

# ST PATRICK'S, SALTER STREET

Growing God's Kingdom



## Parish Profile



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## SUMMARY

Welcome to the St Patrick's Church, Salter Street Parish Profile. We are very excited about this new season in our Church's development.

St Patrick's Church is situated in a semi-rural location in the south of Solihull, West Midlands in the Diocese of Birmingham. We offer a range of Sunday Services that provide a breadth of worship styles. We support a range of activities to serve the wider community of the parish including a Pastoral Team providing support for individuals and groups, a lively and well attended Junior Church and a popular and very well supported Messy Church held at the adjacent St Patrick's C E Primary Academy, with which we have a strong and close relationship. We have two churchwardens, a fully active and engaged PCC, four vergers, and an organist who also leads and directs our choir. Our new vicar will also have the benefit of a part-time admin. support worker.

Traditional events such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance are very well supported.

Our Parish has seen significant population growth in recent years and this offers an exciting opportunity for us to grow God's Kingdom at St Patrick's. We are looking forward to welcoming a new incumbent to lead, teach and equip us to become more effective and fruitful disciples, where every member understands their value to God and is supported in intentionally living out their faith and sharing God's love with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## OUR MISSION

Our statement of purpose is:

**'Growing God's Kingdom'**

### St Patrick's Mission Prayer

*God of Mission*

*Who through the teaching of the apostles, through fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer, saw the Lord add to their number, day by day, those being saved.*

*Empower us by your Spirit to speak of the good news of Jesus Christ and of the Kingdom to our families, our friends and those you show us.*

*That we may be strengthened in faith and increase in numbers.*

*Though Jesus Christ who calls us all to be disciples.*



Baptism

Christmas



Teddy Bears Picnic



Wedding

## ST PATRICK'S IN A NUTSHELL

### Worshipping Community

In 2019 adults totalled 65 of which 38% were in the Age 70+ category. Children & Young persons totalled 14 of which 71% were in the 0-10 years age group.

### Usual Sunday Attendance

Adults: 45-50 per Sunday but this can increase to over 175 at special Services such as Remembrance.

Children under 16 years: 5

### Occasional Offices

Weddings in 2019 – 7

Baptisms in 2019 – 30 – Often held at 12.00 p.m. on nominated Sundays

Funerals in 2019 – 8 with additional 3 burial of ashes



### Sunday Services

8 a.m. Morning Prayer

8 a.m. Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

10 a.m. Public service

- 1st week – Informal worship
- 2nd week – Holy Communion
- 3rd week – Informal service of Holy Communion with children participating in bringing items to the Altar
- 4th week – Holy Communion
- 5th week – (when in the calendar), Holy Communion with separate Healing Service at the end.



## WHO WE SERVE

The Parish of St Patrick's Salter Street was newly created in 2017 with a modified catchment area. Previously, St Patrick's was part of a Joint Team Ministry with St James the Great, Shirley and this was formed in the year 2000. No statistics are available for the new Parish but it partly coincides with the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Ward of Blythe.

The latest Public information available for Blythe is from ONS 2011 census. All Residents 12,997, this compares with Solihull Borough with 206,674. Subsequently, based on statistical trends this suggests the residents in 2014 had increased to 13,460.

With an area of 1,345 hectares, the population is 9.7 per hectare. Less than the Solihull average of 11.6 per hectare. This is to be expected as the area is considered as urban but is also rural in many locations.

### Age Structure

- Pre-school Children (0-4 years) 779 - (6.0%)
- School Age (5-15 Years) 1679 - (12.9%)
- All Children (0-15 Years) 2458 - (18.9%)
- Young Adults (16-24 Years) -1270 (9.8%)
- Mature Working Age (25-64 Years) 7544 (58.0%)
- Working Age Total (16-64 Years) - 8814 (67.8%)
- Retirement Age (65 years+) -1725 (13.3%)
- Older People (Age 85+) - 166 (1.3%)
- Average age (years) - 38.8, which compares with a Solihull average of 41.3

Easter Service



Crib Service



Remembrance Sunday

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

St. Patrick's is located in an attractive semi-rural location approximately half a mile from the centre of Earlswood village. Its physical location means the church is not always seen as being central to the local communities it serves. Over recent years there have been three significant housing expansions and population growth within the parish at Cheswick Green, Dickens Heath and Blythe Valley. Over 800 homes have been built within the Blythe Valley area during the last 5 years, with plans for another 1200 homes in the next 5 years. One of the challenges we recognise is to reach and support people in these new housing developments whilst maintaining our commitment to our existing community.

Sustaining the current level of support across all of our activities may become an issue over time without attracting young people and families. We need to encourage more people to use their skills and gifts to the life of the church.

Our worship style is traditional but we are aware of the need to make our worship and activities more attractive to young families. How to remain relevant so that people want to come to church and get involved is a constant challenge. A flexible and understanding approach is needed to encourage new members, no matter how infrequently they can attend Sunday services.

We have good links with St Patrick's CE Primary Academy, which is located adjacent to the church building. The school children attend a service in church every Wednesday morning, which is currently led by church leaders and visiting clergy. Messy Church is held five times per year in the school and attracts families from the school community. There are opportunities to further grow the relationship with the school and strengthen its links with the church.

We have thriving uniformed youth groups associated with St. Patrick's and have identified opportunities to develop and strengthen the links between these groups and the church to share in our fellowship.

As a church we see opportunities to further develop outreach with community groups in the parish. There is the potential to work with young people across the parish. We already have links with the Priory residential home and there are several new care homes being built within the area, which create fresh opportunities for outreach in these settings.

We hold two well supported fund raising events at Cheswick Green village hall each year, a Plant Sale and Christmas Fayre. We have also held an Afternoon Tea at Earlswood village hall for the last two years. These events within the parish are very well attended by those who don't regularly attend church and have provided outreach opportunities to many people in the community. We have also held regular church open days to encourage people along to see what our church can offer but we need to further develop relations with the community and external organisations to promote positive links with the church.

Although the church is financially stable after a recent legacy, our income through regular giving does not meet our existing levels of current expenditure. We will need consider re-launching a stewardship campaign to increase giving and make it a central part of what we do.

Strategic Development Funding from the Church Commissioners was awarded in July 2020 for a new church to be planted within the Shirley and Salter Street parishes. This will be led by Gas Street, the resource church in Birmingham city centre and operate under a Bishop's Mission Order. Its focus is likely to be towards the Monkspath, Dickens Heath and Blythe Valley areas, and the style of worship and mission will complement that of the existing Anglican churches.



## WHAT WE DO

### Sunday Worship

At the heart of our life as a Church is our Sunday worship. Our range of services help people of all ages and backgrounds to worship God and receive sound bible-based teaching. Normally we have a Morning Prayer service at 8am, with a Said Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Our main 10am service follows three main forms. On a 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday we have an All Age Worship service with our families staying in church and this is a non-communion shorter service. The families also stay in church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday for an informal communion service, where the children are encouraged to help set up the altar on the platform. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are usually a sung Eucharist taken at the high altar in the sanctuary; during term-time, the children leave the church after 10 minutes to go to the Undercroft for Junior Church.



Easter Service

We strive to be as welcoming and friendly as we can and share our faith with others. The potential is there to rebuild our study groups and develop the faith of congregation members, both new and those further along their faith journey.

### Junior Church

We have a Junior Church leader who coordinates volunteer parent leaders and helpers. There is one all age group with members which currently are mostly pre-school age. When the children return to the main service, it is in time for them and their parents to receive communion or a blessing. Before the final hymn, the children have the opportunity to share their activities with all the congregation.



Junior Church  
Summer Picnic



Junior Church

## WHAT WE DO

### St Patrick's C E Primary Academy

Once a week, for most Wednesdays in term time, all the children from the school attend a service in church.

### Messy Church

Approximately five times a year, we use the school hall as a base for our popular Messy Church. This is run by a dedicated band of volunteers and includes many craft activities which are relevant to the worship theme along with a dedicated worship section.

### Craft Club

10.a.m – Noon. Twice per month

### Care Homes

The Pastoral team regularly visit the Priory Nursing Home and also provide Communion by Extension. Discussions are in progress to extend this service to the Fountains Care Home.

There are currently no house groups.

### Fundraising events

Fundraising events are held regularly throughout the year, and include a very successful plant sale, books & craft sales, raffles, a hugely popular afternoon tea, Christmas fair, and other special events.



Messy Church



Afternoon Tea



Teddy Bears Picnic



## WHAT WE DO

### Music

The music within the church is a key part of worship and encompasses the traditional hymns and more modern worship songs. We have the Junior Church percussion instruments that are used by children and adults alike, especially at the All Age Worship service. Our hymns are chosen from Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New with the guidance provided by the RSCM Sunday-by-Sunday publication. This work was completed by the vicar, organist and choir coordinator.

We have a regular choir for all services and, when all present and correct, number 11. The choir coordinator liaises with the vicar, organist and choir members, particularly in the light of special dates for weddings, services, rehearsals etc.

Our five tower bells are rarely rung but are chimed for weddings when requested. We also have the provision of a set of handbells which can be used.

### Prayer

The 8am service provides a regular occasion for the in-depth mention of those on our public prayer list. The list is also used during the intercessions at most services. Once a month, the intercessions are led by members of the congregation.

### Pastoral Care

A team of volunteers visit members of the congregation who are unwell or housebound, support those in our community who have been bereaved and provide communion by extension to a local care home or in private homes, if required.



## OUR NEW VICAR

We believe that our new vicar will be someone who will embrace the full range of challenges and exciting opportunities that our church and parish present. They will motivate, engage and lead with fresh ideas and approaches.

Our new Vicar will be someone who:

- is firmly rooted in scripture, confident in preaching and teaching, deepening our worship, and encouraging us to live our lives as God intended
- is a proven leader with a collaborative approach to problem solving
- will build, mentor, develop and support our teams, individually and as effective working groups
- will inspire and unite the congregation, strengthening our love for God and for each other
- will provide leadership to strengthen, equip and encourage the congregation in the vital work of mission and ministry
- is able, together with the PCC, to make strategic decisions, setting clear priorities in order to further our calling to help people within our parish to become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ
- actively encourages and engages in a spirit of co-operation with local churches and with the diocese

### Other Responsibilities include:

- Governor at St. Patrick's C E Primary Academy

Our link with St. Patrick's C E Primary Academy is a vital part of our community relationships and is a significant opportunity for mission and outreach, and collaborative work to sow the seeds of our Christian faith.

*It is important to us, as St Patrick's CE Primary Academy, that the new incumbent continues to be integral to our daily life. We thoroughly enjoy our weekly worship, at the church, and how it guides us in our daily thoughts and actions. The children at St Patrick's are wonderful children who thrive on a positive relationship with the church. As a school, we are a beacon for diversity and we look forward to continuing to work closely with an incumbent who values all of God's children.*

Caroline Glennon  
Headteacher

St Patrick's C E Primary Academy  
Salter Street Earlswood Solihull B94 6DE  
Tel : 01564702278



At St Patrick's CE Primary Academy we are looking for a new vicar who is:

Fun for all ages, respects our school community and God. Also we would like someone who will include children in activities such as plays and role plays. It is important that it is someone who is thoughtful and will follow our values which are Thoughtfulness, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Kindness, Hopes and Dreams, Honesty and Enjoyment.

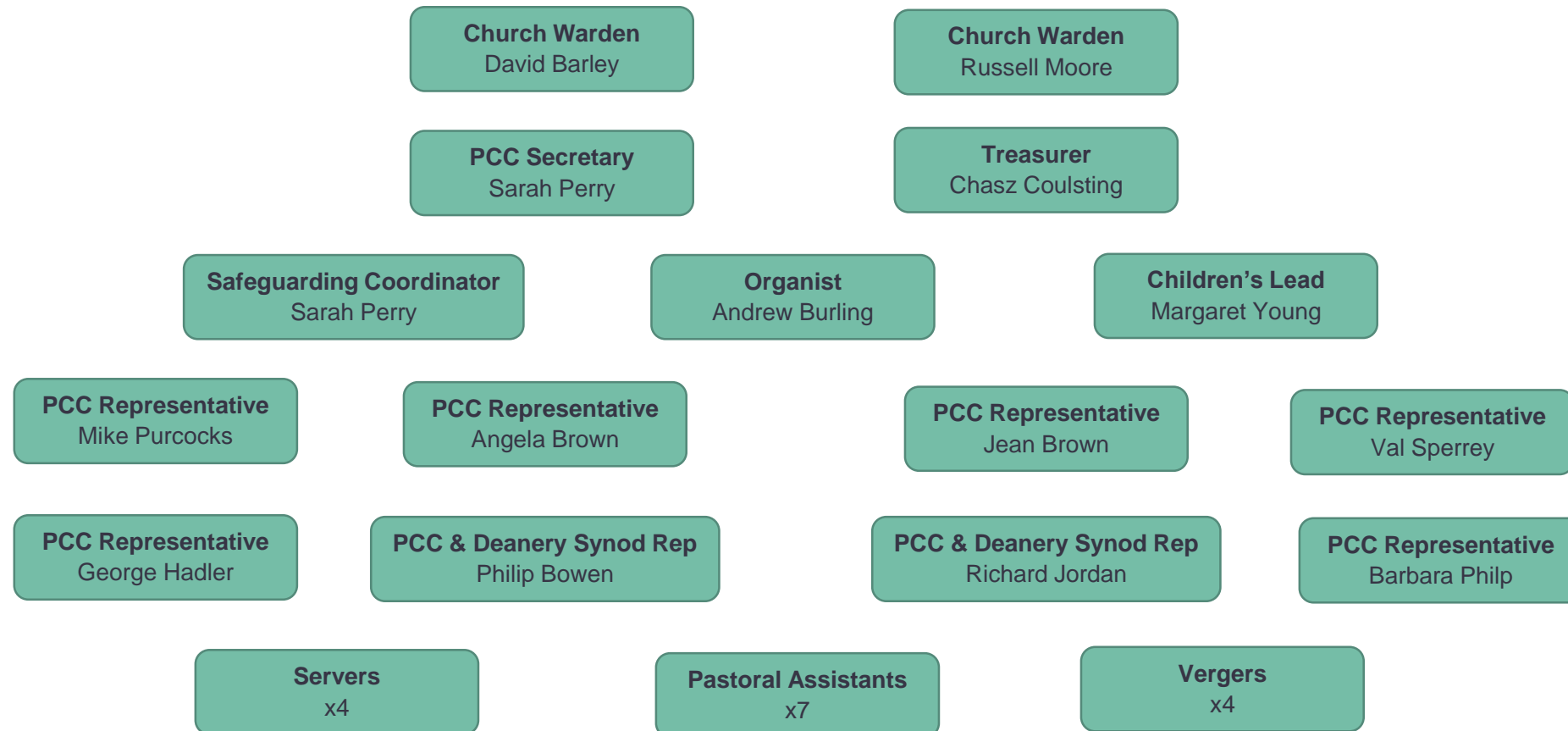
We cannot wait until we see you at our school

ST PATRICK'S PUPILS



## OUR TEAM

The ministry of our church is supported by a team of 12 PCC members (including our wardens) and a host of volunteers including pastoral assistants, servers, vergers, communications group, fundraising committee and others. We are fortunate at St Patrick's to have a very active support network within the church to cover all duties and to ensure we have a visible presence for fundraising events without our community.



## BUILDINGS AND FABRIC

### The Church - Location

The church has been described as “A *striking & unexpected accent in a wholly rural landscape.*” (English Heritage 2011)

The church is situated next to St Patrick's Primary Academy and they are then bordered by the canal, fields and farms before other habitation is reached.

### The Church - Buildings

The present building consists of an attractive red-brick exterior with stonework in the Victorian Gothic Revival style.

The undercroft provides accommodation for a vestry and choir vestry, a meeting area, kitchen, safe room, boiler room, junior church store, toilets and an office.

### The Church - History

The original church was built in 1840 with the proceeds from the sale of land in the parish to build a feeder reservoir (now Earlswood Lakes), for the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal. A simple brick building, it consisted of nave and chancel with box pews on the ground floor and galleries on columns on either side of the central aisle, which were accessed by staircases near the west door.



### The Church - Grounds

There is an extensive graveyard with the earliest graves from the 1840s to the present day, with space still available. The planting reflects the countryside around with many mature trees along the boundaries and pollarded lime trees across the western roadside boundary. There are two substantial yew trees and other conifers.



### The Vicarage

This is owned by Birmingham Diocese and was built in about 2002. It is a spacious, detached, four-bedroom property with a medium garden. It is in a quiet area of Dickens Heath and is about a 10-minute drive to church. It is currently rented out during the interregnum.



# FINANCIAL HISTORY AND STATUS

St Patrick's Summary Financials (£)	2017	2018	2019
<b>Regular Income</b>	33,126	31,914	31,529
<b>Fees</b>	10,322	7,595	5,268
<b>One off Donations and Legacies</b>	11,200	1,263	326,802
<b>Fundraising</b>	5,836	4,844	2,840
<b>Other</b>	2,298	1,149	705
<b>Total Income</b>	62,782	46,765	367,144
<b>Clergy &amp; Salary Costs</b>	4,701	4,210	3,844
<b>General Overheads</b>	9,115	8,807	9,884
<b>Buildings &amp; Churchyard</b>	3,338	3,209	4,826
<b>Common Fund</b>	41,379	42,216	41,036
<b>Others</b>	301	724	142
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	58,834	59,166	59,731
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	3,948	(12,401)	307,413
<b>Church Funds at Year End</b>	42,137	29,736	337,149

## Church Funds – Recent History

The table opposite summarises the income and expenditure of the church over the last three years to 31 December 2019.

### Income

Regular income has been fairly stable over the last few years but has declined slightly. We hope to grow this in the coming years through the growth of our community.

Fees (which principally come from weddings and funerals) have fallen in the last three years, but this is simply a function of the number of the weddings and funerals in those years. Fundraising income has also fallen in 2019 compared to the previous two years and this is mainly due to not being involved in our historical main fundraiser of the year (the St Patrick's School Summer Fete) in 2019. There has been activity this year to supplement our fundraising activity and our "Leap Day Afternoon Tea" proved to be a popular event.

We have been extremely fortunate from a financial point of view in the last few years and particularly in 2019, as we have benefited from some significant donations and legacies. We plan to use such funds wisely over the coming years to help grow St Patrick's.

# FINANCIAL HISTORY AND STATUS

## Expenditure

Our expenditure is broadly similar from year to year. We have spent a little more on buildings in 2019 in relation to guttering and a drainage survey for the church. Our requested common fund contribution in 2019 was significantly lower than in previous years. However, the PCC decided to top this up by an extra £10,000, because of the generous legacy we received during the year.

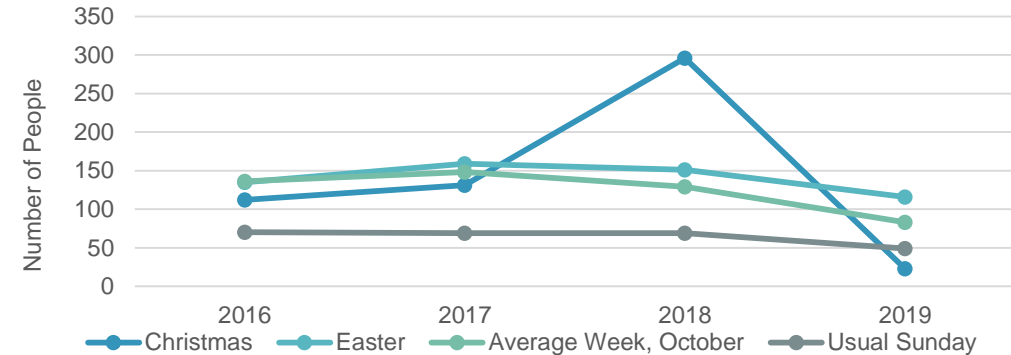
## Charities Supported

We like to support local charities and in 2019, we held special collections for the Children's Society, Seaman's Mission, Narthex Food Bank and McMillan Cancer (Solihull).

## Attendance and Statistics

Our congregation represents a broad range of age groups, with a number of families, those connected with the school and those who have been with the church for a long time. As with most churches our statistics show a downward trend of attendance. However, we still have a good turnout for Christmas services and in particular Remembrance Day service. Our figures in 2019 have suffered a little, largely due to the extended interregnum period and associated uncertainty.

Attendance Summary (2016 - 2019)



Worshipping Community (Age)

