

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a mosaic, likely from a church floor or wall, featuring various shades of blue and white tiles. A solid blue border frames the entire image. A white rectangular box with a thin blue border is positioned in the upper right quadrant, containing the main title text.

Parish
Profile
for

*The Parish
of
Timperley*

Christ Church – Holy Cross

2021

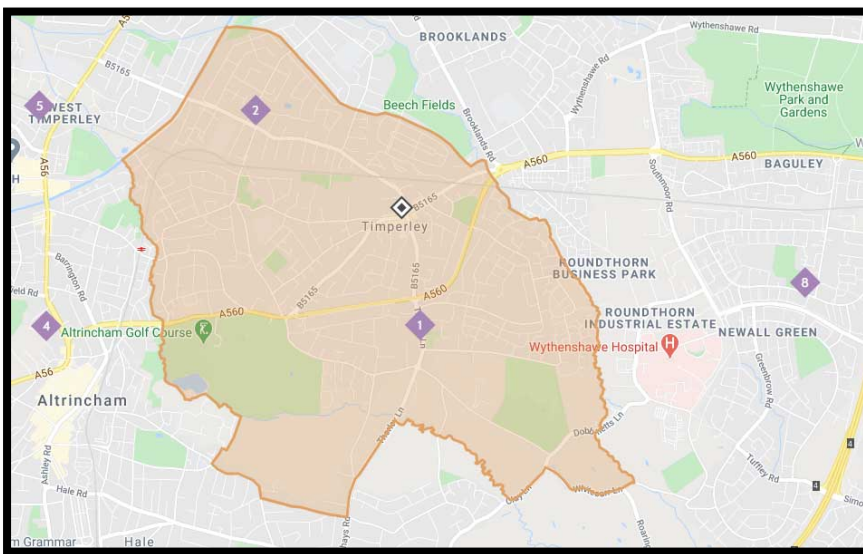
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1. Welcome to the Parish of Timperley, Cheshire

Please read this profile in conjunction with our website as it contains a great deal of information about the parish and will, we believe, give you a good impression of who we are, what we are doing and where we have come from (our history) – www.timperleyparish.org.uk

The Parish of Timperley, traditionally in the county of Cheshire, is within the diocese of Chester. It is about seven miles to the south west of Manchester, in the borough of Trafford and it is just over 30 miles to Chester.



Timperley is a popular residential area with a population of about 11,000 - 2021 census.

Timperley is largely suburban, though with some parks and other green open spaces, there are attractive rural areas within easy travelling distance, as well as National Trust parkland, the Bridgewater canal and the River Bolin.



Dunham Massey Hall



River Bollin Walks

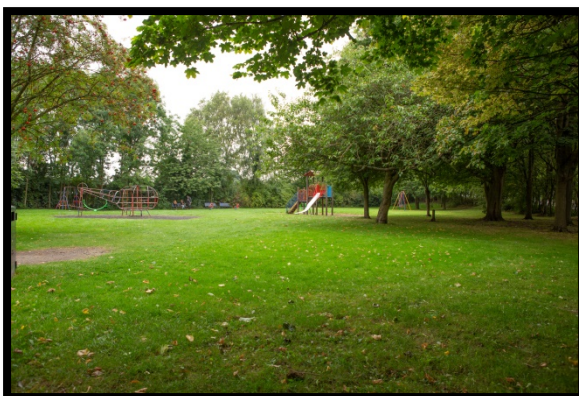
The Parish of Timperley

Christ Church - Holy Cross

Local schools – both primary and secondary – are highly regarded.



Timperley has a village community centre (Larkhill), library, medical facilities (new) and a range of shops, including a small Co-op, Sainsbury, Iceland and an excellent butcher. There are pharmacies, an optician, a dentist, places to eat, commercial offices and garages. There are also a few pubs!



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Timperley tram station is on the edge of the parish which links you directly with Manchester City Centre, Salford, Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester Airport and other areas of Manchester. The next stop on the line is Navigation Road with train links to Chester (handy for the centre of our diocese) and the rest of the UK via Stockport.



The market town of Altrincham is within easy reach offering a variety of larger shops and supermarkets, leisure facilities (including cinemas) and restaurants as well as a public transport hub for trains, trams and buses.



The out-of-town shopping centre – The Trafford Centre – is a few miles away. It boasts most high street names as well as a multiplex cinema, food court, restaurants and substantial parking as well as access by tram.

A short distance from the village is the large Wythenshawe Hospital – a major acute teaching hospital which is part of the Manchester University Hospital Foundation. There is also a small hospital in Altrincham town centre with a minor injuries unit and not too far away is Trafford General Hospital and Salford Royal as well as the city centre hospital Manchester Royal Infirmary.

The city of Manchester itself is also on the doorstep with its vibrant metropolitan feel, people from all walks of life, nationalities and faiths living and working together just six miles from Timperley.



Access and communication links are good in this area – by road, the M6, M56, M60 and M62 are within easy reach; Manchester Airport is about 15 minutes away by car.

2. Our Parish in the Time of Pandemic

2020 saw the parish ready to face a year with plenty of services and activities. In particular, a special morning of worship and contemplation had been arranged for Sunday 3 May when we were to gather to consider a new “Parish Plan” – our strategy for the years ahead. This, along with so much more, did not happen - the Covid-19 pandemic had struck.

At a PCC meeting on 18 March, plans were made to temporarily close the churches for an indefinite period.

Difficult as the following months were, we explored new ways of worshiping and being together whilst apart.

At the start of the first lockdown, we were already into Lent and so all Lenten and Easter activities had to be changed. Quick communication became the key – with everyone being kept up to speed via email, Facebook, WhatsApp or even paper. From the outset, there were online acts of worship using recorded reflections, readings and prayers. As time passed, we became more adventurous.

Zoom changed the landscape with meetings, services, a weekly coffee morning and a book club all taking place online.

In September we were able to reopen our churches for short, ‘in person’ acts of worship. Our Advent activities however, were still socially distanced – a new book in the book club, a village nativity trail, an on-line Advent calendar, a carol ‘singalong’ on zoom (twice due to popular demand) and a pre-recorded carol service. We celebrated Christmas Day with ‘in person’ worship, but then our churches were closed yet again. You can see examples of these via the following links <https://fb.watch/7-nh2m0X5L/> <https://fb.watch/7-nldveTx3/> <https://fb.watch/7-nretE3Nd/>

Everything moved back online with weekly zoom services on a Sunday morning. We continued with written and recorded reflections, readings and prayers and the coffee mornings.

By Lent, we were more adept with it all and had a new book group, a moving Ash Wednesday service, nightly services during Holy Week and a very special pre-recorded service on Good Friday. Easter Day saw a live zoom service.

At the beginning of May 2021, we returned to short, ‘in person’ worship in both churches and moved to offering communion shortly thereafter. We began to record these services on zoom. As the regulations have relaxed our services have become longer and more imaginative. There are still written offerings sent via email and hand delivered for those not yet ready to come back into the buildings.

Since the Spring of 2021, we have had an online shop to raise money for the parish.

The parish wants to learn from the lessons of the pandemic and so adapt our worship and activities so as to make everything more accessible to a wider congregation. Post pandemic, and with a new incumbent, we see new opportunities by continuing to be creative.

3. Our Churches and Worship

Christ Church

The church building is red sandstone and was opened in 1849, and was extended to its present size in 1865. There are many of the original features still to be seen today including the lovely stained glass windows, some of which are noted for their beautiful and pure colours. The church has retained the original boxed pews. The church is a Grade 2 listed building.

The Wadsworth organ which was built in 1899 was last restored in 2007.

Substantial alterations were made in 2006 when pews were removed from under the balcony and a small meeting room, the St. David's Room was created along with toilets and a kitchen. To enable access to the balcony from inside the church a staircase was built.

There is a Children's corner in one of the transepts.



The graveyard, which is well maintained partly by a contractor and partly by volunteers, has in it the Timperley War Memorial cenotaph and an Act of Remembrance takes place there on Remembrance Sunday, Also in the graveyard there is a Baby Loss Memorial Stone which was unveiled in 2020.

More details about the history can be found on the Parish website.

Worship at Christ Church is traditional based around a Eucharistic tradition with the priest wearing vestments and usually there is a server to assist at the preparation for Communion. Common Worship is used and hymns are sung from Common Praise. The Epistle is read by a member of the congregation and the intercessions are led by a lay person. We have a small robed choir and the vergers are also robed.

The services pre-pandemic were as follows:

At 8.00am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday there is a service of Holy Communion (BCP). At 10.45am there is a Sung Eucharist except on the 1st Sunday of the month when there is Café Worship in the Parish Hall at 9.30am.

Parish Sunday School is held in the St David's room on the 2nd Sunday of the month. The children join the congregation to receive Communion or a Blessing. At the end of the service they are always pleased to tell the congregation what they have been talking about and showing their craft work

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Christ Church - Holy Cross

Evening prayer is said with sung responses and hymns at 6.30pm except on the 1st Sunday when there is a Communion Service incorporating a service of Praise and Healing. On the 3rd Sunday a Taize service is held at Holy Cross Church which has a more informal setting more suited for this service.

Holy Communion (BCP) is said on Wednesday mornings at 10.00am and is held in the Lady Chapel. After this service and also after the Sunday morning service refreshments are served in the St David's Room.

On Monday mornings at 9.30am Morning Prayer is said during which there is discussion about the readings for the day. This is either clergy or led by a lay person.

All the major Festivals are celebrated with the Church specially decorated appropriate to the occasion. During Lent, Stations of the Cross are said on a Monday evening and during Holy Week there is a service every day in the Parish starting with a procession on Palm Sunday. We also celebrate the Triduum, i.e. the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

At Harvest Festival donations from both Churches are asked for the local Food Bank.

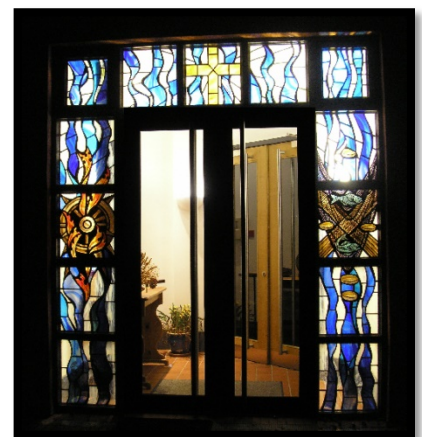
At Christmas several of the local schools come to the Church for their Christmas performances and on Christmas Eve a Christingle Service is held when the Church is filled to the rafters!

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Church was built in 2001 and is a more modern design. Two of the main features are the floor to ceiling baptistery circular windows and the stained glass windows surrounding the entrance doors which depict the history of Holy Cross. The building has movable seating so that it is



suitable for different ways of worship. There is a children's corner and baby changing facilities are available. Outside the Baptistery window there is a consecrated area for the interment of ashes. At the



front of the church there is a well maintained garden which has been developed by some of the congregation with the help of some children participating in the Duke of Edinburgh

Award scheme. Also at the edge of the car park there are well maintained flower beds.

More details about the history can be found on the Parish website.

The services pre-pandemic were as follows:

The Sunday morning service is at 10.45am and this is a Eucharist. The Priest is robed and there is a server, not robed, to assist with the preparation for Communion. Hymns are mainly from Complete Hymns Old and New. These are accompanied by an organ and a small music group. On occasions there is a small choir. The reading and intercessions are delivered by members of the congregation

On Thursday evenings at 7.30pm there is a said service of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer is said on Monday mornings at 9.30 am

On the 1st Sunday of the month there is Cafe Worship which is held in the Parish Hall which is linked to the Church. This is a time when the congregation and especially families and children can worship in a more relaxed environment

Breakfast Club is held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 8.45am. This is a time when young families can get together and enjoy fun, fellowship and learn about the Christian message. It is also an opportunity for parents to come to book a baptism at either Christ Church or at Holy Cross. These are held at 12.30pm on a Sunday at either Church. Parents are also invited to return to Breakfast Club to receive the Baptism certificate.

The Church is always well decorated with floral arrangements appropriate to the season

4. Parish Accommodation and Facilities

Vicarage

Ground Floor

Entrance from Thorley Lane.

The front door opens into a small porch with an internal door opening into a spacious hall giving access to the office; the main house is accessible through a second inner door.

Office – well fitted with Parish furniture and some storage. Two phone lines and internet connection.

Lounge – approx. 5mx4m. Living flame gas fire. Door opening onto garden.

Dining room – approx. 3mx4m. Downstairs toilet and cloakroom Under-stairs storage

Kitchen – approx. 4mx4m. Units in good condition. Cooker and grill (12 months old). Worcester central heating boiler.

External access from kitchen to small porch with access from there to two small storage spaces and to the single garage which is attached to the house.



First Floor

Landing approx. 2.5mx4m with spacious airing cupboard heated by CH radiator

Master bedroom – approx. 6mx5m with vanity unit and en suite. Fitted wardrobes

2nd bedroom – approx. 6mx4m with fitted vanity unit.

3rd bedroom – approx. 4,5mx4m with fitted wardrobes.

4th bedroom – approx. 4mx3m

Bathroom – Shower over bath and toilet.

Grounds

Access from Thorley Lane via a single gate and pathway to front door.

Rear access from Larkhill Close, a quiet cul-de-sac. This leads on to a spacious forecourt with parking for 6+ cars in front of the garage. Access to meters is via an external door abutting the garage.

At the back of the house is an 'L' shaped lawn approx. 24mx30m on each longest side and approx. 12m wide. On the outer edge are shrubs and some large trees. The garden is well maintained.

There are two small patio areas.

Curate's House

The Curate's house is located on Grange Avenue, Timperley which is currently let under a tenancy agreement until June 2022

The Parish Hall

Attached to Holy Cross Church, the Parish Hall was originally a church – St Catherine's. It became the parish hall when Holy Cross was built. This building offers a large, bright space for parish functions, as well as a meeting place for other organisations.

Within the main hall, events such as the Easter and Christmas Fairs are held. In pre-pandemic times, there's a community café – on a Monday. It's a place for fundraisers, social events and some worship such as Breakfast Club and Café Worship.

The hall is let out, to raise funds, to a before and after school club and pre – school run by Get, Set, Go – as well as other groups from Brownies to Yoga and for private parties. It is also used as a polling station for local and national elections.

There is a new kitchen, a smaller room which is useful for meetings and a large separate store room, as well as a car park which also serves Holy Cross church.



5. Leaders and Volunteer Lay Workers

In recent times we have been fortunate to have two clergy – one full and one half time serving in the parish. Periodically, we have had a curate. It is hoped that at some point soon we will have a curate again. We have also had Ordinands come to us for training from time to time.

Lay Ministry

Members of the congregation are encouraged to undertake a number of lay roles. In recent years, some have attended the diocesan lay conference, the Called to Serve day at Foxhill and two have taken the Foundation for Ministry course. Two members of the parish were part of the worship team with the previous incumbent. Four members of the congregation take Morning and Evening Prayer. Breakfast Club and Café Worship are largely led by a lay person.

Church Wardens

Our Churchwardens are Stephen Taylor and Judith Woolley. Stephen tends to be responsible for Christ Church, whilst Judith is predominantly at Holy Cross.

The PCC

There are currently 17 members of the PCC – with two vacancies. This number includes the two church wardens, the treasurer and the secretary. Four members also sit on Deanery Synod.

Music

We have a skilled parish Director of Music and Organist, Neil Provost, mainly based at Christ Church, with a small robed choir – enhanced for special occasions. There is also a volunteer organist, Vivienne Grantham, (who works with Neil) based at Holy Cross with a small music group and an ad hoc choir.

Verger

We have a parish verger, Freda Murphy, who is largely based at Christ Church, and assists at most services there but who assists at Holy Cross as well on occasions.

Volunteer Lay Workers

There is a Parish WhatsApp group – of about 50 – who share a multiplicity of messages and information but gather for daily prayer at 11.00am.

Lay workers primarily work with baptism families and support the bereaved and are also involved in visiting the house bound and sick.

Pre-pandemic, a team administer home communion. Communion was also taken to residents in a number of local care homes. Lay members assist with communion in church as well.

Pre-pandemic two house groups met under lay direction.

The parish office is managed by David Bolton.

The parish website is managed by Neil Provost.

The Facebook page is managed by Rouba Bunker.

A quarterly newsletter and a weekly newsletter are also published from the parish office.

6. Parish Activity & Outreach

We have a number of commitments to outreach within the Parish which are reliably sustained. Lay workers meet with many people each week offering activities across a range of ages and interests.

Social Committee

As well as activity built around worship, there is regular opportunity provided within the parish to enjoy fellowship through a variety of social activities organised by a Social Committee. A diary of events is created and distributed each year.



All of these occasions are open to anyone in our community and we try to publicise events as widely as possible – we recognise that there is always more that can be done to encourage new people to attend events.

Mothers' Union (MU)

Mothers 'Union Branch meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Parish Hall, opening with a short act of worship followed by a varied programme of activities and speakers.

The Wednesday Men

The Wednesday Men Group welcomes all men of Timperley Parish for fellowship and conversation. They normally meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 12.00 at the Quarry Bank Inn for lunch and refreshment.

Pastoral Care Team

The parish has a dedicated team of volunteers who assist the clergy to care for the emotional and spiritual needs of church members who are ill, isolated or struggling in whatever way. They contact individuals, visit in their homes, and listen, talk and pray with them, as well as taking Holy Communion to them.

Baptism Support

The Baptism Support team aim to encourage parents to bring their children to Café Worship and Breakfast club.

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Breakfast Club

Breakfast club meets every third Sunday in the month at 8.45am onwards at the Parish Hall, to enjoy breakfast and a chance to chat together while the children join in various themed craft activities before an informal short time of worship.



Community Cafe

Every Monday morning between 10am and 12pm, the Community Café is open in the Parish Hall – it's somewhere to come to chat, enjoy something to eat and drink, make friends and it's all completely free. The Community Café is a registered Place of Welcome, where everyone is accepted and welcomed.

Craft Group

There is a monthly Parish Craft Group meeting (pre-pandemic) in the Parish hall run by church members. Around one third of this group are non-church members, contacted by word of mouth. Furthermore, members support events and are very generous with their time particularly in preparation for the Christmas and Easter 'craft and coffee' mornings. The items made by the craft group are sold through the parish WhatsApp group, Facebook page, the online shop and word of mouth with the proceeds going to the mission and ministry of the parish.

Bereavement Support Group

The Bereavement Support Group works to integrate those they meet into the life of the church through the Wednesday Group, the afternoon teas and the Craft Group. Bereavement visitors deliver flowers to the recently bereaved and there is an annual All Souls service held at Christ Church.

Mission Support

The Parish supports Christian Aid Week each year and joins with the Churches Together in Timperley - CTIT - in hosting an annual Coffee Evening and 'Sing for Your Supper' fund raising event

The Children's Society is supported by our Christingle Services and a yearly Quiz Evening with refreshments. Members of the congregation also have home-collecting boxes.

We also support the Christian Hospital in Vellore, India, and the Sisters of Melanesia by holding an Afternoon Tea and Raffle, in aid of each of them bi-annually.

The Parish supports three further charities, on a three yearly cycle.

The chosen Home Charities for 2021 until 2024 are Trafford Domestic Abuse and Mustard Seed and for overseas - Tearfund.

Involvement with Local Schools

There is contact with Broomwood Primary, Wellington Secondary and Cloverlea Primary schools especially at Christmas when the schools hold their carol services in Christ Church.

Part of the school curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2 involves class visits to Christ Church which are usually hosted by one of the clergy.

Village Club

The Village Club – a social committee of very long standing and based in the village, the club has a room for hire and bowls and snooker facilities. By tradition the vicar is invited to be the Chairman of this group each year at their AGM.

Timperley Country Fair

Timperley Country Fair - an annual event held at the Larkhill Community Centre in the Village at which the Parish hires a stall, selling preserves, cakes and other produce plus crafts – all profits go to Parish funds. This also presents an opportunity to promote our Churches and activity within the Parish.



7. Ecumenical Involvement

Churches Together in Timperley

The Parish is actively involved with Churches Together in Timperley (CTIT). There are joint events to support charities such as Christian Aid.

There are usually shared services during the year, shared activities, especially at Christmas and Easter and some shared study – such as Alpha and book groups.

The annual World Day of Prayer sees a joint service in one of the churches held on zoom in 2021.

A member of the parish is currently the chair of CTIT.



Foodbank

A food bank has been established in Timperley – a joint ecumenical project in association with the Trussell Trust – and to which the PCC made a financial contribution. This is called the Trafford South Foodbank. There are 5 distribution centres in Trafford - one of which is based in the village at the Methodist Church. There is also a warehouse in the parish. Many parishioners work at the foodbank and one of the churchwardens is the chair.

8. Our New Vicar

The Parish of Timperley is large and busy with many aspirations for the future life and work of the church here. There are many members of our two churches already committed to actively and faithfully living and promoting the Christian message in this place, but we want the involvement of an interested and enthusiastic new Vicar who will provide the onward leadership we require; If that is you, you can be assured of a warm welcome and our continuing work and support.

What are we looking for in our new Vicar?

You will feel led by the Holy Spirit, confident in prayerful expression of your relationship with God and Jesus; mature in faith, with the ability to inspire others to develop their own faith and prayer.

Your understanding of the Bible will underpin your faith; you will be able to convey that understanding to others through preaching, teaching and personal example.

You are a Priest for whom the Eucharist is a central part of your personal spirituality; you lead worship with dignity and imagination, comfortable with both traditional and more informal styles of worship, feeling equally at home with the Book of Common Prayer as you are with Common Worship.

You will want to immerse yourself in the secular life of the parish, joining us at social and other events, as well as being a visible part of the wider community in Timperley.

You will have a desire to strengthen and support the growth of music within the parish alongside our Director of Music, volunteer musicians and singers in both traditional and contemporary styles of music.

You have sufficient life experience and maturity to allow you to be able to talk with and listen to people empathetically and effectively; you are personable and approachable. Ideally you will have work experience prior to ordained ministry, although this is not an absolute for the right person if the Holy Spirit leads you to us.

You can offer strong, supportive leadership; a team builder; you have experience of developing outreach within a community and will encourage our lay ministry in using their skills and God given talents to support pastoral work within the Parish.

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You are a person who recognizes the importance of engaging with children, young people and families in the Parish, especially the disadvantaged within the community, whilst remaining compassionate about the needs and feelings of our older parishioners. You will be able to help develop specific outreach to these groups.

You are a Priest who is interested in continuing to foster and strengthen the ecumenical partnerships already within the community, and develop new ones.

You have good administrative and IT skills and be willing to engage with using/supporting the parish's social media (WhatsApp and Facebook); you can understand and engage with the financial challenges we need to embrace.

You are someone who can draw on reserves of patience, hopefulness and cheerfulness!

