



Parish of Chorley

St George and All Saints'



St George's Church
St George's Street
Chorley PR7 2AA

www.stgeorgechorley.co.uk



St George's Church Chorley



All Saints' Church
Moor Road
Chorley PR7 2NU

www.allsaintschorley.com



All Saints' Church Chorley

1. Letter from the Bishop

Thank you for showing an interest in a post in the Diocese of Blackburn.

Our Diocese is passionate about the renewal of Parish life. Vision 2026 sets before the churches of Lancashire a profound belief in the power of the Gospel to transform lives and communities and expresses a firm commitment to maintaining clergy numbers and investing in the mission of the local church. We therefore seek clergy with a personal faith fiery enough to make new disciples for Christ, with a sincere commitment to the Parish as the heart of the church's mission and with the resilience and courage to bring growth and renewal to local churches. We don't want superheroes. Rather we are seeking authentic, prayerful priests of all traditions who share our passion for confident proclamation and generous service.

What's more, you would be coming to the Diocese at a fascinating time as we look towards our centenary in 2026. We are in the midst of a major process of listening to God and listening to our County as we discern where God is calling us next, a process that will result in a new strategic vision that will last until 2033, the 2000th anniversary of the Resurrection.

We have also recently been successful in obtaining a grant of £25.5m from the Diocesan Investment Programme run by the national church. This will enable us to:

- Offer a transformed pattern of ongoing training and support to clergy, including sabbatical leave as an expectation for all rather than a treat for the few
- Deploy 30 'Ignite' youth and children's workers to parishes around the Diocese
- Invest in urban areas through expanding the M:Power course for urban leaders, employing 18 Urban Pioneers and re-imagining Christian life in areas of particular challenge.
- Expand our Diocesan Renewal Programme which has led to an average of 6% growth in RWA in participating parishes.

We are a Diocese that is united in defying the declinist mindset that has taken hold of so much of Western European Christianity. Through a firm belief in the power of Jesus Christ to change lives combined with strong pastoral ministry and imaginative developments such as new local congregations, we are seeing growth in churches of all traditions. Strong relationships with our amazing family of 191 schools (95% of whom benefit from practising Christian Headteachers) provide another springboard for mission.

As a Diocese we do all we can to love and treasure our clergy. Our programme of Annual Conversations means that every licensed priest has a 90 minute conversation with a Bishop or an Archdeacon every year about their vocation, wellbeing and spiritual life.



*The Bishop of Blackburn
The Rt Revd Philip North*



*The Bishop of Lancaster
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff*



*The Bishop of Burnley
The Rt Revd Dr Joe Kennedy*

We have appointed an Assistant Archdeacon to advise on clergy wellbeing and we work hard to create networks that enable clergy to belong and find mutual support.

Those in their first incumbency are offered especially focused support. This includes participation in a two year Start of Ministry course, advice and care from a mentor and the oversight of our two outstanding Start of Ministry officers.

Lancashire has been described as 'England in miniature' and we can offer a vast diversity of parishes. We serve the most deprived communities in the United Kingdom on the Fylde coast and in East Lancashire as well as remote countryside. We are not immune from the particular challenges to ministry provided by an increasingly secular culture and a divided Church. But what brings us together is a profound and shared love of Jesus Christ and a passionate desire that all should know him, and in knowing him find life.

We really hope you enjoy reading this profile and that it provides all the information you need. If this particular post does not feel quite right, please do get in touch about other parishes in the Diocese that are vacant.

Most importantly of all, please be assured of our prayers as you discern the will of God for the next stage in your ministry.

2. Vision 2026 and Beyond

Vision 2026 is an agenda for growth agreed by the Blackburn Diocesan Synod in 2015. It challenges our parishes to be healthy churches that transform their communities as we look ahead to our diocesan centenary in 2026. It also lays out four ways in which this over-arching goal can be achieved: Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Prioritising Children and Young People.

All that we do as diocese is focussed on the delivery of Vision 2026. For example:

- To make disciples we have 'Fruitful', our Diocesan Discipleship app and distribute 10,000 devotionals at Lent and Advent which enable people to study the scriptures. We also encourage greater generosity in the giving of time, talents and treasures.
- To be witnesses, many parishes are setting up new local congregations at different times and in different places to reach out to new groups of people as well as showing God's love in action through projects that meet human need.
- New leaders are emerging as we seek to enable and equip those God is raising up for lay and ordained ministry. Our M:Power course is a nationally innovative resource for forming leaders from working class backgrounds.
- Our focus on children and young people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ. This is supported by our family of church schools, teams to support children and youth work and our Youth Forum.

In the Diocese of Blackburn we are inspired by confidence in the Gospel and are ambitious in our desire to make new disciples for Jesus Christ. We are committed to mutual flourishing, to maintaining clergy numbers and to investing in training for new curates.

As we look to 2026 and the completion of the current Vision, the Diocese has embarked on a major programme of listening to God and our communities as we discern when he is leading us next. This is being supported in prayer as we observe a Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal in 2025.

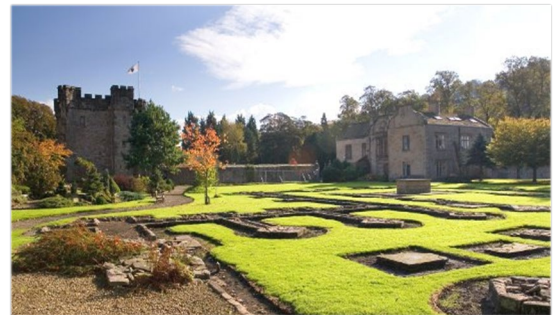
Our Diocesan Vision Prayer is:

***“Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses,
to grow leaders and to inspire children and young people.
Give us eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit
and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen”***

You can find out more by visiting the Vision 2026 pages on our website: www.blackburn.anglican.org

3. Clergy Care and Wellbeing

- Clergy are invited to participate in an 8 year annual programme to keep ministry fresh and vital. This includes periods of sabbatical and regular retreats.
- We offer an Annual Conversation in which every licensed priest spends 90 mins with a Bishop or Archdeacon discussing ministry and wellbeing.
- Ongoing theological training and teaching is offered through our partnership with Emmanuel Theological College. Clergy receive free access to a theological library of 22,000 books and regular seminars.
- Annual Diocesan Clergy Study Days and an occasional clergy conference seek to provide opportunities both to keep ministry fresh and to build relationships with colleagues.
- We offer first incumbents a mentor and participation in our Start of Ministry Programme.
- All clergy are entitled to an uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours in each period of seven days and one additional rest period of 24 hours in each month, and in the remaining weeks of the month to take a rest day and a light day.
- We offer a Clergy Assistance Programme. More information about this can be found on our [website](#)
- We have a great property department, who will do their best to ensure your house works for you and your family and is well maintained.
- We have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days for a modest charge (you can book in for lunch or bring your own).
- We encourage all parishes in vacancy to consider how they will ‘pastor’ and support their new priest. The diocese has an anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have an excellent Warden of Spiritual Direction and networks of people with whom we can put you in touch.
- We are always looking for ways for clergy to mix apart from work – including reading weeks, regular hospitality, a cricket team and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.
- We offer free counselling to clergy and their families through the [Inter Diocesan Counselling Service](#) and our own Diocesan counsellor.
- Clergy Wellbeing is overseen by the Assistant Archdeacon for Clergy Wellbeing, Canon Neil Kelley. In addition our Dean of Women’s Ministry, the Revd Lucie Lunn, offers support and care to female clergy in the Diocese.



Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer

4. Chorley St George and All Saints: Our Vision

Our vision is '**Closer to Christ, further out for Christ**'.

We believe that it doesn't matter so much where you've been. What really matters is where you're going.

In our parish we are on a journey to know God better in Jesus Christ and we want others to join us on this journey.

This journey is made up of two strands: the first strand is drawing closer to Christ, and the second strand is that we can then go further out for Christ.

To expand, we know that we're not the finished product. We know that we're not yet the people God calls us to be. However, having firstly come closer to Christ and become rooted in Him, He then sends us out to serve others and invite them to join us on this amazing journey.

By this we pray that by bringing us all closer to our Lord in prayer and actions, we will be able to go out into the community and spread the word and the good news that Jesus Christ is alive and working in our parish.

We hope and pray that with the correct support we can all come closer to Jesus and grow in our faith.



St George's Church

5. Our Spiritual Life

Both churches have two Eucharistic services a week, St George's on Sunday at 9.30am and midweek Wednesday 10.00am. All Saints' Sunday 11.00am and midweek Thursday 10.30am. All Saints' also have a 'Closer' service, which is a service of the word including songs, talks and crafts, at 4.00pm on Sunday. This is focussed on young people and families, although several of our more established congregation do attend this service.

We have a prayer group that meets monthly, and there were bible study courses with the previous incumbent, which we would be keen to continue. Home communions are taken on a regular basis to the housebound and we have a committed pastoral visiting team for anyone who requires a visit. We have a Mission and Discipleship team that meet to discuss our vision and commitment to enable our spiritual growth. We have held two well attended conferences, with excellent speakers, in St George's during these last few years focussing on spirituality. All Saints' recently held a men's only conference focussing on 'identity for men in the world alongside discipleship'.

We are a middle of the road church, following Common Worship in the Anglican tradition. The spiritual life for our youth is growing through the Youth Group. We have a full acolyte and servers' team in St George's, and this is something that is growing in All Saints'. Clergy wear vestments, servers and acolytes wear albs, incense is not used.

St George's Church North side view



6. Our Resources

We currently have a planting curate whose main responsibility is to grow All Saints', a position that he is fulfilling wonderfully. The congregation has significantly risen both at the Eucharist and the Closer service.

We have an ALM who is currently studying to become LLM. She exercises her ministry at various services by reading, intercessions and preaching, both at mid-week and main services. She also co-ordinates our home communion team and our pastoral visiting team for both churches. Also, we have three other people studying to become ALM's, these three are based at All Saints'.

Worship at St George's and All Saints' is rooted in the Anglican tradition, enriched by music, liturgy and preaching that engages heart and mind. Our services are grounded in Common Worship with seasonal adaptations.

There is a retired priest in our congregation at St George's, who has permission to officiate and celebrates on a reasonably regular basis, and during the vacancy. St George's have an excellent choir ably led by our devoted musical director and organist, the choir are also active at All Saints' when there are any special services, e.g. confirmation etc.

There are several thriving groups at St George's including DAMS (amateur dramatic soc), Choir, Mother's Union, Thursday Ladies Circle, Men's Fellowship, Prayer Group, Bible study, Little Steps, Sunday Club, Flower Guild just to name a few. Some of the Rainbows, Brownies and Guide units meet in the Church Hall, some meet at Red Bank Mission Hut.

The uniformed organisations attend church parade four times a year.





St George's DAMS perform a regular, annual Passion Play in church around Easter time.



Both churches have a prayer tree for their congregations to put prayers on. The theme is changed each month. These prayers are used at our monthly prayer meeting ensuring that all prayers are heard.

All Saints' have a small yet committed Mother's Union, a new Men's group, Knit and Natter group, Flower Guild, Youth Group and bible study at certain times of the year. The Sunday school has recently been re-established. A parade service with local scouts has recently been introduced. Both last year and this year All Saints' have organised a holiday club for primary school aged children. This was a great success last year and we hope to build further on this.



The advertisement for the holiday club held at All Saints'. Children have fun, become familiar with the church, do crafts and other activities, some play in a small drama, they all learn about the church, about Jesus and the impact this can have on their lives.

The Parish of Chorley St George and All Saints' was created on 1st August 2023, following the approval of a Pastoral Scheme resulting in the former parishes of Chorley St. George and Chorley All Saints' being merged into a single parish with the two churches remaining as individual 'Parish Churches'.

The Parish Church of St. George is situated in the town centre of Chorley and the Parish Church of All Saints' is situated in the southern boundary area of Chorley. The parish is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England and is registered as a charity in England and Wales.

St George's Church is a fine example of a Waterloo Church, built by Church Commissioner's money and opened for worship in 1825 and holding the heritage status as a Grade 2* listed building.

This year we are celebrating our bicentennial with several events planned.

All Saints' Church opened in 1959; the foundation stone was laid in 1957 (whose boundary was originally part of the Parish of St George) and categorised as a sister church to St George's. The church building is not listed and is a more modern style brick building.

Our new parish has an active, enthusiastic and hardworking Parochial Church Council (PCC) comprising of representatives from both churches.

Both our churches serve their community and remain committed to worship, outreach, fellowship and spiritual growth. The demands of the congregations and outreach differ in both of the parish areas but still keep the gospel at the centre and with the help of God, things are slowly starting to take shape and grow, especially in the All Saints' area.

We have several committees, the main three being Safeguarding, Mission and Discipleship (M&D) and Finance and General Purposes (F&GP). There is an established Safeguarding Committee responsible for the strategic leadership and championing of safeguarding in the Parish. The M&D and F&GP committees deal with a lot of the day to day running of our two churches. We also have an excellent maintenance team who keep our churches in as good a condition as possible, led by our Buildings and Fabric Committee.

Work at All Saints' is more demanding and will need specialist input due to the deterioration of the building over several years. The maintenance team do whatever they are able to, under the circumstances, to undertake cosmetic repairs and maintenance.

Finances

While finances remain challenging, we have always paid the parish share in full, this is partially because of generous legacies and share investments. We fully recognise the importance of paying the parish share.

The regular weekly giving is something that needs to be addressed.

All Saints' is growing; income is on the increase and is currently subsidised by the diocese due to the merger and current funding arrangements. This will not continue indefinitely, it is envisaged that changes will be made in a few years' time.

Although we are required to prepare combined accounts, we manage our finances, operationally, at 'church' level.

St George's Church – Year ending December 2024

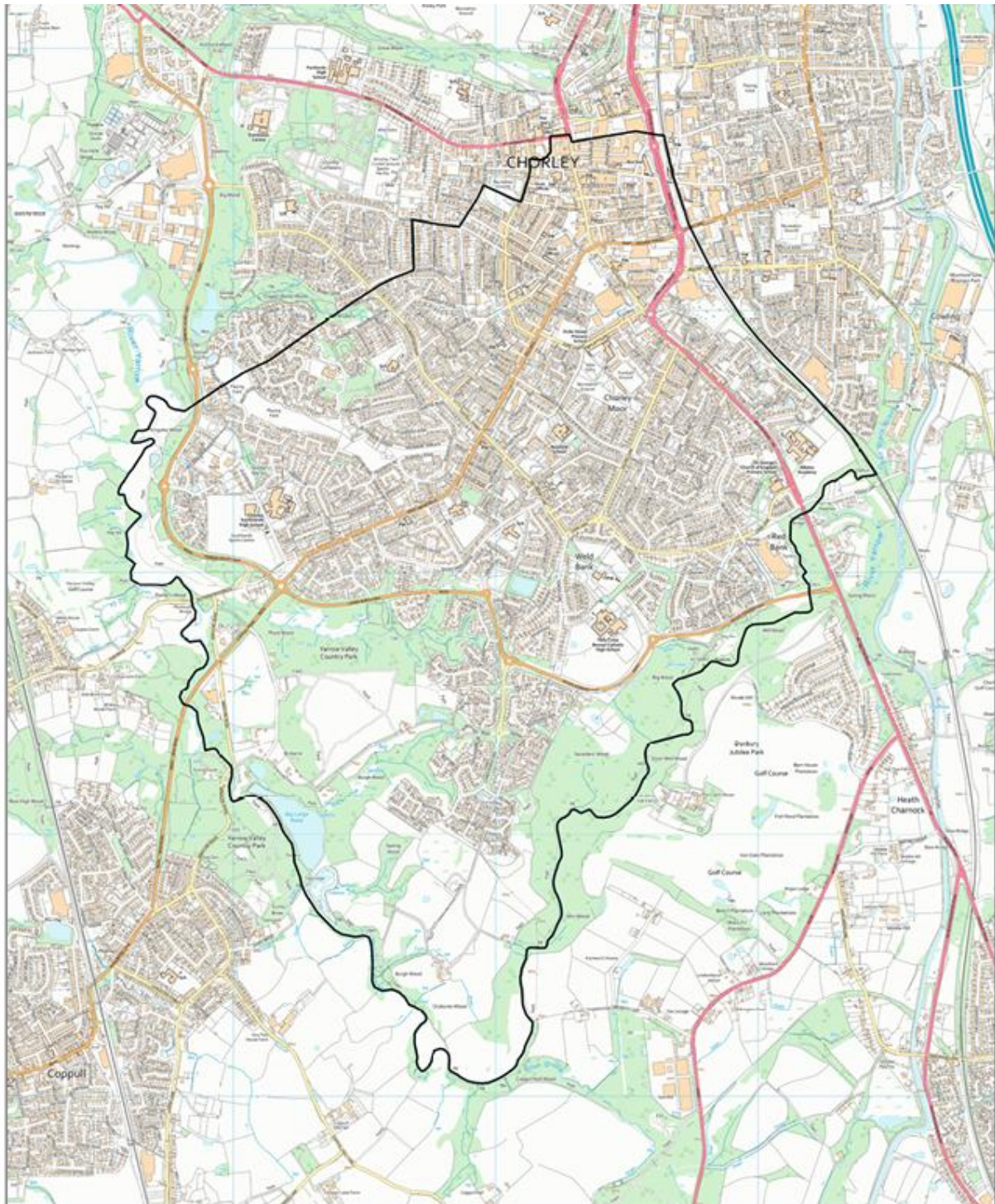
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|---|----------|
| Total Income (General and Restricted but excluding the value of gains on investments) - | £137,295 |
| Investment gains - | £ 12,078 |
| Total Expenditure (General and Restricted) - | £136,939 |
| Total Funds (General, Designated and Restricted) | |
| Carried Forward - | £375,135 |

All Saints' Church – Year ending December 2024

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|--|----------|
| Total Income (General and Restricted) - | £ 28,851 |
| Total Expenditure (General and Restricted) - | £ 23,166 |
| Total Funds (General and Restricted) | |
| Carried Forward - | £ 26,076 |

Where we are

The Parish boundary of St George and All Saints’.



Chorley is a traditional Lancashire market town with good rail and road links. As well as the many attractions in Chorley itself (Astley Park, Yarrow Valley, Rivington and the Pennine Moors) there is easy access to the seaside, the Lake District and the Trough of Bowland as well as to the cities of Manchester, Preston and Liverpool.

St George's Church is in the middle of the Borough of Chorley on the southwest of the town centre. The Church is in the north-east corner of the Parish and is situated in a conservation area known as 'St George's Conservation Area'. The congregation has stayed steady at around 100 (adults & children).

We have held several larger services during the last year taking the numbers up to around 300. This year we hosted the annual Diocesan Y6 Leaver's Service for around 1200 children and 200 adults across 3 sessions. The Bishop of Blackburn attended all 3 services.

St George's also has a very active, modern and well maintained church hall situated next to the church which brings in a substantial amount of income to support itself. The hall attracts various groups both from church and from the community.



St George's Church Hall

St George's Church also has overall responsibility for Red Bank Mission Hut which is situated a short distance away from the Church and hosts Red Bank Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

St George's also have a modern institute situated a short distance from the church, which is a well-used venue for functions.

All Saints' Church is situated more towards the south of the town centre. It is situated between two well established housing estates and has a new build estate in its boundary. It has for several years been in decline with church attendance decreasing. Since the merger there has been a steady increase in activity and attendance at All Saints'.

Several new services have been introduced, and congregational numbers are increasing. This is due mainly to the planting curate's innovative ideas, dedication and hard work. These initiatives have been supported by long established members and new people coming after seeing the improvement, both in building, services and events.



All Saints' Church

Both churches have schools attached to them, they are both good primary schools. St George's and All Saints' both have good Christian values and are deeply rooted in these. The new incumbent will become ex-officio foundation governor of both primary schools. There is also a local high school nearby, Southlands. A little farther away is St Michael's Church of England High School, now an academy, with strong church links.

St George's Church of England Primary School stands as a vibrant, sentient heart in the very marrow of our parish — a place where children, staff, and families flourish in joyful symbiosis, under the leadership of excellent governance. With a rich tapestry woven from Christian values, we nurture each child not simply to succeed, but to thrive, to dream audaciously, and to live out their God-given potential with courage and kindness. The school radiates a palpable warmth, where laughter ricochets through the corridors and compassion underpins every interaction. Our partnership with the parish is not a perfunctory nod but a profound, living covenant — one that nourishes spiritual growth, celebrates collective achievements, and uplifts all in our shared mission. As Ted Lasso wisely said, *"I believe in hope."* At St George's, that belief is our daily bread, our guiding star, and our collective heartbeat. *Andy Purcell, Headteacher.*

All Saints' Church of England Primary School

'All Saints' would really like a kind and fun loving Vicar to work alongside our current curate, helping us to choose the right paths, following Jesus' example. We are a vibrant and welcoming C of E school at the heart of the local community. Rooted in Christian values, we passionately foster a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to grow in faith, develop a love of learning, and flourish both academically and spiritually. Our dynamic church school partnerships enable our children to gain rich experiences that help pupils and adults to explore the biblical foundations of our vision. We really value the role of the vicar in supporting the spiritual life of our school, leading worship, and enriching the Christian ethos that underpins all aspects of school life. The school community looks forward to working in partnership with a vicar who is enthusiastic, approachable, and passionate about inspiring young minds in faith.'

Sarah Partington Headteacher



All Saints' Y6 leavers

2025

7. The Community

Both communities are of different backgrounds. St George's Church is positioned mainly in the retail part of the town and has very few homes in the immediate vicinity. There are dwellings a short distance away.

All Saints' is a very different background; the church being on the edge of a socially deprived area. Recent years have seen a wide range of new housing developments, but it is the local deprived area that outreach is being aimed at, and which seems to be responding well. The new developments haven't been forgotten but the new congregation that is attending seems to be mainly from the deprived area.

Both churches are very welcoming when new people attend; but the main issues we perceive, in both church areas, are attracting people into church, engaging with them, and where appropriate, to assist in one of the many volunteer roles. By doing this, hopefully, they will come to feel part of our church community.

Fund raising activities are significant in both churches. Christmas Fair and coffee mornings for example.



St George's and All Saints' Mothers' Union and Men's Fellowship enjoying fellowship at the VE Day celebrations.

8.Vicarage

St George's vicarage is situated in Letchworth Place, a quiet residential area close to the town centre and about a 10-minute walk to church. It was built in 1975 and boasts a large well maintained garden plot of land with the actual house set back from the road. It has ample parking space at the front as well as a garage. It has four bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen, dining room, living room, downstairs toilet and study. The study can be accessed without entry to the main living area. It is fitted with double glazing and central heating. It has recently had the guttering and soffits refurbished.

It has front and rear gardens which give a good degree of privacy. The vicarage has been well maintained throughout the years.

This will be the dwelling for the new priest.



St George's Vicarage

All Saints' also have a vicarage which the curate lives in. It is situated on Moor Road, a short walk from the Church and right next to All Saints' School. It was built in the 1940's and has had a refurbishment in the last 8 years.

9. Who is God calling

We are currently seeking an experienced priest who is called to walk with us as we grow in Christ.

Someone who is grounded in prayer and scripture,

- offers thoughtful meaningful preaching,
- who can bring the scriptures alive to a broad congregation,
- who will care about our congregation both as individuals and as a whole.

Who is experienced in pastoral care,

- visiting the sick and bereaved,
- attending to parishioner's spiritual needs and spiritual formation.

A priest who is approachable, collaborative, a good communicator,

- fully computer literate and good at admin,
- who can reach out to the wider community,
- who can address any internal differences with a sympathetic but reasonable approach,
- good at leading teams.

Someone with a vibrant personality,

- capable of leading our youth forward and helping them to come to know Jesus more,
- while still maintaining our established traditions.
- helping us to grow.

We are looking for the right person who can engage with our young families, especially those school families who attend church for whatever reason.

We prayerfully seek a priest who can lead all of us, both young and established congregation, forward into the future of our church, guiding us to be rooted in faith. Someone who will give full support to our LLM and ALM's as they continue in their own development.

We believe that God is very active in both our church buildings and communities, and we are excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads us. If your heart is stirred by our story, then we would love you to walk this journey with us.

SWOC Analysis

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| <p><u>Strengths – St George's</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established Congregation • Strong Finances • Vibrant Church Groups • Small Band of Dedicated Ageing Volunteers • Strong Links to St George's C of E Church Primary School • Large Grade 2* Listed Building • Large Church Hall • Separate Mission Hut • Use of Church Building for Local and Diocesan events | <p><u>Strengths – All Saints'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing New Local Congregation • Improving Finances • New Church Groups • 1950's Non Listed Church Building • Strong Links to the All Saints' C of E Primary School • Developing Links with the Local County Primary School • Developing Youth Group • Growing Number of Dedicated Volunteers • Dedicated Planting Curate |
| <p><u>Weakness – St George's</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing Demographic and Volunteers • Low Level Mission • Lack of New Younger Volunteers • Few Young Families Involved in Church Outside of Worship | <p><u>Weakness – All Saints'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal Income • Low Growth over previous years, now increasing quite quickly • Backlog of Maintenance and Repairs |
| <p><u>Opportunities -St George's</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing the Congregation • An Increased Appetite for Mission • Building Relationships with Young Families • To Widen Pastoral Ministry • Sharing the Good News of Our Lord • Build on Community Involvement • Engaging with the Youth and Uniformed Organisations • Continue to Support Lay Ministry | <p><u>Opportunities – All Saints'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to Grow the Congregation • Continue to Build on Existing Mission and Community Engagement • Continue to Grow Pastoral Ministry • Sharing the Good News of Our Lord • Continue to Engage with Children and Youth • Continue to Nurture Financial Growth • Continue to Support Lay Ministry |
| <p><u>Challenges– St George's</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregation Demographics • Need to Grow Finances • Ageing Buildings, Cost of Maintenance/Repairs • Decline in Attendance • Maintaining Compliance and Governance Requirements | <p><u>Challenges – All Saints'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving Financial Stability • Cost of Maintenance/Repairs • Fundraising for Significant Church Building Repairs • Maintaining Compliance and Governance Requirements |