

# The Parish of St Martin Ashton-upon-Mersey Sale Cheshire





## A message from the Bishop of Chester

Thank you for looking at this post in Chester Diocese. Whatever the Lord has for you, I want to assure you of my own prayers and a deep gratitude that we might get to partner together in this part of the Lord's work.

I have spent ages trying to capture the enormity of the privilege I feel in getting to serve the people of this diocese, and my words cannot bear the weight of that calling. This community of communities ranging from the very richest to the very poorest and the deepest rural to the most industrialised and urban is amazing. The diocese holds together in a shared sense of call to be 'Together in Christ Sharing Hope'. We have a deeply held vocation to serve the 1.5 million inhabitants who have no meaningful connection with a community of faith, and share the feast which has been shared with us in Jesus.

In Chester Diocese this is always going to be worked out locally first and foremost: no-one met Jesus through a Diocese! Lives are changed in parishes, chaplaincies, and new expressions of Christian community, when people are invited in kindness and grace into transformative encounter with the love of the God who made them. Together we focus on our broad strategic aims so that those who know they are the people of God can serve all the people God calls in their everyday living.

We are utterly committed to safeguarding, because every person matters to our God and Saviour more than we know how to express. This is also why we welcome applications from every background for posts in this diocese. We are learning how to do all of this as guest rather than always as host, as we partner to serve the world to which we are sent.

If God is calling you to serve with us, I rejoice! Come, roll up your sleeves, and get stuck in! If the call is elsewhere then be assured of our gratitude and earnest prayer that the Lord will lead and provide in all things.

Please do pray for us, too – the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

+Mark

# OUR WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

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St. Martin's is a friendly, caring church family in the modern Anglo-Catholic tradition where new faces are always welcome; whoever you are and from wherever you come. We are looking forward to the next stage of our journey and sharing it with a new Rector. We pray that a person of faith - a pastor and leader - will feel called to join with us and inspire us so that together we can further God's kingdom here.

We are a relatively small church building and congregation, yet we are extremely fortunate to have so many members at St. Martin's with a commitment to the life of the church who exercise their gifts and ministry doing what they do best!

We work together to engage the wider community and consolidate St Martin's as a community church or resource. Although it is difficult to translate our community work and the gains we have made into traditional church attendance, we are developing a flexible congregation that dips in and out of our community based work, alongside our more overtly religious congregation attending church on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Past Rectors have been invited to take monthly Assemblies in the village Wellfield Junior School. Currently, church members are picking these up, however, we would look for the new incumbent to take this role back.

As a Parish we want to:

- Grow together as a worshipping community and deepen our unity around a shared vision and sense of purpose.
- Broaden our reach into our local community, especially in local schools.
- Use our gifts in service and mission.
- Develop and enrich our worship.
- Tackle the ongoing challenges of finance, and of maintenance and repair of our buildings.

In order to achieve this, we are praying for an incumbent who is:

- Resourced by the modern Anglo-Catholic tradition, with a deep, prayerful faith in Jesus Christ, and is eager to share the Gospel in everyday life.

- Able to build strong relationships with people from a variety of backgrounds; a good listener who will be a visible, approachable presence in both church and community life.
- Experienced in nurturing lay ministry in all its forms; someone who can recognise and nurture individual gifts, to foster active participation and teamwork.
- A good communicator, able to teach the faith in ways that are engaging, relevant, and accessible.
- Able to help others explore and live out the Christian faith in everyday life.
- Able to see the potential in our buildings and resources, for transformation, outreach and community engagement.
- Ready to help us in our giving, growing in our generosity.
- Committed to nurturing a strong and effective safeguarding culture, where all in the parish feel safe, valued and welcome.



Our last Rector was supported by 5 members of our congregation equipped for specific leadership. Hence, during the interregnum, our Worship is able to continue

as before under their direction: Reader in Training; two Priests with PTO; and two Occasional Worship Leaders.

Vestments are worn at all services. On Sundays we have two Eucharistic services: 9am said BCP service and 10am Choral Eucharist (Common Worship) supported by a robed choir (affiliated to R.S.C.M.) using 'Hymns Old and New'. On Wednesdays 10am said BCP Eucharist.



We regularly host and join with neighbouring parish churches for shared services.

In Lent and Advent, we worship with the local R. C. congregation, using both our churches



Our members organise and participate in the annual World Day of Prayer Service.

In addition to our traditional services, we have - for children and young people - 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays: Explorers Lego Church (*Sunday School*); 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Messy Church and a weekly 'REACH' after School Tuesday club, taking place mostly in the Church Hall (*during the interregnum we have had to temporarily pause the after school club*) .

**St Martin's Church Hall**  
Ashton upon Mersey, M33 5QQ

# Explorers

**Sunday School...**  
**But not as you know it!**

- Games, songs and activities for young people, children, babies & toddlers **mainly using lego/duplo**
- Light breakfast provided
- Children younger than primary age need an adult to stay with them, older children can be dropped off
- No need to book, but see the details below if you have questions or comments

**First Sunday of the month: 10-11am**  
**2025 dates:**  
5th January, 2nd February,  
2nd March, 6th April,  
4th May, 1st June,  
6th July, 3rd August,  
7th September, 5th October,  
2nd November, 7th December

St Martin's Church Hall, Church Ln, Ashton upon Mersey, M33 5QQ  
Contact: Revd Catherine Cleghorn [catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com) / 07813 117385 <https://stmartinsaom.co.uk/>

**St Martin's Church,**  
**Ashton upon Mersey**

EVERYONE is welcome to...

# Messy Church

## PENTECOST

### FREE INTERGENERATIONAL

NO NEED TO BOOK - ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW ROUGH NUMBERS... **FOOD**

**SUNDAY 25th May**  
**3 - 5pm**  
**in the Church Hall**

St Martin's Church, Church Ln, Ashton upon Mersey, M33 5QQ  
Contact: Revd Catherine Cleghorn [catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com)

**St Martin's Church Hall**  
Church Lane, Ashton upon Mersey, M33 5QQ

# REACH

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

### YEARS 5-6

### TUESDAYS 3.30-5PM

Free Entry ★ Game ★ Snack ★ Crafts  
Space to chat, explore faith and ask questions

**EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME**  
Please contact Revd Catherine:  
[catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com) / 07813 117385  
if you have any questions or comments

**St Martin's Church**  
Ashton upon Mersey, M33 5QQ

# "Songs of Praise"

**Sunday 11th**  
**May, 4pm**

Come and sing wonderful hymns chosen by congregation members and hear why they are meaningful to them. The Rector's Gin Bar will be open throughout... "Sing with Gin"

St Martin's Church, Church Ln, Ashton upon Mersey, M33 5QQ  
Contact: Revd Catherine Cleghorn  
[catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine.cleghorn@hotmail.com) / 07813 117385



Members of the congregation actively contribute to the worship life of the church in so many ways, including reading the scriptures, leading intercessions and serving at the altar.

A friendly team of GREETERS *welcome* at all services and a small number assist with the distribution of communion, both in church and in people's homes.

Many other leadership roles within the church are held by lay members and we encourage one another to use our gifts to serve both church and community.



*Flower team decorate the church and arrange colour co-ordinated arrangements for couples:*

*Nativity Service with help from the Brownies and Guides*



*Christmas Tree Festival*



*Shepherds' and Angels' Service*



Volunteers organise and lead: weekly Bible Study Group; Thursday WELCOME CAFE; fortnightly Bereavement GROUP (partnered with St. Mary's); monthly Parish Lunch; monthly Carers' Lunch; monthly Men's Breakfast Club; Book Group.



Our 'Men's Breakfast' meets monthly for bacon barms ... followed by talk by an invited speaker.

All projects are important to us, but the heart of the life of the St. Martin's is its sacramental worship which, together with the fellowship that it engenders, provides the bedrock upon which all our Outreach activities depend. We have been creative in seeking to connect with the wider world to engage with the call of Christ to 'love God and love your neighbour as yourself'.

This has resulted in a number of one-off; occasional; and regular initiatives including: Pastoral and prayer visiting with 'angel dropping' to the local shops and businesses around Advent and Christmas; shoe polishing on Maundy Thursday in the local shopping area with our neighbour parish St Paul.



Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday;



# OUR CHURCH BUILDING

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A site of Christian worship since the 800s, St. Martin's is the Mother Church of the area; first recorded in 1304 on Anglo Saxon foundations.



The present Grade 2\* listed building dates from 1714; the tower was built to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. 2012 saw the completion of major works to renovate the tower, which was shortlisted for the John Betjeman Memorial Award.



We are aware that given the age of the church building there is the ongoing challenge of problems of maintenance and repair.

The choir is accompanied by a three manual Jardine organ. We have recently changed our organ tuner, having experienced problems. These are now under control and a phased period of restoration is envisaged - some work has been done and we plan for more that needs to be done over the foreseeable future.

St. Martin's values the importance of music in our worship and we are fortunate in being led by a talented, faithful choir.

We have not had a full time organist since September 2024 and have been operating through the good offices of a number of ad hoc organists and others who contribute to leading the music.



*If our beautiful ancient church seems familiar, could it be that you have watched various television programmes featuring St Martin's, including Coronation Street and Shameless?*

*The stunning **East window** depicts major events in Jesus' life. Other stained glass windows were given in memory of local people.*

*Harvest donations are given to The Mustard Tree Food Bank, together with monthly donations of goods and monies.*



***The Interior is traditional, with oak pews and panelling and an 18<sup>th</sup> Century balcony***  
***Weddings during 2025 numbered 6***





*Palm Sunday crosses held aloft*

**The Victorian Baptistry is now a Prayer Chapel**

*as Baptisms take place at the smaller font.*



**Baptisms during 2025 numbered 13.**

*Baptisms are currently held on the second Sunday of the month at 12.00 noon*



## CHURCH HALL

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The Hall, built in 1992 and extended in 2003, is in a good repair and very well used by Church and a wide range of community organisations. A small car park separates Church and Hall, with extra parking accessible to us on spare ground behind the Hall which we share with Ashton Golf Club



**Ground floor**

comprises a large hall (seating 100); store room; fully equipped kitchen with hatch through to the hall; accessible toilet, gents' toilet, meeting room and office.



**Hatch through to fully equipped kitchen, with new catering hob and oven.**

**On the first floor:**  
a small hall; kitchen; ladies' toilet;  
boiler room

## HALL BOOKINGS

In addition to the **regular bookings** listed below, which form the core of our hall income, our hall and meeting rooms are popular within the local community and beyond for a variety of **occasional events** and gatherings including: children's and adults' parties, Road-shows, exams, summer camps, exhibitions, concerts, workshops, funeral wakes.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Church use</b> Refreshments after Sunday Service 1 <sup>st</sup> – Explorers' 4 <sup>th</sup> – Messy Church	<b>Community hire</b> a.m. Chinese Lessons pm. Drama/Dance Class
<b>Monday</b>		Sale Cornet and Sax; Pilates; Singing Class; Brownies/Guides
<b>Tuesday</b>	P.C.C. 6 times p.a. 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Bereavement Group	Rainbows/Brownies
<b>Wednesday</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> - Parish Lunch for both church and community	Brentwood Special School CAFE Private Tutorials
<b>Thursday</b>	Welcome Cafe (Warm Space) for all 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Carers' Lunch	Sale Arts Group Private Tutorials
<b>Friday</b>		Pilates; Chair Pilates; 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trafford Carers' Book Club.
<b>Saturday</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> - Men's Breakfast	Chinese Lessons Dance Group

*Hospitality in the Church Hall.*



*Explorers' Lego Church.*



# CHURCH GROUNDS & COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVEYARD

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St. Martin's is situated in a Conservation area on the edge of Ashton Village in a rural setting.

It is approached through a timber framed Grade 2 listed Lych gate.



ST. MARTIN'S COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN      During 2025 we formed a Community Vegetable Garden Team, manned by church members and others from the community. We all benefit from this new venture which makes use of a previously unused area of church ground.



The large, well-maintained Commonwealth War Graveyard, still in use, is a popular cut-through for walkers along the River Mersey and Trans Pennine Trail.



In the Graveyard there is a Grade 2 listed Village War Memorial commemorating those who gave their lives in both world wars and 16 Commonwealth War Graves; also an early nineteenth century stone sundial, Grade 2 listed.

### *Churchyard Tidy-Up Team*

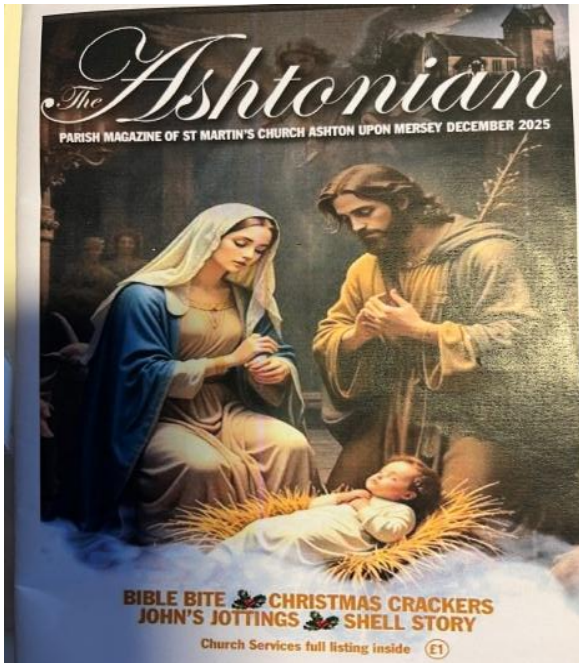


We have the services of a member of the congregation who acts as Verger/Sexton who also happens to be the person professionally responsible for the maintenance of the church grounds.

# COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

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These are some of the ways in which Church members take responsibility for engaging and communicating with parishioners and beyond:



**PARISH MAGAZINE** printed *monthly* with a circulation of 100

**FACEBOOK** site with 1126 members

*Smartcode takes you there*



**WEBSITE** <https://stmartinsaom.co.uk>

Both sites are regularly monitored with information added as necessary to keep up to date with happenings.

The “Exciting Events” Committee plans and publicises a yearly programme of events to appeal to both local community and church members alike; with the intention of raising awareness of St. Martin’s throughout the locality as well as building up church funds.

Such events have included Fashion Shows, Craft Fairs, Winter & Summer Fairs, Christmas Tree Festivals and Santa’s Grotto; Beetle Drives; Afternoon Teas and many more.



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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There are 87 on the electoral roll, with 56 being non resident in the parish.

In the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 , income generated by our congregation came from Planned Giving -

- a- by way of monthly standing orders – Gift aided
- b- Christian Stewardship regular envelopes – Gift aided
- c- Casual Envelopes taking Gift Aided contributions
- d- Cash contributions in the offertory Plate
- e- 100+ club

These sources produced an overall direct contribution of **£42063** supported by the Gift Aid return from HMRC of **£12938**.

Other sources of income are generated from a wide range of fund raising events and rental income from the Church Community Hall lettings. Income is also derived from weddings and funeral requirements.

All these sources of funds plus Donations enable the regular overheads of the Church, Church Hall and Churchyard to be met, and contribute towards future needs.

The current Parish Share - **£50448 per annum in 2025** – continues to be fully covered; it is the most sizeable contribution and is paid monthly. A 3% increase will be levied in 2026.

Two major expenditure projects require funding in the short and medium term: an overhaul of the church organ, which is being costed at the moment, and repairs to the church roof. Funding sources are being explored together with an open invitation for Donation support from willing and able parishioners.



## ST. MARTIN'S RECTORY

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The Rectory – an imposing 1930s brick, detached residence in a prime position - was extensively refurbished in 2012 and further updated in 2021. It is conveniently sited on Glebelands Road, just a few minutes' walk from church and village.

On the ground floor it comprises: study, dining room, lounge, large kitchen, and two toilets - one with accessible facilities. Upstairs are four double bedrooms (one en suite) and a family bathroom. The house has an airy and spacious feel.

There is an accessible access to one side of the house, a detached garage and driveway to the other and a large enclosed garden to the rear.



## OUR COMMUNITY

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**Housing** in the Parish is mostly private, with some social housing of which some houses have been bought.

We enjoy excellent relations with **local schools**: the village has a Nursery and Infant school and a separate Junior school; our neighbouring parish of St. Mary Magdalene has a **church school**. Past incumbents have been invited to take regular school Assemblies, and members of our congregation are continuing this arrangement. The local secondary and further education establishments are outstanding.

Townscroft Lodge and St Michael's Court situated close to Church provide sheltered housing for elderly people.



Adjacent to the Church Hall is **Ashton-upon-Mersey Golf Club** leading to the River Mersey, along which runs the Trans Pennine Trail. Adjacent to the Church are riding stables. Nearby is the Rugby and Cricket club and an F.A. Youth supported football club.

'The Friends of Ashton Village' is active in organising events: a street market each year in December; a Picnic in the Park in the summer with entertainment and stalls. Fund raising events are held to provide Christmas lights in the village including concerts in the church.

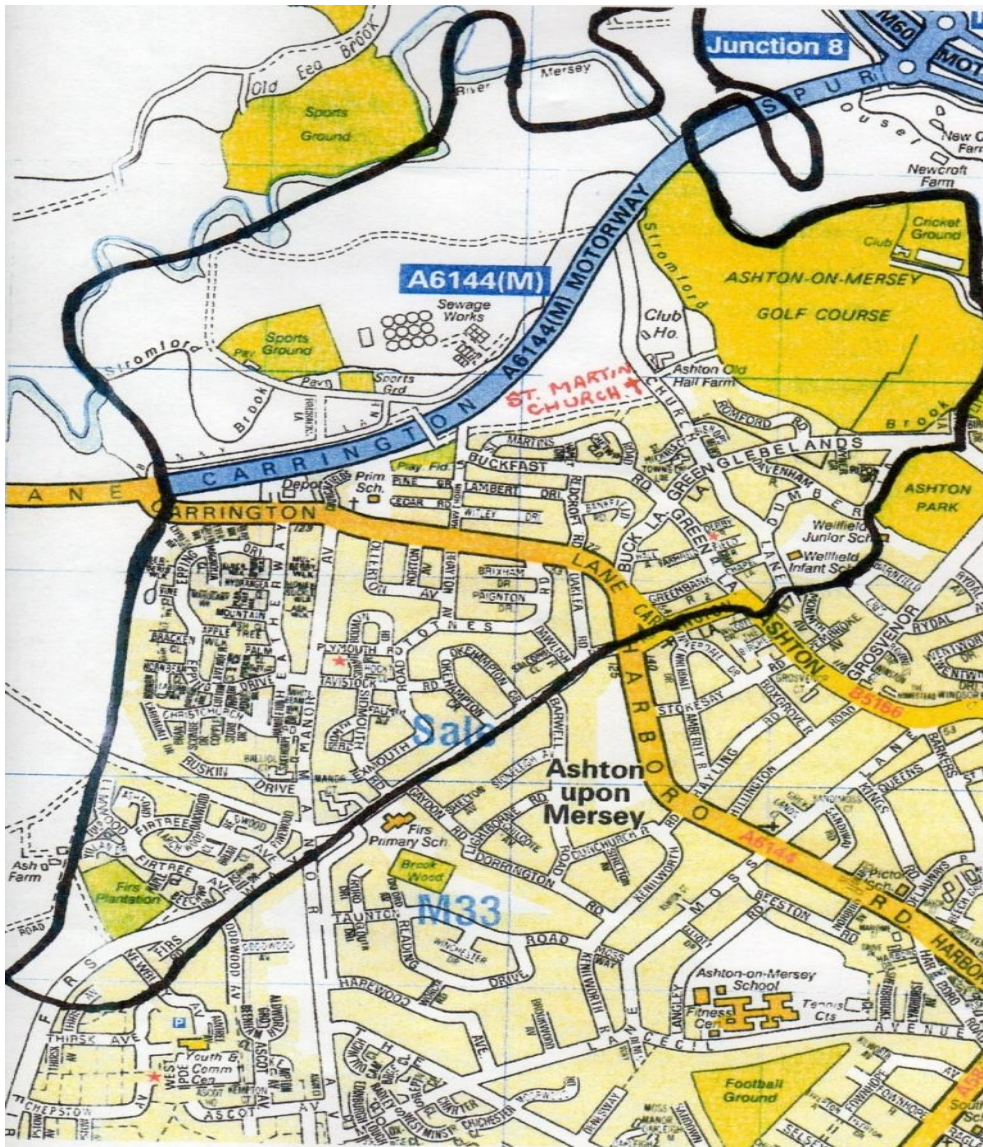


Ashton has a large public park with play areas for children of all ages.

## WHERE ARE WE?

Ashton-upon-Mersey was the original township in this area but is now a suburb of Sale in the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford: a key part of Greater Manchester, located to the southwest of Manchester city centre and forming one of its ten metropolitan districts.

## Parish Boundary



Ashton-upon-Mersey is well served by bus; Metro Link trams; Motorway network and Manchester International Airport. Lying six miles south-west of Manchester it is conveniently close to amenities such as the Bridgewater Concert Hall, (home of the Hallé Orchestra); Lancashire Cricket Club; Manchester City and Manchester United Football Stadia; the Arena concert venue and The Trafford Shopping Centre. Several National Trust properties are also within easy reach.



Situated on the edge of the beautiful Cheshire countryside, Ashton-upon-Mersey has a population of approximately six and a half thousand, yet retains a village feel.



The thriving shopping area has two public houses; a variety of cafes and restaurants; two medium sized supermarkets; post office; petrol station; and a wide range of individual shops as well as business premises; many of which support our major fund raising events.



# STATISTICS 2.

## SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Ashton-Upon-Mersey: St Martin in the Deanery of BOWDON

### Parish Census and deprivation summary

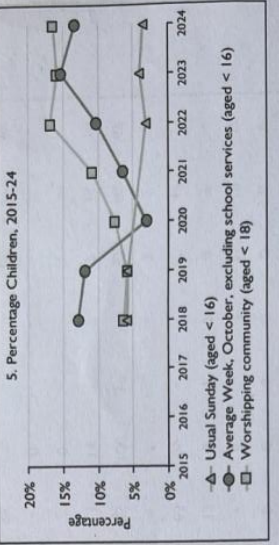
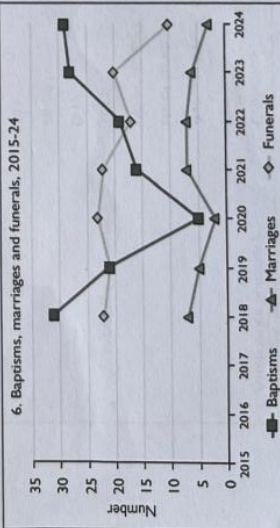
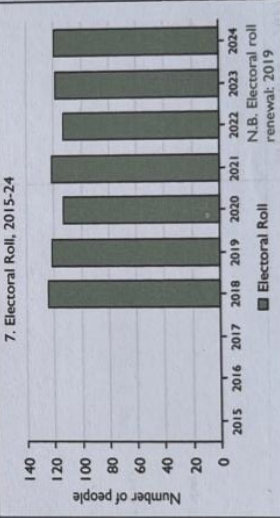
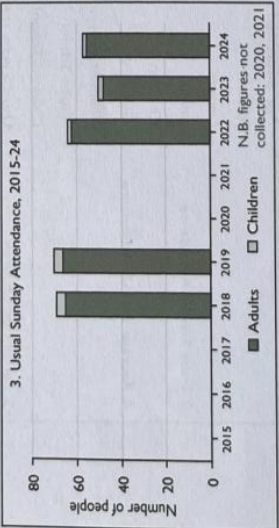
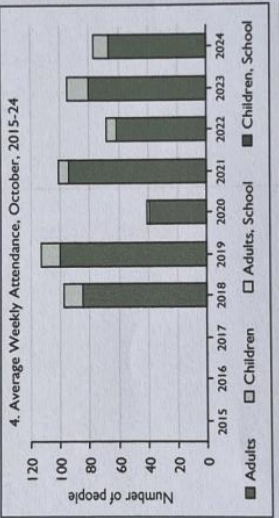
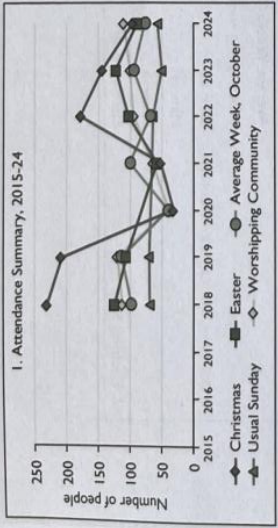
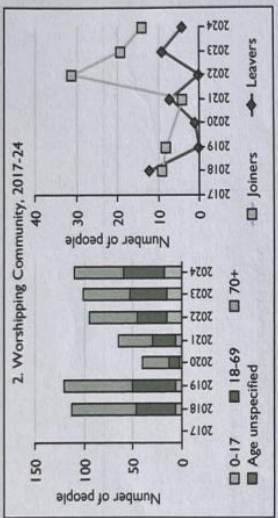
Parish population (2021): 6745

Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	26%	22%
% aged 20-44	29%	29%
% aged 45-69	32%	33%
% aged 70 & over	13%	16%
% Christian	54%	53%
% non-Christian religion	6%	4%
	11%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 5036  
 (= most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,161 = least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <https://arcg.is/1Wz5GBO>  
<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1 Parish Code: 590196

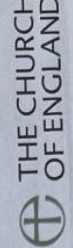


This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish. Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns. Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings. Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages. Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries. Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census. Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019. The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations. For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure. Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1; 2018 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1; 2023 1; 2024 1. Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 06/11/2025. Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to [statistics.unit@churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND