



# ALL SAINTS HOOLE



parish profile

## Introduction

To live  
like  
with  
for  
Jesus

We are so excited that you are reading our parish profile. Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether you would like to come and lead us on into new and exciting adventures with Jesus. Our prayer is that God would make it clear to you if he is calling you to be our new vicar.

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# Biblical basis

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All Saints is a lively and caring evangelical church. The ministry over many years has been very much Bible based and designed to help the congregation know Jesus as Saviour, serve Jesus as Lord and support one another as we grow together in our faith and commitment to Jesus. We praise God that the church has been well taught and blessed.

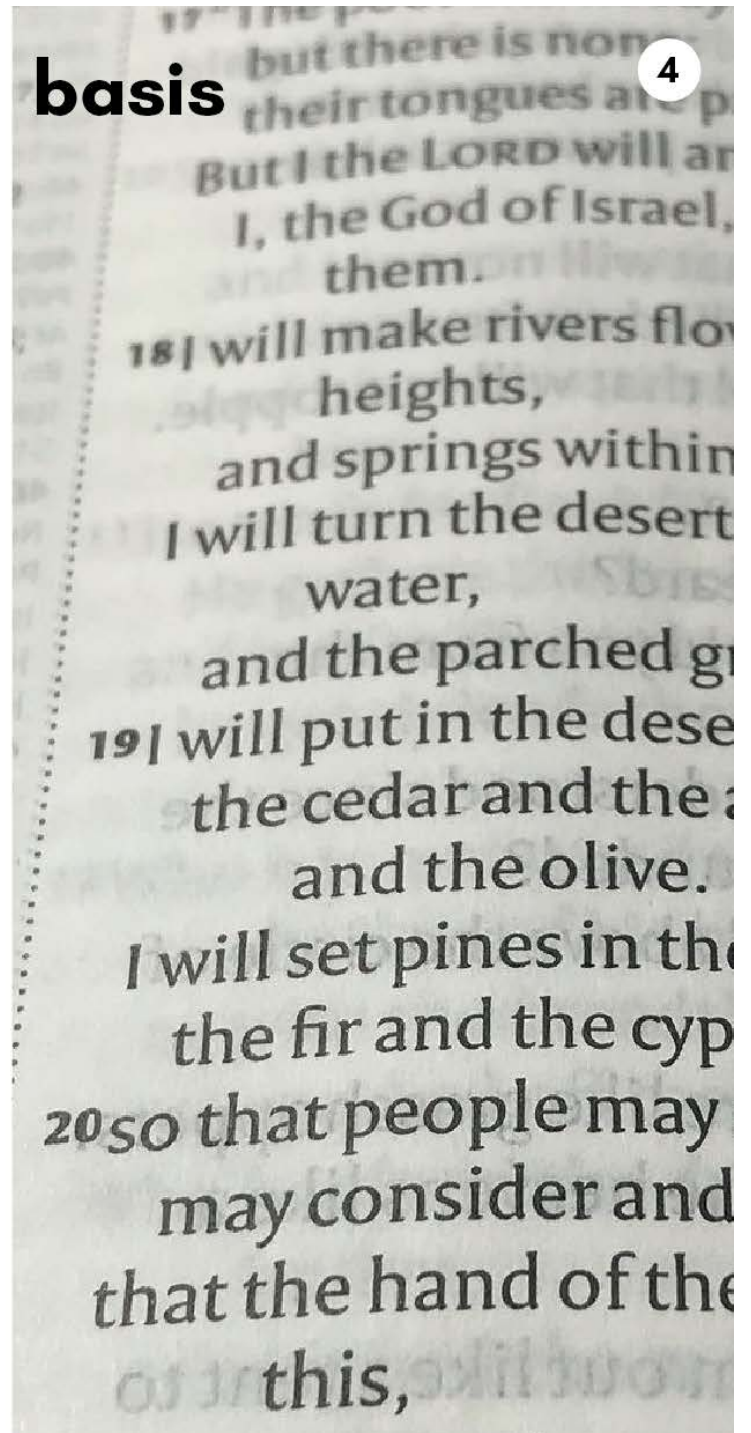
## Our Biblical position

Salvation comes through belief in Jesus alone (John 3:16 and other confirmatory scriptures)

Each believer is a disciple of Jesus and has a responsibility to live out the gospel, growing in obedience to the teaching of scripture and sharing the good news as the Holy Spirit gives opportunity (Matthew 28:19-20 and other confirmatory scriptures). Much emphasis in the last 2 years plus has been on representing Jesus on our 'frontlines'- usually the places where we have our main contact with people in activities not connected with the church. This flows from our vision to, 'live with Jesus, like Jesus, for Jesus.'

We each have responsibility to support and encourage each other as we live by that vision (John 13:34-35).

We will seek to serve our community with the same love that Jesus showed and by providing support where appropriate and especially to those experiencing poverty and other dimensions of deprivation (Hebrews 13:16).



# Biblical basis

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The outworking of the above will be seen as you read through this document. We are blessed to have so many people active in helping to support the mission of the church, but we do need more of all ages and especially adults under 35 years of age and young families. This is a challenge the church will need to respond to both in the vacancy and beyond.

We acknowledge our need to draw close to and honour God our Father, to be responsive to the Holy Spirit in worship and in all aspects of church life, and for individuals to keep seeking the Spirit's presence and leading in all they do.

Other aspects of the Holy Spirit's work, such as empowering, equipping and gifting have not, to the same extent, featured in church life. That is not to imply that we have not seen fruit from the initiatives the church has taken, There have been good and effective initiatives taken by many committed people as will be seen from other parts of this document.

However, there is a recognition that, in order to more fully live with Jesus, like Jesus, for Jesus we have to be more responsive to all aspects of the Holy Spirit's work. To achieve this there is an acceptance that we also need to grow in our understanding of, and confidence in, mission and evangelism as a means of reaching out to those to whom the Holy Spirit leads us. That has become increasingly difficult as restrictions on speaking with people about faith have increased. A great confidence builder is to know you have the endorsement and support of the church and to know your worth before God. More teaching and ministry in those areas is crucial if the church is to increase its fruitfulness in mission and evangelism.

In summary, the church has benefited from having a minister and others involved in ministry who were and are committed to faithfully teaching the scriptures and to making disciples. Nevertheless, there is still much to do and we look forward to having a minister who will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and take the church on to new things in the Lord.



## who are we looking for?

In seeking God's way ahead for All Saints', we are looking for:

A person with a deep love for God, who being Bible-based and Spirit led, is committed to grow in their personal discipleship;

A leader who will discern God's vision for our church and convert it into a clear direction, bringing life and vitality to our mission to show God's love to our communities in all their varieties;

Someone who is willing and able to lead, develop and be supported by effective teams made up of staff and volunteers;

A pastoral person with a servant heart who will encourage and develop a culture of pastoral care amongst church members.

# Who are we looking for?

A preacher and teacher who naturally shares the Gospel and will help our wide range of ages and abilities to develop a deeper understanding of God's word;

A leader who will develop the vocation of church members to live like Jesus, with Jesus and for Jesus enabling the Kingdom of God to make a transforming difference in our community and individual frontlines;

A mission-focussed person with a heart to reach new disciples, and to encourage others to share the good news of Jesus, especially but not exclusively with young families and younger people, while encouraging, developing, challenging and sustaining those considered mature in faith;

A leader who can discern courageously what existing ministries need to be sustained, developed, or laid down within the church.



All Saints Church, Hoole is in the deanery of Chester and the diocese of Chester. It is a Grade II listed building having originally been built in 1867 to a design by S.W Dawkes out of red sandstone. It was built as a chapel to Christchurch, Newtown who had been given responsibility for the area's Church of England pastoral care, as the vicar of Christchurch, Rev .R D Thomas, was very interested in the social development of Victorian Hoole.

All Saints became the district church for Hoole and Newton. It was another four years before the church was consecrated, even though services were held. Thus, 2021 marks the 150th year of the consecration of All Saints.

The vicarage, next to the church, was built in 1885. In 1911 the church was extended by the building of a vestry and in 1912 the south aisle was added.

In the late 20th century the interior of church was reordered by Graham Holland and the dull, green glass in the large windows was replaced by clearer glass to let in the light and let out God's love. All Saints is a warm, welcoming, light and airy building. In 1960 the church hall was built but it was greatly extended at the beginning of the 21st century to become the Church Centre, a hub of activity for church use and use by the wider community.

# A brief history





## A New Home: The Vicarage

The vicarage at All Saints is a spacious Victorian, detached, two storey house situated across the car park from the main church building. The vicarage was originally built in 1885 and is in a conservation area. It has a separate vehicular entrance with ample parking and it has its own grounds to one side of the building which are secure and secluded. The grounds provide a large play space for children and are home to a wide variety of wildlife. The vicarage is convenient for all local amenities.

Inside the house there is an entrance hall leading into two living areas for the family, a kitchen and a utility room. There is also a downstairs cloakroom. Upstairs, there are 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and an additional cloakroom. There is also a basement.

The house underwent refurbishment and extension in 2013. Re-designing the ground floor provided a separate, disabled access to the 'working' part of the building. This comprises a study and library/ waiting area which can also be accessed from the house. From the entrance there is also access to a Parish Office and cloakroom.

## About Hoole

Hoole is a lively and popular area to the north east of Chester city centre. It's population was recorded at nearly 9,500 in the 2011 Census. The area is very much one of community with residents know locally as 'Hooligans'. Its proximity to the M56 motorway and A55 makes it a popular area to live in for people commuting to all areas of the north west of England and North Wales. It is also very close to the main Chester Railway Station.

The area comprises a mix of social and private housing. There is traditional terraced housing, inter and post war semis, large Victorian villas, a small number of modern houses and retirement apartments. To the north of the parish is an area known locally as The Groves which is a very mixed area, with some areas of social deprivation. It is an area that our pioneering curate, Sam is working in and has established The Groves Church.

Many people travel into Hoole to shop in the Faulkner Street area, where there is an excellent selection of high quality independent traders and cafes, pubs and restaurants, including the famous 'Sticky Walnut' restaurant. Turning on the Christmas lights draws many to the area under normal conditions and members of the All Saints church family help with this.



# About Hoole

Hoole has 3 successful primary schools in the area, including Hoole CofE Primary School which has very strong links with our church. There is good state high school education in the area at Upton High School and Bishop Bluecoat CofE High School , Gt Boughton.

At the centre of Hoole is Alexandra Park, with its bowling greens, tennis courts and large children's play area, well used by the many families in the area.

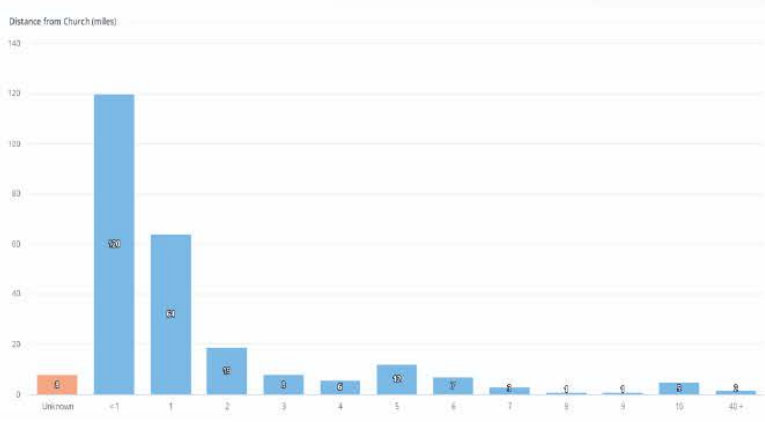
Very popular with the local community is Hoole Community Centre situated in the former Westminster Rd School site, a building owned by the church. More will be said later.

Hoole Road, the main thoroughfare through the area, is lined with small hotels and guest houses. All Saints welcomes many visitors who are on a city break.



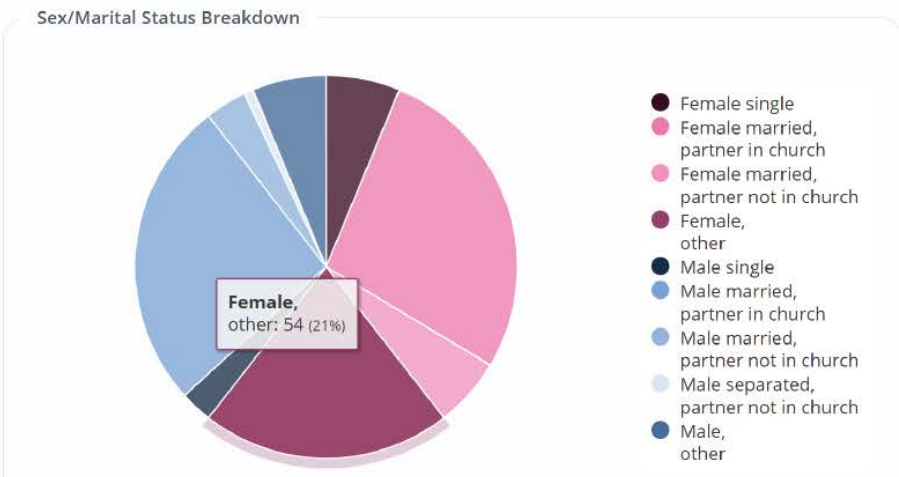
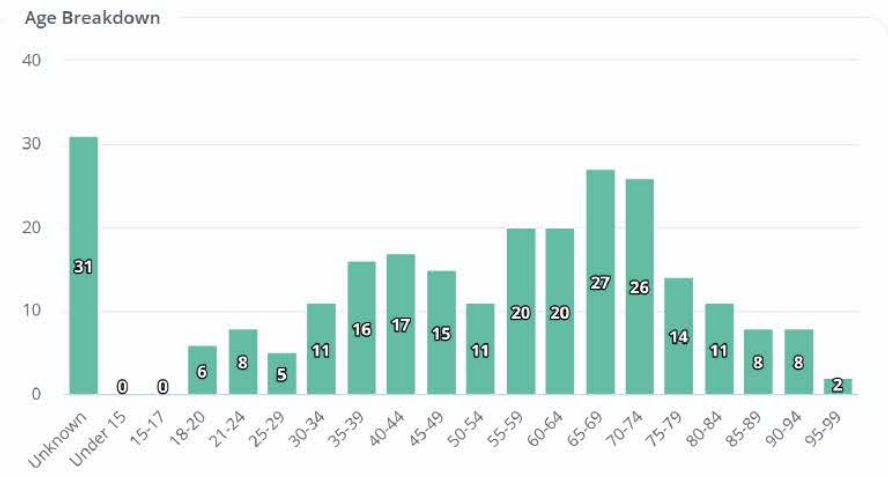
# The nature of the Parish

The majority of the congregation of All Saints comes from the local area and up to 1 mile away but the graph and map do show that people do choose to come to the church from all over the surrounding area, some travelling miles to worship



256 contacts  
155 female  
101 male  
58 avg. age  
2.6 miles avg. distance

The age profile of the church shows that the majority of the congregation are 55+. Whilst not recorded on the graph 59 children attend the church. The older nature of the congregation is an issue that the church must address .





# The Groves Church



The history behind the church plant:

The Groves Church has officially been a church plant for the last two years, but the story starts back in 2016. All Saints Church had a week of prayer and fasting to ask God what his missional priorities were for the parish. A number of people had the same sense of God speaking to All Saints about the top of the parish called 'the Groves'. Sam (Assistant Pastor at the time) and Katy D-H felt that God was calling them to move onto the Groves and start a worshipping community there. This started as a missional community called 'All Saints on the Groves' under the umbrella of All Saints parish church. However as it grew it was agreed that at Easter 2019 it would launch as a church plant called The Groves Church. The church is now run by Rev Sam D-H who has been allowed to stay in the parish as pioneer curate by the Bishop of Chester in order to lead the plant.

[www.thegroveschurch.org](http://www.thegroveschurch.org)

## Vision

The Groves Church exists to see the Groves and beyond transformed by God. Our heart is to build a family. We want to be a place where whoever you are and whatever is going on in your life, you are welcome. We want to be a community of real people, living real lives, honest about all the struggles and celebrating all the triumphs. We exist to see Jesus change lives, heal brokenness and bring hope. We exist because God desires each and every person on this earth to experience forgiveness and fullness of life. Finally, we exist to worship God, because he is worthy of it.

We express this desire with three simple words: connection, community and freedom.

Connection - Loving where we live, everyone matters

Community - Being known, becoming a family

Freedom - Meeting Jesus, Becoming free

## Meeting Rhythms

Covid has affected everyone's meeting rhythms, but prior to last March the church met weekly in communities. These are our main places of worship, discipleship and pastoral care. These would often also centre around food and always contain a bible study. These communities would then meet together every two weeks as a whole to eat and worship at our local school.

## Local Partnerships

The church plant has excellent standing with the local school. We work in partnership with them to support vulnerable families and meet need as it arises. We also provide a free lego club, an after school club set up to bless the school and pupils. The school allows the church to use its building on a Sunday morning and H.E.T.T.Y, the attached pre-school, help to fund our food provision for our morning worship. Finally Sam is a Governor at the school.

The Groves Church is also an official partner of the Crossways Community Hub. This is food parcel provision service for those in need. The church collects food and drops it at the hub and is used by the local school and residents as a referral service to make sure those who need a food parcel receive it.

The church is also part of Link Up, a group of local churches committed to working together for the sake of the gospel. In addition to this we also are part of a national relational network of church leaders who are leading small urban estate plants.

## Priorities

The Groves Church passionately believes in the importance of growing in relationship with Jesus, building a family and living on mission. We try to make sure all we do passes through these filters. Our worship style is very relaxed and informal and probably sits best within the charismatic evangelical tradition. We'd love to work with someone passionate about mission and church planting in the power of the Holy Spirit, and believes that God loves transforming lives today.



# Meet the staff



**Rev Sam Durdant-Hollamby**

TGC Pastor  
Parish Curate



**Emma Smith**

Director of the B-it Theatre Company  
Youth Pastor



**Helen Dymond**

Parish Administrator



**Christina Beveridge**

Church Centre Manager



**Hannah Dymond**

Finance Administrator



**Helen Ellis**

Families Work Co-ordinator



**Andy Warren**

Caretaker



**Rhiannon Cooke**

Heart and Soul Cafe Manager



**Christopher Wilkinson**

Tech Support



**Rachel Kirkland**

Website Administrator

# Leadership



The Leadership Team began life after our attendance at a number of day conferences run by The Lead Academy, which were facilitated by the Diocese. At first the membership comprised those who attended those events, and over time has changed and developed. Currently the team is made up of Sam Durdant-Hollamby our Curate, Andy Creeth and John Chester our two Church Wardens, Anita Benson who now looks after our Home Groups and Vicki Bulgin. The Team's main tasks have always been prayer and planning from a 'Vision' point of view rather than from a more practical 'nuts and bolts' standpoint.

Standing Committee is currently made up of Vice-chair of the PCC, Jeff Turnbull, Wardens, Andy Creeth and John Chester, Treasurer, Garnett Carr and PCC secretary, Alex Lewis. It meets at the beginning of each month to manage the financial and statutory matters of the church, to forward business delegated by the PCC and to identify issues to be discussed by the PCC.

Wardens. Our wardens, Andy and John are both very hardworking and experienced in supporting the staff and church family.

The PCC is made up of Vice chair and Reader, Jeff Turnbull, our curate, two Wardens, three Readers, the treasurer and 13 elected members plus a staff member. It meets every other month in full. Committees meet in the alternate months and report back to the full PCC. Meetings always begin and end with prayer. The PCC seeks to prayerfully discern and follow God's will for the church. We are fortunate that members have a wide range of skills which are utilized to run a busy church and deal with our community responsibilities. Aware that the PCC has a mostly 'older' age profile we would love to see younger people taking on the mantle of responsibility.



# Preaching



All Saints has a long tradition of good Biblical preaching. At our best, this preaching is marked by solid Biblical teaching and relevant life application and delivered in the power of the Spirit. Preaching is usually planned with a sermon series, and often accompanied by study materials prepared for the Home-groups. We are looking for a Vicar who will continue this tradition of Biblical preaching and who will encourage others to develop in this ministry.

The preaching team, usually led by the vicar, but currently led by John Benson, are experienced and talented preachers and teachers. It includes John B and John P (yes, we do have a lot of John's in the church) and all the readers. Sam, our curate preaches sometimes at All Saints, but concentrates on The Groves Church

Our All Age Worship services are led by Emma, Ian Armstrong and Ron Glenn, Charli Perkins, Josie Hart and Marianne Heath. A wonderful blessing has been watching Josie Hart grow up through the youth groups and go on to lead music and give talks both in church and on line.

John Benson heads up our preaching team. He is a retired Vicar and a regular member of the preaching team. Most of his ministry was in the Diocese of Singapore where he was Vicar of several large parishes, Director of Training for the Diocese, Dean of Cambodia and Dean of Laos. John and Anita moved to Chester in 2009 after his retirement.



John Patterson spent some thirty years in parish and other ministry in different parts of Liverpool. This was followed by three years working for the Church of Uganda. He believes that study of the Bible is central to the spiritual growth of Christians.

# Meet the Readers



## Bill Holt

Bill Holt has served as a Reader in this parish since he was licensed in 1978. Since 2018 has been an Emeritus Reader with PTO. During this time as well leading worship and preaching at All Saints he has also lead and preached in 13 other parishes around the area. Bill runs a Senior Citizens club in the city centre and until old age got to her took his dog to visit a Residential Home in the parish as a Therapy Dogs Nationwide team. His other involvement at the moment is with Home Communion and Heart and Soul Café plus whatever God calls him to next. Bill worked as a high school teacher for 32 years until he took early retirement at Christmas 2002



## Vicki Bulgin

Vicki was licensed as a Reader nearly 30 years ago in 1991 here in the Chester Diocese, on completion of her training which began in Cambridge [Diocese of Ely]. At the time she was a Secondary School music teacher in North Wales and retired in 2008 - slightly early! On retirement she began funeral ministry to add to her roles as Preacher, Service leader and Home Group leader. She also led the music group for some years and still plays keyboard at some 9.00 services. She has been a member of the Leadership Team since its inception and before that of the Vicar's Advisory Group



## Jeff Turnbull

Jeff Turnbull was originally licensed as a Reader in Wakefield Diocese and three years ago retired from his post as Diocesan Director of Education for Chester Diocese, a post he held for 26 years. Since retirement, he has retained his link with the University of Chester where he is Pro-Chancellor and President of the University Council. In recent years Jeff has been greatly blessed in his personal faith by the teaching ministry of Tom Wright as well as the inspirational teaching he has received at All Saints.' He is married to Margaret and has three daughters and three grandsons.



## Tina Trevett

Tina Trevett has been a Reader for 24 years, initially in Frome, Somerset where she was a member of the leadership team mainly responsible for discipleship and teaching. In 2006 she had the opportunity to take an MA in Christian Leadership and felt that God was preparing her for a change in her ministry. God led Tina and husband, John, to leave Frome and move to a small village a few miles down the road where she got involved with supporting a newly planted and growing congregation of mainly younger families. Alongside this move came an opportunity to work as a lecturer for a Bible College: ForMission. Tina always loved teaching and especially working with small groups to dig deeper and explore the relevance of God's word to our lives and ministry. Tina and John have been at All Saints since the beginning of 2018 and Tina was formally licensed as a Reader here in October 2019

# Worship



**All Age Worship** is held at 10.45 on the first Sunday of the month. As its name implies it is designed to be accessible to all ages. The service is shorter and 'lighter' than the usual 10.45 service and will frequently involve families, quizzes/activities, children and teenagers as well as older church members. There are 5 on the organising team, with involvement being shared and giftings used as much as possible. During the lockdown we have had to adapt to recording services. It has also meant that a variety of families and individuals have been able to record contributions. Feedback has been positive, with members appreciating a sense of involvement and belonging.

**Sunday worship** usually takes place at 9.00am and 10.45am

**9.00am** is a service of Holy Communion, often appealing to older members of the church family. The sermons follow the sermon series and it is a quieter, more contemplative service

**10.45am** has a mix of all age worship, Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. Children join the service at the beginning with parents and then go to the Church Centre for Sunday Club, rejoining parents if it a service of Holy Communion. Teaching follows a sermon series that is further expanded by Homegroup studies

**Since Covid** services have continued in the church at 9.00am, unless required to stop. They are currently suspended.

Services have now gone online and can be found on Facebook and YouTube. Aware that contributors to normal online services are older, we are currently looking for ways to attract the younger members of the church family to actively participate, aware that online services will be very much part of the future church.



# Sung Worship



Music is a very important part of worshipping in All Saints. The Worship and Multi Media group is a team of musicians, sound engineers and easy worship operators all working together to lead our congregation in sung worship. We are richly blessed by the talented people within the team who bring their own skills and give their time so generously.

We regard ourselves very much as a team, all sharing in leading and enabling corporate worship at All Saints Church. Our musicians are drawn from across the age range of our Church Family.

A number of our young people join the main music group once a month and Rising Generation, our dedicated youth band, lead the worship at our All Age Worship services. We incorporate wide range of songs and hymns so that the whole of our Church Family are able to engage in sung worship accompanied by a variety of instruments – guitars, keyboard, flute, violin, saxophone, clarinet, cornet etc.

Lockdown hasn't stopped us. We have continued to provide music for our online services, finding new ways to work and worship together but separately, and acquiring a few new skills along the way.

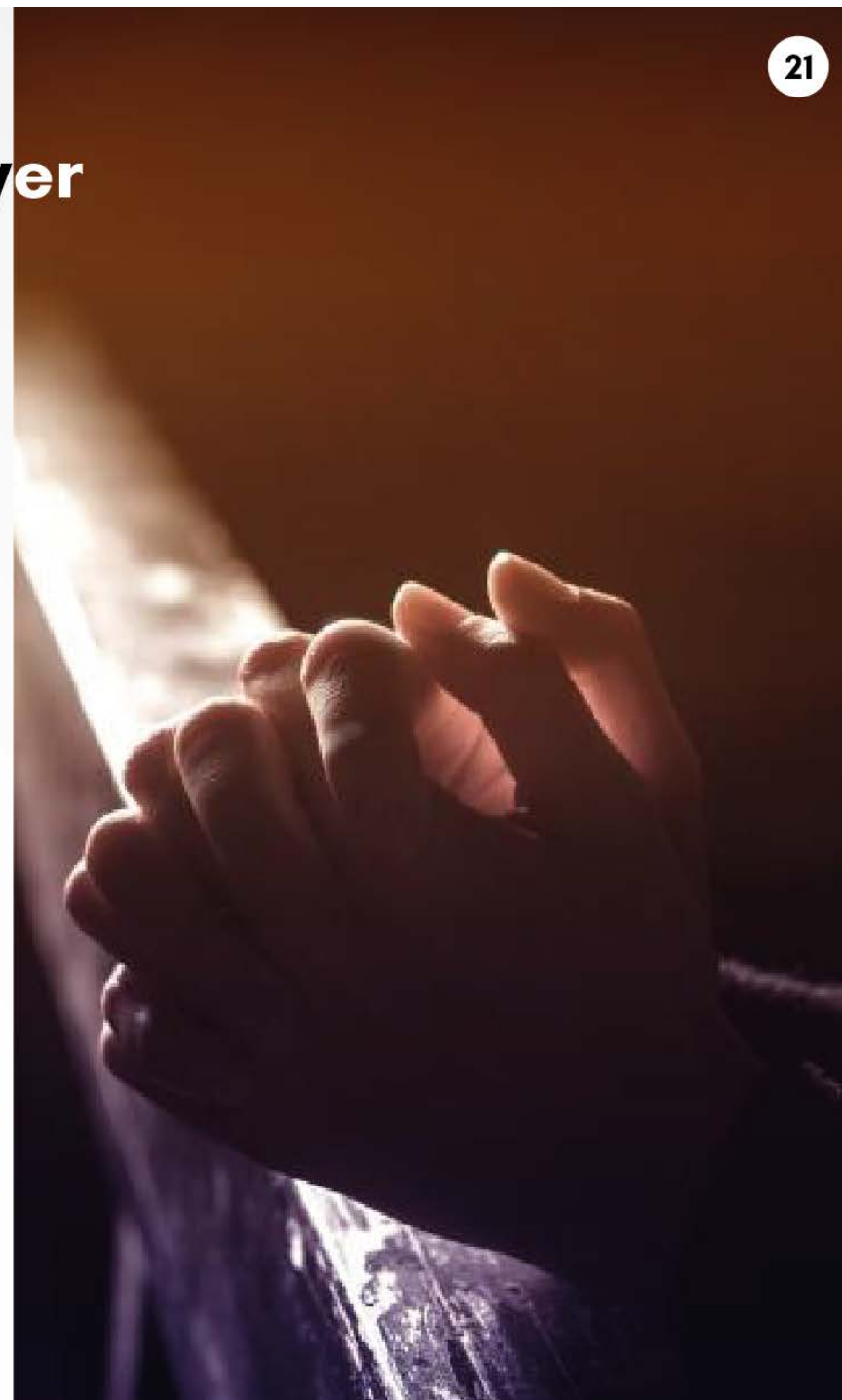
# Prayer

Prayer is a vitally important part of the life of the church family at All Saints, both for individuals, small groups and as part of corporate worship. Groups have always met to share matters for prayer but more recently the opportunity to form prayer clusters during the pandemic has been a way of caring and sharing and bringing our concerns and our praise to God. Weeks of prayer have been held to seek God's guidance for particular areas of church life or to join in a national call to prayer

Members of the church family lead prayer in all the services and children and families often lead prayers in our All Age Worship service held at the beginning of each month.

## **Open to God**

The church prayer meeting, Open to God, is held on the first Wednesday of the month for an hour. About 20 usually attend. We aim to be genuinely open to God and sensitive to His leading as we pray about church, local, national and international matters. There are opportunities to pray silently, in small groups and to the whole group. During the Covid outbreak we have met using zoom with no noticeable decrease in number attending.





## The Prayer Team

The prayer team consists of 16 adults. We are available on a rota basis to pray with individuals or couples after the 10.45 service. Usually there are two pairs of team members, seated at the front of church. The team was formed in 2009 and is now an accepted part of the All Saints' ministry, showing that people are comfortable with being prayed for and expect God to meet their need. Early in the New Year the team get together for a refreshing morning 'retreat' to share and pray together.

During the Covid outbreak, requests for prayer (and answers when known) have been circulated by email

# Children and Families



The role of the 'Families Work Coordinator' within All Saints is a key position as it not only brings together families from the church but also focusses on families in our community and how we can serve them and show them what it is to be a follower of Jesus. Currently our Families Work coordinator is Helen Ellis.

The continuing work of bringing the Sunday Club families together every week is currently part of the role so that church families feel that they are catered for when accessing church services every week is more difficult. Crafting at home follows our online video.

This work began in 2002 and continued to Helen's (official) appointment in 2009 and then until now. The 2 toddler groups ('All Saints Minis') and baby group ('Dinkies') along with 'Little Acorns', a group for those fostering/adopting pre-school children has seen many families cared for and impacted by what All Saints has to offer. We ran Messy Church for 10 years until we felt that that 'season' was over and look forward to what God has in store in the future. The current coronavirus situation has impacted greatly and groups are in a different place at the moment but we still hope and pray that families continue to feel loved and cared for in what we are still able to offer.

Although retiring soon, Helen is passionate that the work carries on and is strengthened by the support of the church in these ever-changing times.

# Youth

All Saints' has a vibrant and active youth ministry, led by Emma Smith, where young people meet on a weekly basis to connect, dig deeper into The Bible and look at ways in which they can take their faith in their communities, friendships and families. Our vision is to see the creativity and gifts of our young people used both within our Church family and in our community. We aim to give them new experiences of leadership and opportunities to have responsibility within our Church life.

## **Pathfinders**

Our younger youth meet every week and through games, activities and discussion focus on what it means to build a foundation of faith in our lives and be confident in the identity we have in Jesus.

## **Franks**

Our older youth are a group of passionate young people with a heart to know Jesus more and work out what that means for their whole lives. They are eager to debate and discuss some of life's most important topics and find ways of growing in their God given skills and talents.







# Youth

**Breakfast Club and Social Time:**

The opportunity for all of our young people to come together is a vital part of our youth ministry at All Saints. The way they learn, encourage and support each other is shown in our breakfast club (a time for creativity and debate) and our monthly socials (talent shows, quizzes and social action.) We see young people grow in their confidence and leadership as they lead each other and make a positive impact on their Church Family and Community.

**Rising Generation:**

We are privileged to have such talent and creativity within our young people at All Saints. Rising Generation are our youth worship band who often lead worship in our services, write new music and meet weekly to worship together.

**Youth Work outside of All Saints:**

As a youth worker, Emma is well connected with the youth workers in the local area and is able to partner and support work across the city. Many of our young people attend a monthly youth worship night and are also part of the Lunch Club run by All Saints and other local churches in one of our local high school.

# The B-it Theatre Company



**The B-it Theatre Company** has been part of the work at All Saints for many years and has seen many young people from varying walks of life through its doors.

It is an opportunity to create theatre with young people in such a way that teaches them that their minds are incredible, that their opinions and thoughts are valid and they have been created to be marvellous! As current director, It is Emma's hope and prayer that each young actor that comes to B-it knows that they have been created by the creator to be creative!

They have so much fun creating theatre together and there are many opportunities to them of the love God has for them.

**Our Junior theatre** meets weekly and has a big emphasis on confidence. We start from basic theatre and acting skills and watch as our young actors become confident in all areas of life, not just on the stage. They have the opportunity to write their own material and perform shows that help us to focus on important themes too.

**Our Youth Theatre** sees a group of very creative young people meet each week and further develop their theatre skills as well as creating a safe space to bring life's stresses and strains to be processed and supported in. They normally perform a scripted show each year and then run a summer project based fully on their ideas and creation.

**Theatre in Schools:** For many years, B-it Theatre has run drama clubs and workshops in our local primary schools. We are currently in the planning phases of how we can create programmes and content suitable for our schools to use and how schools can use theatre to explore the Christian message.

# The church centre



Christina manages our busy Church Centre which was created as a space in which the church could carry out ministries with the community but also as a community facility for the use of the local people, and a revenue stream. The church is also part of the 'church centre'.

Our aim is to make the church centre a warm and welcoming place, that the Holy Spirit is welcome and present in. We try and keep the buildings well maintained and decorated, showing the love and concern for all who use it.

All Saints groups of all ages use the centre throughout the week and at weekends.

The church centre has 6 rooms for hire- the church, the main hall, Eagle room, Dove Room, Sparrow and Raven rooms. We have a fully modern stainless steel kitchen, disabled access throughout, toilets, car parking and free Wi-Fi. Community users include the local Council and NHS, support groups including AA, children's' music and educational groups, Slimming World, exercise classes and the local historical society. Birthday parties, wedding receptions, conferences and organisations' AGMs are just some of the events hosted in the centre.

# Heart and Soul Cafe



Heart & Soul Café serves the church and the local community providing homemade food, and a welcoming place to meet friends. The café is open 3 days a week and run by the café manager, Rhiannon and a team of dedicated volunteers. Whilst they enjoy serving good food, they also love chatting with regulars, whether that's parents from the local school, kids' groups, other centre users, or those who just see the church doors open and come in seeking someone to talk to.

Our heart is to bless people and that can be just a cheerful word, a listening ear, a free meal or helping with practical needs. It's all part of the pastoral care offered to those of faith or no faith. All are welcome and valued.

Since Covid19 the café has relocated to the church centre and though it's a bit different we still give a warm welcome. Rhiannon set up the Chatty Group, which is a support Group for people aged 50+ to combat loneliness and isolation during Covid, but during lockdown she has provided pastoral care by having Chatty Day on Tuesday when she phones some of our customers and church community for a chat.

# Homegroups

Homegroups are an integral part of life at All Saints and everyone is encouraged to join a group. Around 130 members of the church family are actively involved in them.

Homegroups are where we help one another to grow in our relationship with God, through exploring the Bible together and asking questions; where we pray for one another and give practical help. They provide a support network from which everyone is encouraged to step out to serve God in the church, at work and in the community; and where the confidence to share the gospel is built up.

Our 11 homegroups regularly use in-house discussion booklets which have followed the church's sermon series; but have also used material like 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' and 'Living Christianity'. Groups meet all over the city of Chester, and at different time and days to ensure that as many people as possible can be involved. For those who don't go out at night, one group meets during the day in the church.

Since the pandemic, groups have been meeting on-line, and numbers attending have in fact grown - a combination of parents being able to attend and a greater appreciation of the value of community and belonging.

Homegroups organise their own social events each term and cake is very popular



## Discipleship courses

Over the last few years we have run a number of discipleship courses for seekers, new Christians and established Christians. Ron and Helen Glenn have been running these courses for All Saints. Having now finished their time in this post the church is looking for new people to run this ministry. We haven't run any courses at All Saints during the pandemic, although an on-line Alpha course was run by The Groves Church.

The Alpha course has been our main course for those enquiring about the Christian Faith and for those wanting to be confirmed in their faith. When Ron and Helen started, they were using the 7 week Student Alpha (with Away Day) which is an excellent resource. Although designed for an Away Weekend, it is hard to get guests to commit sometimes even for a day and some courses ran with double sessions in the week in order to fit in the away day material.

When the groups did go away, they used a hotel in the Clwyd-dog Valley. For smaller groups, the Methodist Church in Llangollen was used.

Ron and Helen ran a couple of courses around the catering from the All Saints' Heart and Soul Café, which went well. They decided to run a course with only drinks, cakes and biscuits and found that a number of people came who wouldn't have done so had a meal been involved.



# Mission outside the parish



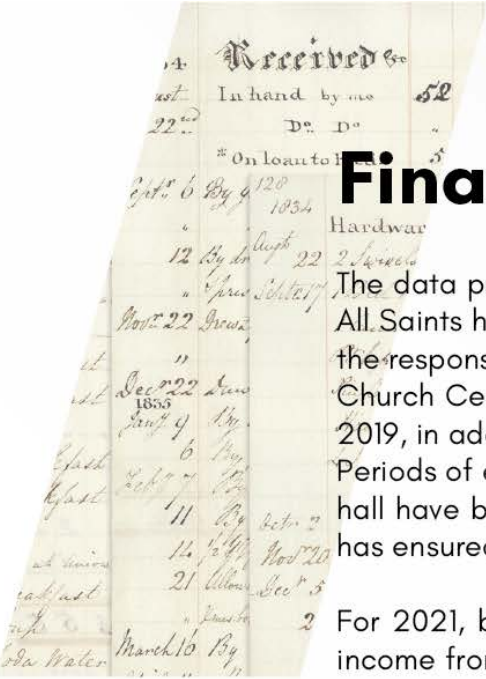
As a Parish we seek to serve God not only in the parish but in the city, our country and overseas. Support is given through prayer, active involvement and through financial donations. A sum of 10% of the churches giving is set aside for projects outside the church. Each year our giving is prayerfully reviewed.

Locally we support Chester Aid to The Homeless, Cheshire West Food Bank, Street Pastors, Night Church our local primary schools as well as Chester Schools Christian Work, Light Project and its training in Evangelism. Members of our church family are actively involved in the city as Street Pastors or volunteers in Night Church, based at the heart of the city. Financial support goes to the University of Chester Christian Union and nationally to CPAS, Open Doors and Hope for Justice



Cathy Armstrong, whose parents worship at All Saints is a nurse at the Good News Hospital, Manditsara, Madagascar. Cathy keeps us regularly updated with the ups and downs of life there. Her faithfulness to God shines through all that she says and does.

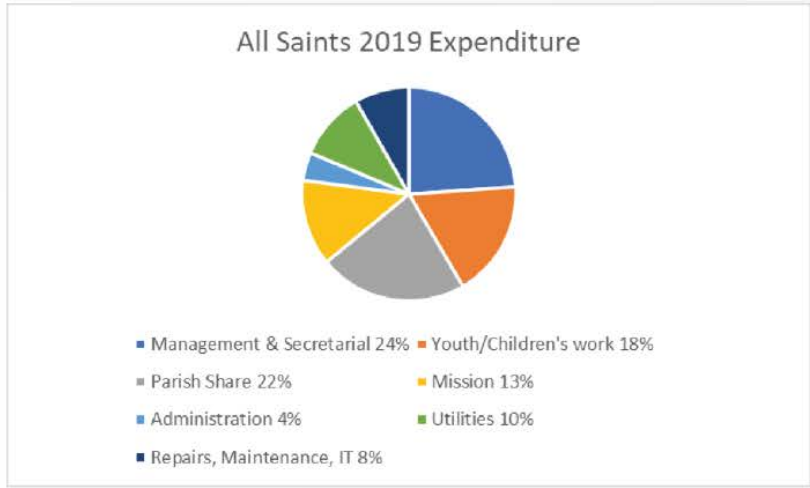
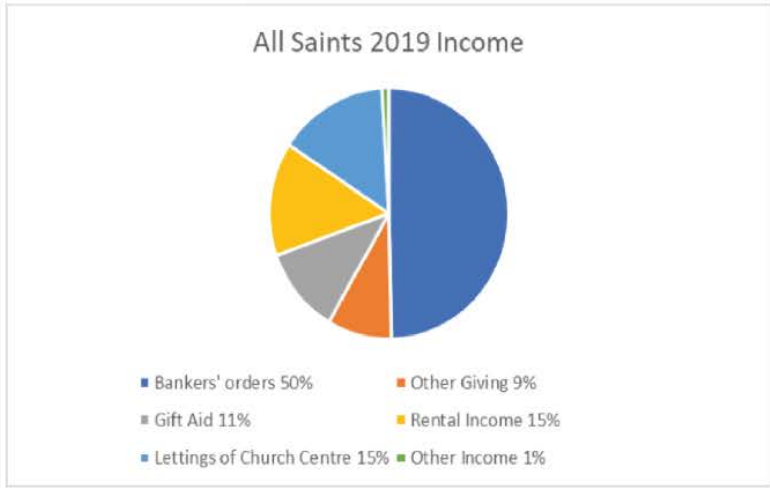
All Saints has always supported members of the church family or other local churches to fulfil their calling to serve God , like Ben and Lucy who work and serve God in a Gulf State, Lyn Masterson, an advisor for Teacher Education for the Presbyterian Education Board across Pakistan and Margaret Gordon. Margaret has founded ' Fountain of Life' in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to provide holistic care for the homeless. Through a church family member we support an orphanage and the work of the church in Southern India, another area of the world where there is opposition to Christians working openly.



# Finance

The data presented below relates to 2019, the year not being impacted by the Covid pandemic of 2020/21. All Saints has had a balanced budget, or thereabouts, for several years with an income of circa £290k. In addition to the response of the congregation to God's work, the church benefits from rental income from available capacity in the Church Centre and from two flats and a larger property being used as a Community Centre in Hoole. At the end of 2019, in addition to the properties, unrestricted reserves were £81k of which £60k was held in a Stabilisation Fund. Periods of exceptional expenditure, for example, to meet the costs of new boilers or repairs to the floor of the church hall have been met with successful appeals to the congregation or gifts. For 2020 an appeal which raised £12,500, has ensured a small surplus in what has been a very difficult year.

For 2021, before the impact of the Covid lockdowns, we anticipate an £18k deficit due to the reduction of rental income from the Community Centre. Specific actions to address this shortfall are being considered



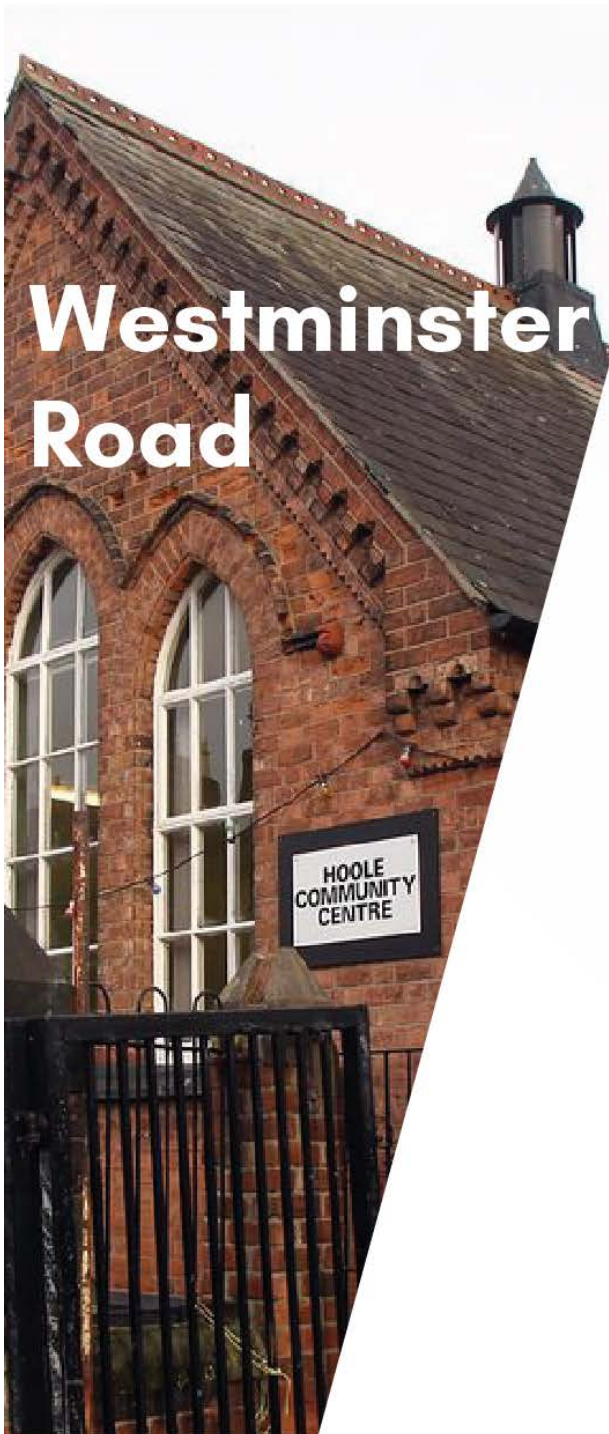


# Westminster Road

The PCC owns the site of the old school on Westminster Road, Hoole and the School House which is attached to the property. The Diocesan Board of Finance are the Custodian trustees of the site. The site was originally donated by the then Duke of Westminster for use as a state school. In 1903, the Duke of Westminster conveyed the site to the Bishop of Chester and two other trustees stating it would be for educational purposes and would revert to the Duke when no longer needed. In 1958, the Executors of the Duke's estate gave up the right for the site to be returned to his estate and stated that if it was no longer needed for educational purposes it should pass to All Saints Church for ecclesiastical purposes.

The School House is now two flats which are occupied and from which All Saints draws rent and the school building is used as the Hoole Community Centre. We have leased the school building to the Council since 1986 and they sub-let to Hoole Community Development Trust (HCDT). The most recent lease with the Council was for 20 years, ending in 2026. The lease was a full repair and maintenance lease with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC). CWaC then passed on the full rental charge to HCDT who became responsible for internal repairs.

HCDT gave notice to terminate the lease on 25th December, 2020", and the council followed. Negotiations to continue with HCDT as tenants proved difficult and the trust carried out a media campaign which was uncomfortable for the church, and highlighted the interest from the community in retaining the community centre. With intervention from the local MP and CWaC, heads of terms of a short term lease until February 25th 2022 were agreed. This lease has a much-reduced rent for the church and also leaves the church liable for external building repairs, though the council has committed to leaving the building in a good state of repair. There is a commitment in the agreement from both church and trust to use 'best endeavours, to negotiate a mutually sustainable and affordable long term solution.. by the end of 2021'.



# Hoole C of E Primary

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We have close links with Hoole CofE Primary School, and we are actively seeking new ways to support the whole school community and be a blessing to them.

Members of the church team are involved in weekly assemblies and school celebrations for Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and Christingle. The school is always welcome in the church building and The Groves Church meets regularly in school. Sam D-H our curate runs an after-school Lego club and our B-it drama group also run an after-school club, in non Covid times. Sam has been working with the RE lead at the school to link assembly themes with The Groves Church themes for the term, and he has taken Year 5 and 6 children from school to CPAS weekends, supported by the Head, Deputy and other staff from the school. The joint theme of "Angels" at Christmas was an example of church and school impacting the whole community of Hoole and spreading good news. Families from school also join together with All Saints to support the Operation Christmas Child Appeal and Food bank.

We have supported the introduction of Prayer Spaces in school, which can be accessed by children in school and were available to parents during Parents' Evenings. Rachel Inns, the RE lead, has been leading an intergenerational project, part of the Diocesan Growing Faith project, to connect with isolated and elderly members of the parish. This has included sending Christmas cards and linking with senior citizens from the church via Zoom to share war time experiences to support children's learning about World War 2.

All Saints members are represented on the School Governing Board as Foundation Governors and the Vicar has had a long standing and important role on the Governing Board. The church governors and team are there to support during Ofsted and SIAMS inspections as well as governance of the school. We provide practical support for vulnerable families and we are developing our pastoral and prayer support for pupils, families, and staff. Moving forward, we want to make more links between our Sunday Club team and Children's and Families work, and the school community. We seek to raise the profile of the school within the church and to be a blessing and a witness within Hoole CE Primary School.





# Mission

## **Craft Club**

We are a group of just over 20 ladies, although men would be most welcome, working on a variety of crafts, including knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, hand and machine sewing as well as other crafts. Chatting while we work and the obligatory refreshments keep us inspired while we craft after beginning each session with prayer and a thought to take us through until the next session. We also enjoy working on projects together, learning or sharing new skills and everything we make becomes another one of our amazing 'Craft Creations'. No craft experience is required and all are welcome. In response to the challenge of spreading God's love not only to our church family but also to our non-Christian friends and family, a variety of groups were set up and are led by different All Saints members.

## **ASOG**

All Saints Outdoor Group meet once a month for a walk in Cheshire, North Wales or the Wirral. We enjoy being out in God's wonderful creation, chatting and enjoying the fresh air. It's a great opportunity to invite friends along. We have even shared bubbly and cake to celebrate significant birthdays on the hillside

## **Support for Carers Group**

This group started because of an increasing number of church family members, male and female, who were carers for members of their family. The group normally meets once a month in the local Costa to chat, support and share the experiences that each member has gained. They also have a WhatsApp group to keep in regular contact, which has proved invaluable during the pandemic. Word has spread and the group has welcomed members from the local community

## **Saturday Afternoon Cinema**

The Cinema afternoons and evenings started to provide an affordable space for people to see films that had been at the cinema but currently Chester didn't have one and also to bring church family together in a family environment. It soon became clear the afternoon was more popular than evening. Popcorn, ice cream and refreshments are provided during the film and it is followed with a full afternoon tea for £1.50. It is well attended with most people expressing they didn't much mind what films they watched, they just loved the whole experience.

# Mission

## Deo Gratias Choir

One of the associated activities running out of All Saints is the Chester Deo Gratias Choir. This is run by Vicki Bulgin. The choir was formed in 2009 and usually puts on concerts in the Summer and at Advent each year. The choir's aim is to sing a wide variety of mostly Christian music to the glory of God

The mixed choir of over 50 made up of members from a number of churches in and around Chester and beyond. The choir is open and inclusive and welcomes people to join us even if they have no spiritual affiliation themselves, but rehearsals do begin with a short time of prayer and worship. The choir's prayer is that audiences will be touched by the words the choir sings, will see something of Jesus in us and may even be drawn closer to Jesus themselves.

**The Faulkner Street ministry** was started by four ladies just after Easter 2018, when it was felt that although the local community is invited to come into All Saints and the church centre for services, there was nothing going on outside the church to show what we were about, to bring the local parish church to the attention of the parishioners who never gave it, or God, any thought. We have banners, badges and literature which say 'Here to listen, Willing to pray' with the church name and logo. We have had some good conversations and have prayed for some people as they have asked us to. We only give out a tract after a conversation.



# Mission

## Garden Gate

The Garden Gate is a Missional Community of All Saints Church set up in January 2017 and working on an allotment in Hoole.

A team of 8 Christians enjoying time together with the aim of being open to the wider community through allotment gardening and meet on Saturdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon with a coffee break around 11. Some of us enjoy spending time there during the week. The team send out a monthly newsletter and their harvest is often used for Cheerful Giver lunches

## Cheerful Giver

Andy and Paula Warren and a team of volunteers cook and serve a Sunday lunch in the Church Centre once a month to those who would be alone, not have a meal or just need some company. In lockdown the team have delivered meals and an afternoon tea to them in their homes.

Paula and Andy have continued to show their Christian love for others by cooking literally thousands of meals for those in need throughout Chester and the wider area during the pandemic.





## Covid Response

Like most churches, All Saints was anxious to show God's love to the community of Hoole and beyond and responded to the pandemic in a variety of ways.

In partnership with The Groves Church we launched Help in Hoole. Leaflets were distributed to every house in the parish twice in 2020 and posters were displayed throughout the area asking for volunteers to contact the church and offering help to anyone in any kind of need. The leaflets included information for support groups and also a request for people to keep donating to the Foodbank collection boxes in the Church Centre.

This was a really positive experience where more people volunteered than asked for help. As a result Cheshire West and Chester Council, the NHS and other organisations have contacted our centre Manager, Christina to find help for people locally, and sometimes outside the area. Some of those in need continue to get support with shopping, prescriptions etc... Christina also received calls from family members who didn't live near their elderly parents to ask if we support could be provided for them if they needed it.

## Covid Response



Afternoon Teas were delivered to our contacts in Cheerful Givers, Costa, Cinema and the church family. Around 125 were delivered in total. We are planning another shortly.

Cheerful Givers has continued, but as a delivery service. Operating on the last Sunday of the month it has been feeding between 50 and 90 people.

Paula and Andy continue to feed families in need in Blacon through Holy Trinity, Blacon but also hundreds of homeless in Hoole, Chester and Ellesmere Port through their contact with Soul Kitchen. Indeed feeding the 5000!

For Remembrance Week we lit the church up in red in lieu of being able to have a service.

Foodbank collections have continued throughout the year which has been encouraging.

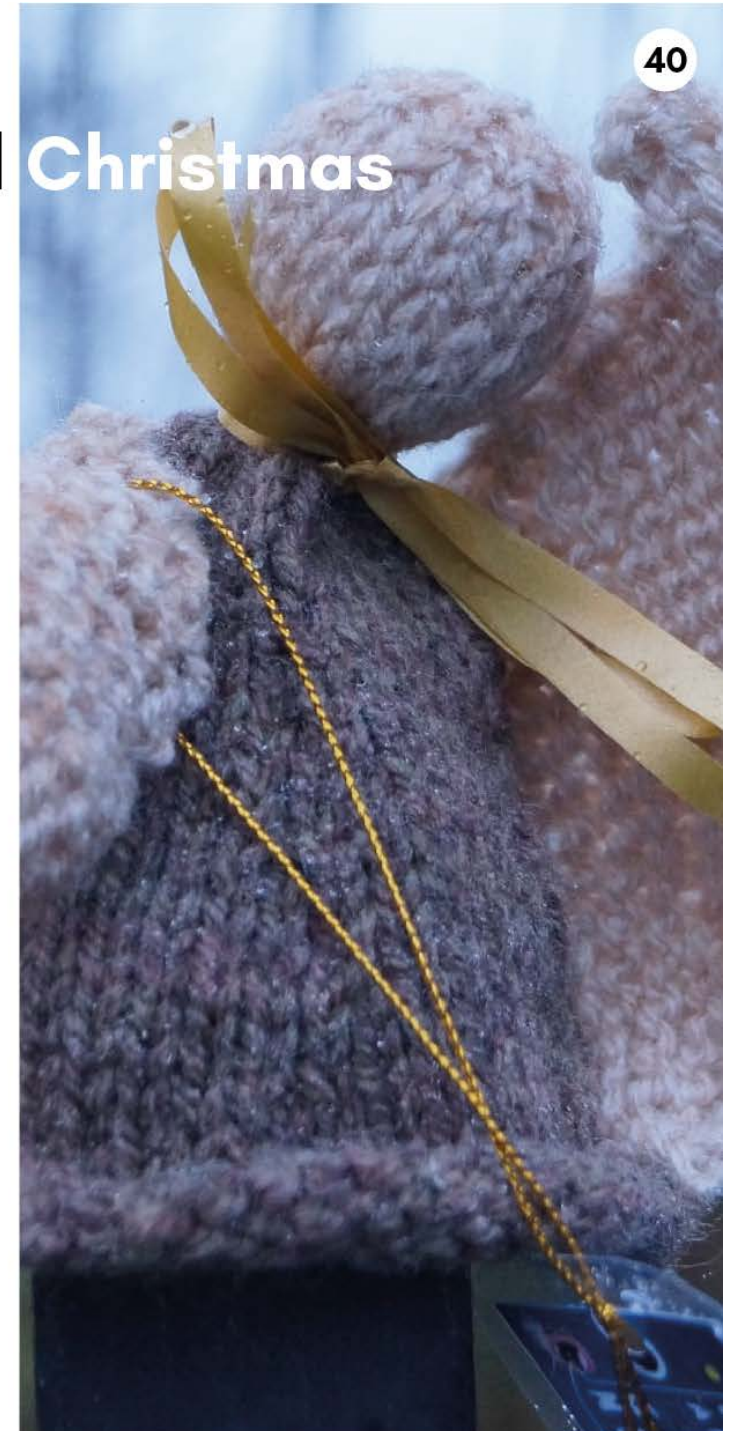
The Church centre became a Covid secure venue with socially distancing applied throughout the building, one way systems put into place, sanitisers and careful instructions. The centre has continued to be a support system for many self employed groups, support groups including AA, Alanon, Dinkies, Little Acorns, and others.

# Socially distanced Christmas

As Advent approached and everyone in the country had been under restrictions for over 9 months, the need to show God's love, hope and grace to all was important. A group came together, in partnership with the Groves Church, to plan how the church could shine out in the community.

**Hoole Light switch on:** The switching on of the Christmas lights in Hoole, especially in the retail area is an annual community event in which All Saints plays a part. We invested in some nativity lights for the church so that we could join in with lighting up Hoole. As the local church we felt it was important to join in and show our support and participation in what had been a difficult year. Some additional angel lights were purchased by church members to add to the following plans for an angel themed Christmas.

**Angel Bombing:** First came a call to the knitters in our church and local contacts for 1000 knitted angels. Angels are the messengers used by God for the announcement of Jesus' birth, and something that people could relate to and receive into their homes and, hopefully, hearts. On the first Saturday in December a team started distributing angels around the entire parish at 5.30am for people to find.





# Socially distanced Christmas



**Socially Distanced Christmas Fair:** To encourage people out of their houses on the same day Christina decided to coordinate a 'socially distanced' Christmas Fair, using social media and local groups, schools and posters. The response was amazing and around 18 different stalls were set up on people's own drives and doorsteps. Along with which we ran a children's raffle to encourage parents out to the fair. The whole day was spectacular mostly because God granted us our prayers of good weather for people to get out and about. The positivity from the angels and fair was overwhelming and a much needed boost of community spirit and love was experienced.

**Goodie bags giveaway:** Another part of Christmas planning was to give out 1000 goodie bags filled with Christmas delights and tying into our online Christmas Crib service. These were distributed to the community at three places in the parish. They were also delivered to those older folk who would normally attend Costa, Cheerful Givers and Cinema. Any left over were given to various groups in the church centre.

**Christmas Hampers support:** During the year we had been in contact with Hoole C of E Primary School and asked if they required any Christmas Food hamper support. They came back and asked for 10 for families who had were in need. There were 29 children within the 10 families. Thanks to the church family donations and cooperation with the Food-bank, 10 Christmas treat hampers were distributed along with 29 'stocking' bags for the children.

**Carol singing in the carpark:** Due to not being able to sing in church we moved to the carpark and invited people to come and sing 'socially distanced'. A third of those attending were non church which was wonderful to see. People passing by accepted the invitation to come in and join in the carols.

# Costa

The highlight of our ministry to the oldest members of our church has, for over 10 years, been the annual “Costa Del Holiday”.

For 3 days in the summer, the church centre is transformed into a holiday destination and welcomes over 70 guests, most of whom are no longer able to get away on holiday. A team of around 50 volunteers pull out all the stops to enable them to engage in a variety of activities, have wonderful meals, and lots of fun and laughter together.

Our guests come from both the church family and the local community. The aim is to let each guest know that God loves and values them, and some have then taken up the invitation to join a “Start” course to carry on meeting with others and to think further about God’s love for them.

Since its inception, guests have travelled the world and Wales! They have been on the world’s finest train, a canal cruise, floated in a hot air balloon and been on city breaks just to name a few experiences. In August 2019 we were in the French Riviera, and by the grace of God, our changed programme for 2020 started with “A Day at the Raffles Hotel, Singapore,” a leap-year special, just before lockdown.

It takes a massive whole church effort and some very talented organisers who pay attention to every detail to achieve these fantastic holidays.





## Thank you!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our parish profile. We hope it's got you excited about all that happens here and what could happen in the future. We are a church who want to grow and are willing to change in order to see that happen. We look forward to meeting you and God willing welcome you to All Saints as our new Vicar.

