their spirituality by going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with our former Vicar.







## Church hall

The Church Hall can be hired out for all sorts of functions and has a well equipped Kitchen, and accessible toilet facilities.



The hall is used every day by groups from the community - young and not so young including a Baby Sensory Group, Traditional Indian Dancing, Pilates, Martial Arts, Uniformed organisations, Zumba, and Karate

We have a Hall Manager and also a hall cleaner, and the hall is relatively financially self-sufficient.

Fellowship and refreshments in the church hall after worship.







## The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a substantial well-built 5 bed detached house which has been well maintained, and has ample parking at the front - enough for 8 cars - and a single garage. The vicarage lies 200 yards from the church, accessed through the vicarage gardens. (Photo: back of the house).



Downstairs there is a large lounge with an electric fire, a good size sitting room with a gas fire, a study, a recently refurbished downstairs cloakroom for guests, and another cloakroom for private use which also has a shower cubicle. There is a fair-sized kitchen, utility room and pantry.

Upstairs, the landing is very bright and spacious. There are four double bedrooms, one small single bedroom and, off two of those bedrooms, there are small rooms which could easily be used as dressing rooms. There is a separate toilet from the bathroom, a tiny shelved cupboard and a linen cupboard.

Outside the back door there is a small, enclosed yard which houses the various bins and two brick built sheds. The garden is a very good size, with plenty of space for children to play. You may also see an abundance of birds and squirrels which our former Vicar loved to feed! At the front there is a brick wall and to the rear there is sturdy fencing making the whole area secure for children and any pets. At the moment the church employs a Gardener to mow the lawns and keep the grounds in good order.







The former vicar has left all curtains and carpets.  
She has also left some lovely items of furniture which the next vicar may wish to have.







## Finance



We have always been aware of how much it costs to run the church and we have an excellent treasurer. Our church members are known for their generosity, and they always respond positively to calls for funding for a particular project, for example in 2010 when we had to find £26,000 to repair the church ceiling, £20,000 in 2015 to refurbish the church organ, and in 2020 we raised £18,000 for a new church boiler. Once the church was open again after Covid, we held an Easter Day Gift Day as many of us had saved money by having been in lockdown. The result was an amazing result of £18,500 which included Gift Aid!

Over the last few years some very dear members of our Church Family have either died or moved away, which has inevitably had quite an impact on our finances. To maintain what reserves we have, the focus will need to be on increasing the number of our congregation. With the right leadership and our well-established annual Stewardship Sunday, it will be possible to make this a financially strong parish that could have an immensely beneficial impact on the wider community. Our aim has always been to inspire more people to consider realistic giving and to encourage those already committed, to review and, where possible, increase the amount they give.



## **Our Vision statement:**

is to spread the Gospel and provide a loving and compassionate environment for the continuing transformation of a life in Jesus Christ. We believe this journey is shaped by God, through worship, friendship and service to others.

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We feel that the right person in post will work with us to realise the huge potential in our parish and enable St. Saviour's to continue to flourish, grow and reach out with the love of Christ into our wider community.

The parish of St. Saviour, Great Moor is in good heart: active and organised and looking forward to working with a new priest.

There is a wealth of talent and support.

The buildings are all kept in good order and meet all requirements of the Archdeacon, Architect and Health and Safety.

The financial situation will be a challenge!

## **Statement of needs:**

### **We are looking for a vicar who will:**

Embrace the modern central catholic tradition of worship whilst being open to new expressions.

Be a priest with a genuine pastoral heart.

Be a good communicator and personable.

Be someone who will be generous and inclusive towards all who enter our church.

Visit the sick and those near the end of their life.

Show an infectious faith and has a good sense of humour.

Continue to encourage and enable lay participation.

Strengthen existing links within the local community.

Help us to develop something to reach out to children and young families.

Encourage the congregation to be more confident in reading and understanding the bible.

Continue to support and encourage the committed and loyal choristers.

Wear robes and vestments as we believe the wearing of robes is essential for formal worship.

Continue with our annual Stewardship Sunday so that we can all review our giving each year.





## **What we offer to you:**

We realise this list may seem challenging but, as we have stressed, we have a strong core already in place to support our new vicar.

We embrace change and will support new ventures as you build on the strong leadership St Saviour's has had over the years.

We recognise, too, that the life of a Vicar can be very demanding and we would support and encourage our new incumbent to ensure they take time for themselves (and their family) in order that they maintain their own well-being, whilst being able to focus their efforts on serving the needs of the Parish.

We will respect your day off, encourage you to take all allocated holidays and make time for personal development which we feel is key to the success of our joint partnership.

Over the months we have been praying that God will guide the right person to us. We will welcome you to our Parish with open arms, open minds and offer you our prayers and support.

## **Could you be the next Vicar of St. Saviour's?**



**At the moment, we are sheep without a shepherd!**





## Some Church Family Members




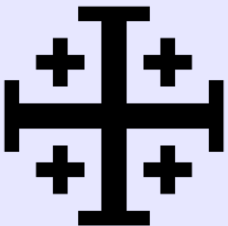










| Transformative                                                                                                   | What we do now                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Our Vision                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Making Disciples</b></p>  | <p><b>Fellowship Groups</b><br/> <b>Lent Group</b><br/> <b>Bible Study</b><br/> <b>Prayer Group</b><br/> <b>Quiet Days / Parish Weekends</b></p>                                                                                                               | <p><b>To further develop our Discipleship</b><br/> <b>Develop our prayer life</b><br/> <b>Launch a daytime Bible Study</b></p>                      |
| <p><b>Reaching Out</b></p>     | <p><b>Fellowship Groups</b><br/> <b>Community Café</b><br/> <b>School ministry within the church</b><br/> <b>Baptisms</b><br/> <b>Funeral Ministry</b><br/> <b>Parish Nursing</b><br/> <b>HoliDay@Home</b><br/> <b>Open Church</b><br/> <b>Pet Service</b></p> | <p><b>Emmaus or Pilgrim Course</b><br/> <b>Increase the number of new Christians</b><br/> <b>Share the Good News within our community</b></p>       |
| <p><b>Families</b></p>        | <p><b>Very flexible Baptism Policy</b><br/> <b>Support FRESH (feed regularly every school holiday)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>We need to go where they are</b><br/> <b>Messy church</b><br/> <b>Ministry within the Schools</b></p>                                         |
| <p><b>Lay Ministry</b></p>    | <p><b>Foundations for Ministry Course</b><br/> <b>Diocesan Courses</b><br/> <b>Pastoral Visitors</b><br/> <b>Environmental Issues</b><br/> <b>Health and Wellbeing</b><br/> <b>Leading Bible Study</b></p>                                                     | <p><b>Encourage more to attend FFM</b><br/> <b>Pastoral workers training</b><br/> <b>Reader's training</b><br/> <b>Exploration of vocations</b></p> |





## Stockport

Great Moor is approximately two miles to the south of Stockport which is an historic market town. The Market Hall is undoubtedly one of the area's most striking architectural features and gives it a unique beauty. The recently restored 'Glass Umbrella' Covered Market Hall dominates the area and dates from the 1860s. Near to the town's main shopping area is the Plaza theatre, a beautifully restored 1930's style theatre which hosts a variety of shows and entertainment, and has a lovely tea room. The town is undergoing a massive £1bn regeneration programme and is home to a recently developed leisure destination, adjacent to the M60 motorway. Redrock incorporates a cinema complex, restaurants and a fitness and leisure centre.



Stockport has excellent transport links, via the M60 Manchester orbital motorway, and a recently built bypass linking the south of the town to Manchester International Airport, only 8 miles away. The famous Stockport viaduct, the 27-arch brick-built Victorian viaduct, carries the West Coast Mainline and local train services over the River Mersey. London is just two hours away!

Textile industries were at the heart of Stockport's industrial development, and the town was recognised as a hub of the hat industry and the Christy family firm. There is now an excellent hat museum housed in one of the original mills in the town centre, and the town's former industry even gives its name to Stockport County football team's nickname The Hatters.





The Parish of Great Moor is part of the deanery of Stockport which comprises just seven parishes on the eastern edge of the diocese. St. Saviour's, Great Moor, St. Thomas', Norbury, St. Alban's, Offerton, St. George's with St. Gabriel's, Stockport, St. Matthew's, Edgeley, St. Peter's, Stockport and the parish formed in 2019 of Stockport with Brinnington consisting of St. Mary's, St. Luke's, and St. Thomas'. The Deanery Synod meets three times a year.

The churches across the deanery are transforming communities by running and supporting foodbanks, credit unions, youth clubs, children's groups, parent support groups, drop-in cafes and signing services as well as providing pastoral care for the sick, celebrating Baptisms and weddings and being alongside those suffering bereavement, having a hand in education and going into schools, all whilst providing places of spiritual encounter and peace - not to mention enabling and encouraging excellence in music, drama and the arts.

The economic profile of the deanery is very mixed, from some fairly affluent areas to pockets of social deprivation. Many churches in the deanery of Stockport, including St. Saviour's, support the local foodbanks and help for the homeless (Wellspring).

Churches in the deanery maintain good relations. The clergy really value the Chapter meetings which meet every six weeks or so and continue to be a great means of support. For many years the vicar of St. Saviour's hosted all the Chapter meetings at her Vicarage. Below is a photograph of the Rural Dean, The Reverend David Brewster.







# The Diocese of Chester



The Diocese of Chester is in the Province of York in the Church of England, part of the global Anglican Communion. We are linked with the Anglican Church of Melanesia in the Solomon Islands and the Dioceses of Aru and Boga in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Diocese of Chester was created in 1541 and covers an area of 1025 square miles. The Rivers Mersey and Tame approximately delineate the boundary with Liverpool and Manchester. There are areas of dense urban population, mainly in the north, stretching from Birkenhead to East Manchester.

There are prosperous suburban regions of West and South Wirral, Chester and south of Manchester, with a mainly rural heartland, bounded by the Derbyshire Pennines and the Welsh Border. The overall population is around 1.6 million.

The Diocese is divided into two archdeaconries: Chester covering the western half and Macclesfield the eastern, each with nine deaneries. There are 273 parishes, about 100 of which can be described as rural. Compared with many Dioceses, there are few teams, and few multi-parish benefices. There are approximately 231 stipendiary clergy.

The ministry of Readers and Pastoral Workers is important, with over 400 licensed. Parish Nurses are few in number but this is a role which needs to be encouraged by the Diocese. The role of self-supporting ministers is increasing, with over 80 in post at present. Below: Chester Cathedral.

