



# Parish Profile

of

**All Saints' Weston  
and  
St Mark's Shavington**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*"Sharing the love of Jesus with all"*



# **1. Our Parish – The Future**

## **1.1 Our vision**

Our vision can be summarised in our Parish motto “*Sharing the love of Jesus with all*”.

We seek to be a Christian community that encourages, facilitates and supports the growth of our Christian Faith. We pray that, with God’s grace, we will work towards and achieve this goal by:

- Meeting regularly for worship and maintaining our church buildings as welcoming spaces for that purpose in each village.
- Welcoming and being available to all who wish to discover and develop their spiritual life and faith in an atmosphere of friendship and fun.
- Being actively involved as a Christian community in many facets of local community life.
- Developing Lay Ministry - especially pastoral support for the housebound and other members of the community.
- Continuing to strengthen links with the care home in the Parish.
- Building on our existing House Groups as informal forums for faith-based discussion.
- Supporting our Children and Families worker and the work they lead.
- Developing our Community Cafés which have become important contact points between the churches and the local community. Contact and interaction with our local community is at the foundation of our mission.
- Meeting the challenge of rebuilding St Mark’s.

## 1.2 Who can lead us there?

We pride ourselves in being a small, friendly parish community, with a considerable range of talents and we are keen and willing to work with anyone who is genuinely prepared to help and trust us.

With God's help we are looking for a spiritual leader who will work part-time (3.5 days per week plus Sunday services in exchange for housing and 50% of a stipend). We are looking for a down-to-earth leader who will motivate our church communities to grow.

We would like our priest to:

- Be passionate about their calling and excited about the opportunities for ministry this parish offers.
- Possess a deep, infectious faith and be a skilled communicator in word and deed.
- Provide strong, diplomatic and spiritual leadership, engaging with people of all ages at all levels within the community.
- Recognise, use and develop the skills, talents and energy of our church family and provide support and direction as we seek to live out our faith in our everyday lives.
- Work with us to strengthen our parish: refreshing and guiding our vision.
- Support our Readers and our Children and Families worker in their ministries.
- Have a well-developed sense of humour and a sense of the ridiculous combined with the qualities of calmness, empathy and integrity.
- Be able to manage a part-time role by being well organised and willing to delegate to others.
- Have a demonstrable commitment to fostering a strong and effective safeguarding culture in the parish.

We know that this is a tall order, but remember that the job is what you make of it and what better place to develop your skills in ministry than in this small, incredibly friendly, and supportive Parish which is waiting for an inspiring leader and where laughter and good food - and of course the Grace of Our Lord - are constant priorities.

## 2. Our Parish – The Present

### 2.1 Church life

Our Church life is led by our Vicar, two Readers and a part-time Children and Families worker (who is our only Parish paid employee). We also have one retired clergy person with PTO as a church member. They are supported by two churchwardens and a single PCC as well as many hard-working volunteers serving across a wide variety of activities.

In general, worship tends to be more traditional at All Saints' and more family-oriented and innovative at St Mark's. We realise that church life at its best involves the community throughout the week and not just inside the church building on Sundays. This aspect of church life is important for our future role, along with an awareness of the importance of the Parish system in the traditional life of our nation.

Our electoral roll stands at 98.

Regular Sunday services have been supplemented by, for example:

- Monthly Holy Communion Services at Alexandra Mill Care Home, Shavington
- Occasional open-air services.
- Civic Remembrance Sunday service in Shavington.
- Occasional joint services with Shavington Methodist church.
- Joint Sunday services in the Parish.
- Services commemorating Ascension Day and All Souls' Day.
- Special services during Festivals.



Regular activities include:

- Edward Bear Club (a Messy Church type activity) for under 5s and their carers.
- GLOW (God Loves Our World) for 5-11s and their carers.
- Toddler Group.

The above 3 activities are led by our Children and Families worker.

- Craft and Chatter.
- BINGO.
- All Saints' choir and a Festival Choir for special occasions.
- SAS (Singers at St. Mark's - a community choir).
- Weekly Community Cafés in both village church halls.
- Church life is supported with Pastoral Care that includes a Prayer Chain, a Prayer Diary and home and hospital visits as required.
- Two House Groups.
- Collecting for St Paul's Pantry (Crewe based food bank initiative).



Additional community-based activities with a wider audience through a variety of other events (often involving food and/or music) such as Garden Parties, Concerts, Parish Meals, Christmas Craft Fair; Shavington Village festival, Weston Fete.

These church and community social events bring us together and are open to all, thus helping us to “*share the love of Jesus with all*”. Some of these events are run to raise funds to support the Parish generally or for specific projects.



We believe that with strong leadership and our own enthusiasm and determination we can flourish and place the Parish in a strong position to face the future.

## 2.2 Church Services

The main Sunday morning services start at 9.30 am at St. Mark's and 11.00 am at All Saints'. The current pattern of such services is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Sunday Celebration (all age) service with breakfast at St. Mark's

Holy Communion (CW) at All Saints'

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion (CW) at St. Mark's

Morning Praise at All Saints'

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Morning Praise at St. Mark's

Holy Communion (CW) at All Saints'

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion (CW) at St. Mark's

Morning Praise at All Saints'

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morning Praise or Holy Communion

Baptism Services are by arrangement on Sunday afternoons.

Clergy and Readers robe when leading and preaching at Holy Communion services, as does the choir at All Saints' church.

Services at St. Mark's church are streamed on our Facebook page.

Online services of Morning Prayer (Wednesdays) and Compline (Thursdays) are streamed on Facebook.

A Rota of duties for leading & preaching (Clergy and Readers), readings and intercessions (congregation members) is in operation. A rota of sidespersons welcome the congregation into the churches every Sunday and perform other duties at services.



All Saints' has a regular volunteer organist (who selects music and hymns relevant to the given readings and themes for the specific service). St Mark's has occasional paid organists and also makes use of music recordings on CD.

Order of Service sheets and Reading sheets (Redemptorist Press) are used regularly.



Fellowship with refreshments follows all main services.



## 2.3 Work with Children and Families

The Children and Families Worker is a vital presence within the Parish, tasked with developing, sustaining, and enriching engagement with children and their families through a variety of faith-based activities and community connections. The role is aimed to nurturing spiritual growth, building relationships, and offering consistent, creative, and welcoming environments for families within the church and local community.



The Children and Families Worker leads and facilitates a toddler group at each church, is heavily engaged with the local Primary Schools and leads worship and a fortnightly after-school club. They also oversee the development and facilitation of various seasonal events and creative projects and play a central role in the planning and delivery of church festivals, ensuring family and child-friendly accessibility. They support the monthly Sunday Celebration Service, and join in with various community group events and outreach initiatives.

## 2.4 Community Cafés

The Community Cafés opened on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, using the church halls as their venue and replaced our Friendship lunches which sadly closed post-Covid. A community grant funded much of the necessary kitchen equipment including professional coffee machines.

The cafés are open one day a week, Wednesday at All Saints' and Friday at St. Mark's, and are run by volunteers who prepare food and drink, wait on tables, make homemade soup and quiches and bake cakes.



During the four years that they have been open, customer numbers have increased tremendously. The cafés are the only regular facility of their kind in either village and have become an important part of village community life, offering a friendly welcome and safe space for everyone.

The opportunities offered to volunteers (including young people from local schools and Scout groups) are invaluable, increasing confidence, allowing social interaction

(especially for people who live alone) and give opportunities to people with additional needs.

The cafés pay rental for the use of the halls and this is a vital source of church income.



### **3. Buildings and Land**

#### **3.1 All Saints' Church**

All Saints' church (seating for approximately 150) is situated in the centre of Weston village (within the village conservation area) standing in its own grounds. It is a Grade II listed Victorian building, built in 1840. The building is kept open during daytime throughout the year, with tea & coffee available. There is no burial ground at the church itself; a council cemetery is about 1/4 mile from the church.

Recent and proposed work on the building includes:

- Rebuilding the Bell Cote and part of the East End Gable wall.
- Removal of pews from the back of the church creating space for wheelchairs, pushchairs and serving refreshments.
- New heating system and redecorating the interior planned for summer 2025.



#### **3.2 St Mark's Church**

St. Mark's was originally a wooden mission church built in 1884 and rebuilt in 1890 as a corrugated iron structure after a fire. It had stone cladding applied in 1975. It seats approximately 120, individual seating allowing flexibility of use. A removable altar rail, at the chancel step, provides safer access to communion and further improves the overall flexibility of the church space. The building is opened on Fridays for private prayer during café opening hours.

The church has Wi-Fi, a large screen TV (used to display service content) and a video camera for streaming services.





The Quinquennial inspection in 2015 revealed significant deterioration to the church roof and a predicted remaining life of only 5 years. This, coupled with the fact that the building was initially intended as a “temporary” structure, initiated the New Build project (see section 3.5).

### **3.3. All Saints’ Church Hall**

All Saints’ church hall is across the road from All Saints’ Church.

The hall provides the only public meeting space within Weston village. It is available for church and community organisations and for private parties and other events. It has a kitchen, disabled access and toilet and Wi-Fi. Volunteers help us keep it in good condition.



### **3.4 St Mark’s Church Hall**



The hall was originally stand-alone but was connected to the church in 1997 with a link building housing kitchen and toilet facilities. Disabled access to both church and hall are via the link building door.

The hall is a busy venue hosting regular community and church events. Private children’s and adult’s parties are held throughout the year and we receive many compliments on the facilities available. The hall has Wi-Fi and a large screen television (grant funded) has just been installed.

### **3.5 St Mark’s New Build Project**

Hen Lane field, in the centre of Shavington and approximately 100m from St Mark’s church, was gifted to the church in the 1930s as a site for the construction of a new church for Shavington. This grass field is used for outdoor services and other community events.

The New Build project envisages a building that includes both community and worship spaces, a cafe, a car park and a publicly accessible outdoor area. Full details can be found on the Parish website.

In the 10 years since the project started, building costs have increased dramatically and now stand at around £3.6 million. We had looked to the National Lottery to provide significant and essential support to supplement our available funds (which currently stand at around £540,000 including the sale of our existing site). However, for various reasons this will now not be forthcoming so we are looking at a smaller scale project with a more realistic budget.

### **3.6 The Vicarage**

The 4-bedroom detached house is in the centre of Weston village, providing good family accommodation. A study/office is attached to the house, providing private working space with separate WC. The property has central heating and is double glazed throughout with white UPVC windows and doors, and is fitted with an alarm system. There are gardens to the front and rear and a detached garage.



## **4. Parish Administration**

A single PCC, responsible for the whole parish, meets bimonthly. We are a friendly group who also meet socially (in recent years we have held a summer BBQ). We are very keen to support our vicar's ministry whenever we can, and welcome practical and feasible initiatives. In particular, we are keen to encourage all forms of shared activity with the community, and in the past years we have all worked hard to ensure the two church communities function as a united entity.

We have two churchwardens (one from each church), a Treasurer, a PCC Secretary and a Parish Safeguarding Officer, along with two Diocesan Synod representatives. The post of Parish Administrator has not been filled for several years but is open to negotiation if needed.

Additionally, each church has a management committee which organises fund raising, housekeeping and repairs and reports to PCC.

## **4. Finance**

With the work of our conscientious treasurer, Parish finances are in a good order with a strong financial position, due in large part to the contribution made by our Community Cafés. We have met our Parish Share liabilities in full for several years.

Over the last 5 years, we have seen an increase in our general fund income of 26% (comparing 2024 results against 2019), whilst our expenditure increased by only 16%, resulting in a general fund surplus of nearly £4000 in 2024.

Our Children and Families Worker is paid from a restricted fund which is supported by donations.

Annual donations are made to local, national and international charities and our Cafés make donations to 12 charities nominated by customers based on profits during Lent. We also support Christian Aid and The Children's Society.

The gift aid secretary and the treasurer ensure that all donations are gift aided, wherever possible. This includes claims for the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme on loose plate collections at both churches.

A charitable organisation independent of the PCC known as FOALS (Friends of All Saints') was established by members of the congregation in 2014 for the purpose of raising funds for modernisation of All Saints' Church. Their support has been invaluable and has enabled essential structural repairs to be carried out.

## **5. Our Locality**

### **5.1 Geography**

The two main villages, Shavington and Weston (2 miles apart), are situated approximately 10 minutes from the centre of Crewe in the South of Cheshire and 30 miles from Chester itself. The hamlets of Gresty, Basford and Chorlton along with the Wychwood Park and Wychwood Village developments also lie within the Parish boundary. Junction 16 of the M6 and Crewe Railway station are both a short distance away, providing quick access to all parts of the country. A map of the Parish is included as Appendix 1.

## **5.2 Our Growing Community**

Historically this has been a rural community, but housebuilding has characterised the recent past in the Parish. Shavington in particular has grown considerably in recent years, with 5 new housing estates completed and a further under construction. The population of Weston village and its environs will more than double in the next 5 years in terms of houses and people. At present the population is 4077, with 750 new builds (approximately 2250 people) being built now and a further 650 houses (1950 people) being proposed shortly. Whilst Shavington and its environs has an estimated population of the civil parish of Shavington is around 7700 with the latest permitted house building nearing completion and the possibility of further building in the area is not ruled out. This population increase provides a challenge to what was a relatively small rural Parish, which we are keen to meet.

## **5.3 Education**

- Day Nurseries in both Weston and Shavington.
- Weston Primary School.
- Shavington Primary School.
- Shavington Academy High School.

Children from our Parish also attend other High Schools, Sixth Form and further education colleges in Crewe, Nantwich and elsewhere.

## **5.4 Healthcare**

The Parish is served by a modern medical centre on the edge of Shavington, and Leighton Hospital is about 6 miles away.

## **5.5 Shopping and Leisure**

### **Weston**

- White Lion Inn
- Bowling Green
- Cricket Club
- Scout Group
- Allotments
- Playing Fields x 2
- Wychwood Park PGA Golf Club, Hotel and Conference Centre
- Wychwood Village Hall

### **Shavington**

- Alexandra Mill Care Home
- 2 Convenience Stores
- Chip Shop
- Off License
- Costa Coffee
- Petrol Stations plus shops x 2
- Hairdressers
- 4 Public Houses (The Elephant, The Vine, Hickory's and Station Pilot)
- Social Club Sports and Leisure Centre
- Scout Group



- Brownies
- Crewe Alexandra Soccer Centre
- Allotments

## **5.6 Local Economy**

The main employers in the area include:

- Bentley Motors
- Alstom
- Mornflake Oats
- BAe Systems at Radway Green
- Leighton Hospital
- Railway-linked Businesses

In recent years, a wide range of new companies have been attracted to the area, with a growing high technology, logistics and service sector element.

## **6. Associated Documents**

Parish Boundary Map (Appendix 1).

All Saints' Weston and St Mark's Shavington Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024 (available separately and on the Parish website).

## **7. Contacts and further information**

### **Bishop of Stockport:**

**The Right Reverend Sam Corley**

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### **Churchwardens:**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on any issues of detail, if required.

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### **Church Websites/Facebook:**

<https://allsaintsandstmarks.com/> (main church website)

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/weston-all-saints-church>

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/shavington-st-mark>

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsandstmarks>

### **Civil Parish Websites:**

<http://www.weston-basford.co.uk>

[www.scgpc.org.uk](http://www.scgpc.org.uk)

# Appendix 1

## Weston and Shavington Ecclesiastical Parish Boundary Map

