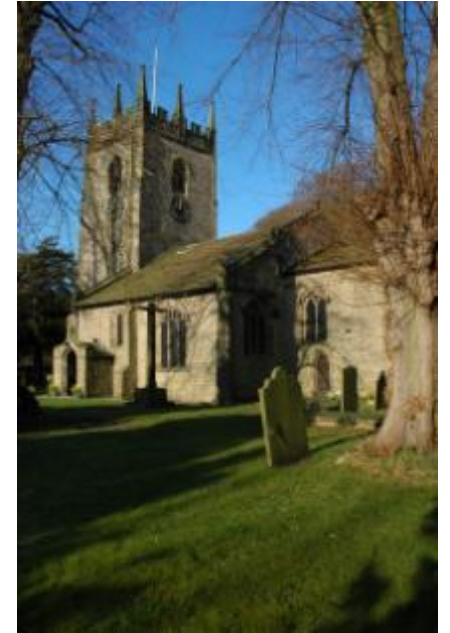


Parish of St. Christopher,
Pott Shrigley
Macclesfield, Cheshire



Parish Profile

December 2015





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Welcome to St. Christopher's, Pott Shrigley

We're delighted that you are reading our parish profile, and we hope that it provides you with a good introduction to us as a thriving, warm and welcoming church. We pray that God will guide the process by which we and our next incumbent find each other.

St. Christopher's is the parish church of Pott Shrigley near Macclesfield, Cheshire. The church and much of the village lie in the Peak District National Park or associated conservation areas. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty (or at least we think so!).

Our congregation is drawn from a wide circle of neighbouring towns and villages and is a united family with a balance of all ages – from a few months to 90+ years old – and both sexes. Our electoral roll numbers 289. Our theology can best be described as evangelical, with lively but dignified worship. Preaching forms a major part of our

services, and the whole ethos of the church is firmly rooted in the Bible. Lay leadership in the church is strong.

Our children's work is especially important to us, including our links to the neighbouring Pott Shrigley C of E School. We give financial and prayer support to missionaries in Malawi and Thailand. The church tithes all its income and supports a range of organisations in their Christian work.

We have a strong foundation of homegroups to support and encourage us in our faith, and a weekly prayer meeting. We pray for both to grow.

Our previous incumbent together with his wife as a lay reader have led us forward as a church for 14 years. Sadly, the time for his well-deserved and overdue retirement has arrived, and we are looking for our next incumbent to lead us in our continuing journey with God. The church already provides a strong Christian witness in the area, but we know that there is more to do to grow our faith, our discipleship and our impact.

If you would like to have an informal chat, arrange a visit or make an application please see page 18 for how to do this.

Yours in Christ,

David Garton
Parish Representative /
Church Warden

Anne Murphy
Parish Representative

Duncan Matheson
Church Warden



Looking along the valley to the church tower

Pott Shrigley village and surrounding area

Pott Shrigley lies approximately 3 miles north-east of Macclesfield and immediately north-east of the small town of Bollington, and nestles in the foothills where the land rises from the Cheshire plain into the Peak District. When it was formed, the western boundary of the Peak District National Park was specifically extended to include much of the village and the church and the vicarage both lie in the National Park.. The village is mostly a scattered rural community; the 'centre' of the village comprises the church, the village hall (which accommodates Pott Shrigley C of E school), the cricket club and a cluster of attractive houses and cottages. A maintained field lying between the churchyard and the cricket club is the village green, available for community events.

The Village Hall is owned and run by an independent charity. The majority of the village hall provides the accommodation for the school, whilst the church makes regular use of the village hall in the evening and at weekends. The Village Hall Social Club organises various social and fundraising events during the year, operates a members' bar, and has recently established a very successful monthly community cinema.

Nowadays dominated by sheep farming, the surrounding land previously served industrial uses via coalmining, clay-digging, brick-making and quarrying. Two small industrial estates survive in the village housing a range of small light-industry businesses, one based in the former Hammond Brickworks and the other in the former Nab Quarry.



The 4-star Shrigley Hall Hotel and Golf Club is situated to the northwest of the church. The only other retail outlet in the village is The Coffee Tavern approximately one mile from the church, which serves teas, coffees and light meals. Nearby Bollington has a range of local shops covering all everyday needs, a large doctors' surgery, a dental practice and an excellent range of restaurants and pubs. Macclesfield provides all services and is only a 15 minutes drive away; a 45 minute drive gets you to central Manchester. Alternatively, the former spa town of Buxton and its Opera House are approximately 30 minutes away. Manchester Airport can be reached in under 30 minutes, and the direct Macclesfield to Euston service gets you to central London in 1 hour 40 minutes. The village and surrounding area are very popular with visiting hill-walkers, cyclists and motorists. For those of us fortunate enough to live here, we get all this on our doorsteps!



Aerial view of Pott Shrigley village centre around the church

Looking at the most recent census could give the impression that the population of Pott Shrigley is small (269). However, this small civic population should not be confused with the size and energy of the church congregation. The electoral roll currently stands at 289 and exceeds the population of the parish (a statistic that most parishes would struggle to match). On average, over 100 people attend the regular Sunday services, travelling from Bollington, Macclesfield, other neighbouring villages and further afield to do so.

The Coffee Tavern



St. Christopher's Church – About us

St Christopher's Church is a warm and welcoming fellowship, with strong friendships across and within the age ranges in the congregation. As a church our vision is **to know Christ and make Him known, to build our biblical knowledge, and to reach every corner of the Parish and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ's saving grace. We will do this in His service with compassion, mercy, love and humility in obedience to His call upon our lives.**

Our theology can best be described as evangelical. On contentious issues such as sexuality, marriage, family life and the bringing-up of children, we are broadly in alignment with the attitudes being defended by Christian Concern and The Christian Institute. Worship is lively but dignified, but could not be described as charismatic. Preaching forms a major part of services and is on the whole expository, and the whole ethos of the church is firmly rooted in the Bible, the Word of God.



80 – 85% of the congregation come from outside Pott Shrigley. Although it may be argued that some come from habit and loyalty, we recognise that most come because the churchmanship, bible-based ministry and theological position attract them to come to Pott Shrigley instead of their local parish. It is these characteristics that lead directly to the warm and welcoming nature of the fellowship, which is usually the first thing commented on by visitors to the church.

The Growth Action Planning (GAP) process has guided our major activities in the last 5 years. This has resulted in a range of actions – some complete, some ongoing – to improve communications, increase our work with school families and young people, improve pastoral care, and to extend the church building. A woman lay leader has also gone forward into ordained ministry.

Our main activities and opportunities for mission currently lie in five areas :

1. The beautiful setting of the church and the nearby location of Shrigley Hall Hotel for wedding receptions bring numerous enquiries about weddings. Our approach is to welcome wedding couples into the congregation, and to seek to draw them closer to God and Jesus as they attend services and prepare for their wedding. We conduct approximately 15 weddings per year. We see an encouraging number of people progress in their faith and become regular members of the congregation, and a large number retain an active link through subsequent christenings of children.
2. Our Praise and Play group meets weekly in church and regularly draws in 15 pre-school toddlers and associated parent or guardian. New members join on a regular basis via word-of-mouth recommendation. The majority of the parents/guardians are not regular churchgoers on joining, and we work to encourage them to feel 'at home' in the church and attracted to the Christian faith.



3. The Church Guild meets on a monthly basis in church and, like Praise and Play, comprises a mix of members and non-members of the congregation. The programme routinely includes worship and prayers, and again seeks to attract non-members to the Christian faith.

4. The multiple opportunities we all have in our work and social lives to be a faithful witness for Christ, and take the opportunities that present to invite and encourage friends and colleagues to church and more deeply into the Christian faith.

5. Ringing the bells regularly on Sundays is part of our mission, calling people to worship and reminding our local population as well as passing walkers and cyclists that our church is active and serving God.

Although we are active in all these areas, we pray for God's guidance and support to be even more effective.





St Christopher's Church – Weekly Services

Sunday services are held at 8.30am (for approximately one hour) and at 10.45am (for approximately 1 hour 15 minutes). Preaching forms a major part of both services.

The 8.30am service is Holy Communion, and is a said-service following the Book of Common Prayer. The congregation is typically approximately 15 people, but can be as high as 30. The service presents an opportunity for more quiet contemplation and prayer.

The 10.45am service follows Common Worship, but with the order of service printed in a service booklet specific to the parish. The first Sunday of the month is Holy Communion and usually the third Sunday of the month is an all-age or family service, with active participation and leadership (readings, prayers and singing) from members of Junior Church and Pott Shrigley C of E School. All other Sundays follow the order of service for Morning Worship. Worship is supported by a range of traditional hymns and more

contemporary worship songs from Mission Praise, accompanied either by the (electronic) organ or by keyboard and a small range of solo instruments. We haven't got any loud drums....at least not yet....! Attendance at a typical 10.45am service is 60-80 adults and 10-15 children; at an all-age/family service this typically rises to around 100 adults and 20-30 children. The church can seat approximately 120 adults in comfort – but more can be squashed in if required as fortunately (at least in this aspect) the seats are still pews.

Primary school aged children attend Junior Church during part of the 10.45 service except on the Sundays when it is an all-age or family service (please see page 10 for more information on Junior Church). A small crèche is available for toddlers during all services – this is currently the base of the bell tower at the back of church, but plans are being progressed to extend the church to provide a church room, in part to address the need for more suitable crèche facilities.

Drinks and biscuits are served after the 10.45am service, and virtually all the congregation remain for 15 – 20 minutes and longer after the service to enjoy fellowship and conversation. Newcomers and visitors regularly comment on the warmth and inclusiveness of this time, which may be helped by the close proximity to people within the building!

A weekly Prayer Meeting is also held in church on a Tuesday evening.



St Christopher's Church – Other Services

Carols by Candlelight services are held in the late afternoon or evening of the 2 Sundays immediately prior to Christmas. The service comprises the main bible readings and traditional carols, and a short 'talk' rather than sermon based on a highly visual and contemporary theme to lead into the core of the Christmas message and Christian faith. These services were instigated approximately 10 years ago as an experiment, with some concerns that people would not want to venture out on a dark evening in an unlit, rural location. God had other plans, and the service is now repeated 3 times to accommodate the number of people who want to attend (550+ across the three services). For Christmas 2015 these services were successfully led by members of the congregation.

Christmas is also celebrated by Holy Communion at 11pm on Christmas Eve and Family Communion on Christmas Day. Typically 60 – 80 people attend each service.

Good Friday is marked by a service of Reflections Around the Cross, usually attended by 60 – 70 people. Hot cross buns are served after the service, and then some leave and some join to take part in the Church's annual Good Friday walk and picnic. Over the years the walkers have ranged in age from a few weeks to 80+ years, and the route is set accordingly. The third part of the day is an evening curry buffet meal in the local Indian restaurant in Bollington, with usually 50-60 people taking part. The various parts of the day provide great opportunities to maintain and strengthen links and friendships within the congregation, and to invite friends and newcomers to join. The service reminds us of Jesus' sufferings for our sins, but we know that the Good News of Easter is just around the corner.

Easter Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christingle services are arranged as an all-age/family service on the appropriate Sunday at 10.45am.

Approximately 15 weddings are conducted each year. We praise God that the couple have chosen a Christian service and setting for their wedding, and seek to ensure, as a positive expression of our faith, that their wedding service is a truly treasured memory for them. Each service also provides the opportunity to present a Christian example and deliver the Christian message to the 50 – 100 guests in attendance. A small but encouraging number of couples become stronger Christians and regular members of the congregation as a result.

Approximately 15 infant christenings are conducted each year, and 1 or 2 for adults or older children. Some are conducted within the 10.45 service but the rise in the number of people attending a christening coupled with the general fullness of the church for regular services means that an increasing number are conducted as separate services, usually just after the 10.45am service. Confirmation classes and services are organised every 2 -3 years.





St Christopher's Church – Children and Young People

Our children and young people are a big part of the life of the church, and there is a range of regular groups for different ages, as well as all-age Family services and activities of which they are very much a part.

Praise and Play

Most term time Thursday mornings our Praise and Play group meets in church. This is for babies and pre-school toddlers and their associated parent/guardian. It's a great opportunity to come along and meet other parents/grandparents/carers whilst the children play in the church. The programme includes a Bible story, arts and crafts and it is all free. We serve teas, coffees, drinks and biscuits. Our previous incumbent was a regular member of Praise and Play and his presence was appreciated by both the children and adults. The majority of the parents/guardians are not regular churchgoers on joining,

so it's an ideal occasion to make them feel welcome and 'at home' in the church and attracted to the Christian faith. We normally see approximately 15 babies/pre-schoolers on a Thursday morning.

Crèche

We run a small crèche facility during each service in our Bell Tower space. A couple of our congregation happily look after pre-school toddlers if parents require and keep the children engaged with a range of toys and books during the service.

Junior Church

We currently have a good number of families with young children attending St Christopher's. Our popular and growing Junior Church meets most Sundays, except for Family Services and during the school holidays. The children join in the first part of the 10:45am service and then leave to attend their own worship in the Village Hall. Approximately 12 children (age 3 through to 11 years old) take part each week, and we are always delighted to welcome any visiting children. We have approximately six adult volunteers making up our Children's Ministry team. All who help in this teaching work are CRB checked and share the duties on a rota basis. Most weeks we tell God's word in the





form of a story using Godly Play techniques. We include arts, crafts and music as part of our worship, and always have a time of prayer.

The children are encouraged to come to and take an active part in our monthly Family Services.

Several of the children attend Pott Shrigley Church School, but over 50% go to other schools in the area.

Youth Church

Our Youth Church, for ages 11years plus, is currently 'slumbering'. However we are keen to re-start our worship meetings as we have children approaching 11-years old who are regular members of Junior Church and we recognise that they will need to 'move on' to enjoy age appropriate Bible teaching and activities.

Our children and young people are an amazing blessing to the church and we are keen to continue growing and developing our activities for them as they develop and deepen in their own faith.

St. Christopher's Church – Home Groups

We have five home groups which meet each week, on different days and at different times.

These home groups are an opportunity to get to know people more deeply, discuss matters of faith together, learn from the Bible, and support one another in prayer and practical ways. Some home groups regularly share prayer requests by email or similar means to ensure inclusion and support of as many members of the group as possible. The home groups have successfully nurtured a number of adult confirmands.

Approximately 40 members of the congregation are a member of a home group.

St. Christopher's Church – Missionary Support

As a church, we provide prayer and financial support to two missionary families:

Megumi and Helen Fazakerley in their work with SIM in Malawi – Megumi is a member of the teaching staff at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCOM) and Helen provides pastoral support and care to the wider SIM team members in Malawi. Megumi and Helen have three children of university / college age who are now based in the UK to continue their studies.

Johnny and Ann McLean in their work with IFES in Thailand – Johnny works with international students in the various universities in Bangkok, to make them aware of Jesus and to seek to bring them to faith. As their three young children are with them in Thailand, Ann teaches in their school in order to help with their financial provision and uses this as an opportunity to witness to staff colleagues and pupils.

St. Christopher's Church – Parish Magazine

For the last few years the parish has been producing 'HotPott' – a high quality magazine containing articles as varied as updates on missionary activities, PCC news, recipes, gardening tips, local history, as well as church rotas and calendars. There are even crosswords and cartoons! This publication has 10 monthly issues per year – with combined issues for July/August and December/January. It is put together by a team of volunteers, with contributions from members of the congregation. We feel this serves an important purpose in bringing together members of the church family and publicising church life to a wider audience. HotPott can also be viewed electronically via the church's website www.pottshrigleychurch.org.uk.

St. Christopher's Church – the Church Building and churchyard

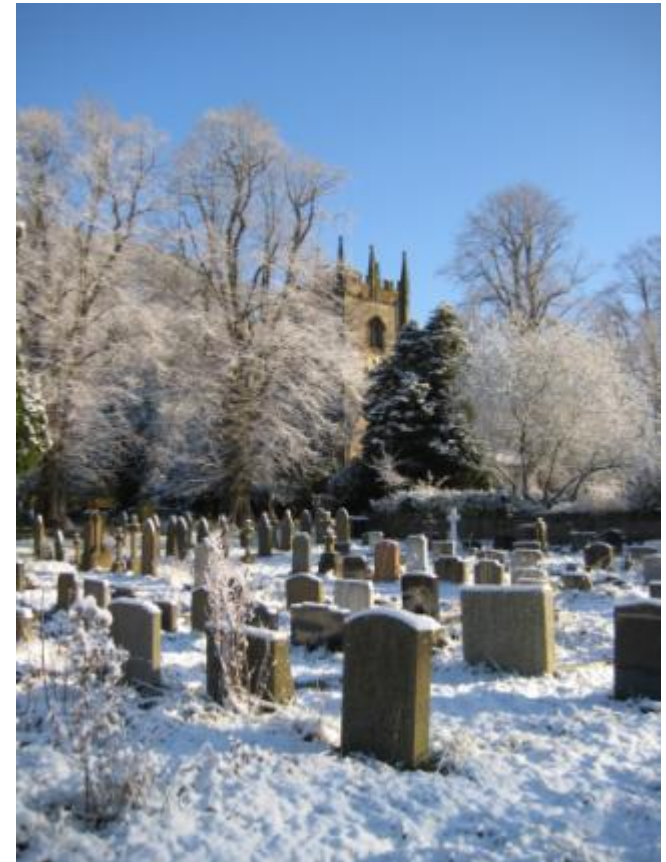
The church is a Grade 1 listed building, and is the result of development and building across many centuries. The earliest part of the church – the chancel – is probably late Norman, the nave dates from the 12th or 13th century, the north aisle probably dates from the 14th century. More evidence exists to show that the south aisle and the beam roof to the chancel and nave were completed in the late 15th century, and the tower was added in the early 16th century. The church is built in millstone grit with sandstone dressings to windows and doorways; the roof is of local Kerridge stone tiles.

The majority of the windows are stained glass – most are Victorian although some small parts of the original mediaeval stained glass are incorporated in the east window. The tower has a ring of 6 bells, 3 of which date from the early 1400's and are amongst the oldest bells in the north-west.

The interior of the church is simple and attractive. Seating is in box pews, which are believed to have been imported from a nearby church in the 18th century.

Despite its age, we are blessed that the building has been well cared for across its history and is in good, sound condition. A new central heating system was installed a few years ago, a small modern extension was added approximately 10 years ago to provide a toilet, and the electrics are generally in good order. Plans are being progressed to add a single-storey extension to the church to provide additional and better space for the crèche (during services), refreshments after services, weddings (signing of the registers) and meetings.

The churchyard remains open for burials. The earliest graves marked by stones date from 1768 and 1782, but many early graves are not marked with a memorial.



St. Christopher's Church – Bellringing

St Christopher's has six bells, the three heavier ones being the oldest bells hung for ringing in Cheshire, dating from 1439 with the tenor being recast in 1607. Three lighter bells were added in 1985 to make the current ring of six.

The bells are rung regularly by a local band for the 10.45 Sunday morning service. They are also rung for weddings, Christmas and other occasional services. The ringers are all members of the regular congregation. The band practices regularly on Thursday evenings. The bells are also available for peals and quarter peals from time to time.

St Christopher's Church – the PCC and the running of the church

The PCC has 20 members including Deanery Synod representatives, our lay reader, Dr John Ryley, and the churchwardens. We are blessed with an excellent PCC Secretary and a very capable PCC Treasurer. Our norm is to elect a Chairman from amongst PCC members such that this burden does not fall on the incumbent.

As a whole, St. Christopher's is blessed by having many members of the PCC and congregation who are willing to take a lead in organising or play an active role in supporting the life and workings of the church. All are volunteers; we have no paid staff. This not only spreads the workload across many people but contributes strongly to the sense of it being "our" church.

Our Annual Church Meeting receives audited accounts, as well as reports from organisations in all areas of church life, and is well attended by members of the congregation.

The benefice of Pott Shrigley has been suspended since 2001, and the Bishop has recently decided to continue the suspension until November 2020. Hence the incumbent's official role is that of priest-in-charge. Prior to the suspension, the church's patron was the Church's Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS).

St. Christopher's Church – Finance

In 2014 we had a total income of just over £93,000 and total payments of £86,000. Virtually all income is raised from the congregation; a small surplus is also generated via wedding services. We tithe all our income by donating 10% of annual income to support a number of missionaries and a range of charities. Thanks to a number of legacies, we have reserves of approximately £230,000. The planned extension of the church to provide a meeting room and additional toilet will be funded from reserves, with fundraising activities to be undertaken to seek to replenish the reserves as much as possible.

We pay our full Parish Share, which is set at the highest socio-economic rating of 140%. Overall, the church has enjoyed a period of financial stability for the last 10 – 15 years with income meeting or modestly exceeding expenditure. However, we recognise that expenditure will likely soon start to exceed income, and a programme has started for the congregation to prayerfully consider our regular giving and where possible increase it.



Pott Shrigley C of E Primary School

There is one infant/junior school in the parish – St Christopher’s Church of England Primary School. The school, which has an Outstanding Ofsted report, is situated opposite the church. It provides a safe, secure and caring Christian environment, where every individual is accepted and respected. It endeavours to give access to a curriculum and a range of learning experiences of the highest standard and prides itself with having strong Christian values at the heart of all they do

It’s a small school (approximately 36 children on the roll call) with 4 teachers, plus support staff. Pott Shrigley Church School is federated with St John’s School in Bollington. This means that the two schools share one head teacher, one governing body, and delivers other economies of scale including flexibility around early years learning, e.g. Pott Shrigley’s reception class are taught at St John’s and St John’s Year 1’s are taught at Pott Shrigley.



There is a long history of active contribution to school life from St Christopher’s Church and the previous incumbent was no exception. Since his retirement the regular weekly Collective Worship which he led in the school has continued by members of the Children’s Ministry team.

The school children and staff are invited to take an active part in all Family Services at Pott Shrigley Church.

In addition the church hosts some ‘special’ services during the year, such as a service of Nine Carols and Lessons that the children put together in December.

Events such as our annual Rose Queen in June and the Christmas Fair are jointly run by the school,

church and Village Hall.

A member of the PCC is a school governor. The headteacher is keen to continue the school’s good relationship with St Christopher’s Church and its new incumbent.

A member of the Children’s Ministry team sometimes runs a ‘Bible Story’ after-school club which has up to 15 children from Reception through to Year 6 attending. The majority of these children are not regular attendees at the church, so it’s a great opportunity to share the Gospel and introduce the children to activities they could take part in at Junior Church.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated on Spuley Lane, approximately 300 yards from the church. Built in stone in 1952, it is a detached, five-bedroomed house set in generous gardens of lawns, mature shrubs and trees surrounded by fields and woodland. There is an attached single garage and large space for parking. The house has oil-fired central heating and in recent years has benefitted from the installation of uPVC double glazing throughout and cavity wall insulation. One of the bedrooms has an open fireplace and has routinely been used as a private lounge / sitting room by previous incumbents.

Some redecoration and replacement of carpets and curtains is required. The PCC are able to fund this work, and will proceed once the new priest-in-charge is identified so that they can be involved in selection of colours etc.



Our Vision

Our vision is to know Christ and make Him known, to build our biblical knowledge, and to reach every corner of the Parish and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ's saving grace. We will do this in His service with compassion, mercy, love and humility in obedience to His call upon our lives.

Pott Shrigley is a small village, but we are a large and thriving church. Our congregation is drawn from the surrounding circle of villages and towns, and they choose to come to St.Christopher's to be a part of the life of the church. During the previous incumbency the size of the congregation and the range of church activities have increased, and we want this to continue. We strongly believe that there are rich opportunities to pursue our vision and grow God's kingdom in and around Pott Shrigley, and we seek a new priest-in-charge who will help us in this work.



Our Next Incumbent

We're looking for a new priest-in-charge (man or woman) to share our ministry as part of welcoming fellowship and to lead our active lay team – someone who is sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and has a deep Christian faith based on the Bible. While continuing to build on the strong foundations and growth established by the previous incumbent prior to his retirement, we want someone with insight in discerning God's will for the future ministry of our church, and dynamic leadership of this ministry. St. Christopher's is thriving and growing, and achieves this primarily by attracting people from outside of Pott Shrigley – we believe that this is due to its churchmanship, bible-based ministry and warm and welcoming fellowship.

As a church, we value bible teaching that brings God's word alive in ways that are relevant to our lives. We want our new priest-in-charge to be a strong expository teacher who is experienced in conducting reverent and lively worship. Our children and young people are a big part of the life of the church - our new priest-in-charge will need a passion for working with children, be able to relate well with them both in church and in the village school, and encourage their faith.

We hope that our next priest-in-charge will also be effective and comfortable in the following areas :

- Able to relate to and empathise with wedding couples and conduct an effective evangelical ministry among them. Similarly with families bringing their children for baptism. We have a welcoming 'open door' approach to couples seeking to get married in the church and to baptism families, regarding these as mission opportunities for the church, and would want this to continue.
- Able to conduct sensitive and supportive pastoral work with all ages across the congregation
- Able to motivate and foster teamwork between the large number of volunteers who support the work and running of the church, and encourage and nurture new people to take on support and leadership roles

The rural nature of the parish means that a valid UK driving licence and car are required. Basic computer / IT skills would be desirable.

The incumbency is part-time at 0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

If you would like to ask any questions or have an exploratory discussion about whether this role may be for you, please feel free to contact either of the Parish Representatives:

Mr David Garton : email david.garton@astrazeneca.com , telephone 07766 206049

Mrs Anne Murphy : email amurphy@fsmail.net

The Application Form and information about the application process can be found on the Diocese of Chester website www.chester.anglican.org .

Thank-you for reading our Parish Profile.