

## The Diocese of Manchester

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### PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

The benefice of:

### WALKDEN & LITTLE HULTON TEAM MINISTRY



***Please return your Parish Profile when complete, together with any other requested papers, to:***

*The Bishop of Manchester: [bishop.david@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.david@manchester.anglican.org)*

*The Suffragan Bishop:*

*The Archdeacon:*

*The Registrar: Diocesan Registry, 3rd Floor, St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury BL9 0ND*

*The Patron – if applicable:*

*The Area Dean:*

*The Deanery Lay Chair:*

*The Mission Community Leader:*

***A hard copy must be provided to the Registrar. Otherwise email copies suffice.***

## **THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST**

As Incumbent of Walkden & Little Hulton Team Ministry we look to you:

To be approachable and encourage lay ministry across our team – enabling all three churches to grow younger, develop pastoral ministries and be a presence outside the church buildings through school and community group links.

To be supportive and develop links with our Mission Community 2 (Worsley) and keen to maintain links with Walkden & District Churches Together to enhance our Ecumenical links.

To have a passion for the ministry of “Growing Younger”, while relating to all age groups represented by our congregations.

To guide and enable the growth of leaders through collaborative ministry across the team. Encouraging discernment of God’s calling on members of the congregations in line with the Diocese vision of developing missional leaders to enhance parish renewal and church planting.

### **What we offer you:**

A warm and friendly welcome across our team churches.

Openness to work with you to develop our desires for more missional leaders and model things well.

Supportive ministry teams across our team, with active P.C.C.’s and full complement of officers in the three churches.

Respect for your day off, the need for privacy and to be mindful of the Diocese information regarding Clergy wellbeing.

### **Mission and Priorities**

To continue with a warm and welcoming space for regular worship and social gatherings within our church spaces.

To build upon the outreach taking place within our three parishes and seek more opportunities to share Jesus’ love through community outreach.

To build on the links we have with our local primary schools and create new links with secondary education establishments to enable all our churches to grow younger and develop missional leaders in all areas – Focal Leaders; A.L.M.’s, Readers, Clergy.

## **INTRODUCTION**

We hope this parish profile will be informative and helpful as you discern the next stage of your journey.

It is our hope; we can inspire you to join us in the Walkden and Little Hulton Team Ministry. Our Benefice is made up three churches: St. Paul Walkden Moor, St. Paul Peel and St. John the Baptist (Little Hulton) a.k.a. St. John's in the Community.

We are three very different parishes, situated in Walkden South, Walkden North and Little Hulton. The demographics are very different, with affluent areas in Walkden South and high deprivation in Walkden North and Little Hulton. Leading to our service to the communities being different.

It is our aim to spread the Good News of Jesus to the communities we serve through the love God has for every person.

Each parish is growing in number; developing new ways of being church in line with the Diocesan strategies, we feel this achieved by working in partnership with Diocese of Manchester, Salford and Leigh Deanery and our Mission Community.

Our hope is these partnerships will enable us to:

- Grow: In number through all age groups coming to worship.  
In faith through opportunities that arise and prayer, bible study.  
In enhancement of current links and developing future links with local primary and secondary schools and community groups and individuals.
- Nurture: Through the respect of all members gifts and talents, acknowledging these come from God.  
Affirming members in their chosen ministry.
- Serve: Our three parishes cover areas of high deprivation and we strive to serve where there is a need – responding to foodbank appeals, special occasion appeals, hosting various types of drop-ins from Coffee, Cake and Chat for the isolated, to Saturday morning Breakfast for anyone who feels they need a warm breakfast, to home communions of housebound members of our church family, to working towards Eco Church awards and being aware of God's creation all around us.

## **BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS**

Full name of benefice or parish(es):

Walkden & Little Hulton Team Ministry; Benefice Parishes of:

**St. Paul Walkden Moor :**

**St. Paul Peel :**

**St. John the Baptist Church (Little Hulton)**

**Title of the post that is vacant:**

Team Rector of Walkden & Little Hulton Team Ministry.

**Name and address of patrons:**

**Patronage Board for Walkden & Little Hulton Team Ministry:**

The Right Reverend. The Lord Bishop of Manchester, Bishops Court, Bury New Road, Manchester M7 4LE

The Venerable Dr Rachel Mann, Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton - St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND

T: 0161 761 6117 [RachelMann@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:RachelMann@manchester.anglican.org)

The Right Honourable Alexander Simon Baron Kenyon, c/o Glanllyn Farm, Wigfair, St Asaph, LL17 0ET

**Name of Area Dean:**

The Reverend Richard Worsfold - Area Dean - Salford and Leigh Deanery: St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND

T: 07387 261677 [richardworsfold@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:richardworsfold@manchester.anglican.org)

Mission Community Leader: Mission Community 2 - Vacant

Official clergy housing: address and brief description:

Our benefice offers two clergy residencies:

**St. Paul's Walkden Vicarage**, Old Vicarage Gardens, Walkden. N28 3JR

A four bedroom with family bathroom on first floor; lounge; dining room; kitchen; utility room; office and spacious entrance hall with visitors w.c. large gardens to front & rear with drive to garage.

**St. John's in the Community** - St. John's Vicarage, Algernon Road, Walkden M28 3RD

Detached property; 5 bedrooms (1 with dressing room) family bathroom. Large landing; entrance hall with cloakroom; w.c.; office entrance; lounge; dining room; kitchen with pantry room; utility room; gardens to front, sides rear; garage and two brick sheds.

**Official population:**

Walkden and Little Hulton Area: 39,761

**Number on electoral roll:**

St Paul's Walkden Moor: 85 (May 2025)

St Paul Peel: 53 (May 2025)

St. John's in the Community: 40 (May 2025)

**Average weekly attendance year on year, over the last 3 years:**

**St. Paul's Walkden Moor:**

**St Paul Peel:**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024
<b>Adults</b>	87	59	44	46	20	40	31	33	44	60
<b>Children</b>	27	21	22	15	5	6	9	5	12	11

**St John's in the Community:**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adults	37	35	30	31	-	-	20	22	20	21
Children	10	10	6	9	-	-	2	5	6	8

**In the last twelve months, numbers (if applicable) of: -**

**St Paul's Walkden:**

- a. those baptized: 6
- b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation: 0
- c. those confirmed: 5
- d. marriages: 3
- e. funerals: 9
- f. Christmas communicants (all services): 273 Adults 71 Children
- g. Easter communicants (all services): 82 Adults 16 Children
- h. last October survey:

Average weekly attendance of children under 16 years = 12

**St Paul Peel:**

- a. those baptized: 4
- b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation: 0
- c. those confirmed: 0
- d. marriages: 2
- e. funerals: 8 plus 1 Memorial Service
- f. Christmas communicants (all services): 65
- g. Easter communicants (all services): 59
- h. last October survey: 71

**St. John's in the Community: 2025**

- a. those baptized: 2
- b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation: 2
- c. those confirmed: 2
- d. marriages: 0
- e. funerals: 1 - memorial service 1
- f. Christmas communicants (all services): 10
- g. Easter communicants (all services): 29
- h. last October survey: 59

**Anglican churches and licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here: -**

**St Paul's Walkden:**

- a. St. Paul Walkden Moor
- b. Approximate key dates for the building? 1850
- c. Approximate seating capacity: 300
- d. When was the last Quinquennial inspection done? 2025 – All good. A well-maintained building.

**St Paul Peel:**

Parish Church of St Paul Peel

- a) Approximate key dates for the building? 1876
- b) Approximate seating capacity: 500
- c) When was the last Quinquennial inspection done? 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- d) What are the top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect

- Clearance of all rainwater pipes, hoppers, gutters and gullies. Re-fix slipped and missing Slates. Specialist to check basement ceiling for presence of asbestos A Refurbishment and Demolition Asbestos Survey.
- Re-slating all the remaining outer roof slopes (north side of north aisle and south side of south aisle), repairs and repointing works as well as specialist timber investigation and repairs should be programmed, (phased if necessary).
- Specialist clean is recommended immediately to the tower interior and a better bird deterrent scheme Lighting and handrail required to tower spiral staircase and improved safe access needed to upper part of tower into the base of the steeple. Additional handrails and guarding to basement access hatch and staircase

How much did the architect estimate they might cost?      £10,000

What progress has been made thus far by the parish?      All works carried out and completed

### **St. John's in the Community:**

St John the Baptist Church (Little Hulton) is under Bishop's licence to worship in St. John (Ellesmere) Community Centre, Algernon Road, Walkden M28 3RE

Approximate key date for the building: - 1907

Approximate seating capacity: 90

How accessible are the parish buildings?

**St. Paul's Walkden Moor:** - Disabled access via a ramp into the building and path from car park. Disable toilet access.

**St. Paul Peel:** - The Church building is accessible via west door by steps. A movable ramp is available for wheelchair access to the North door, which also has steps.

**St. John's in the Community:** - The property is accessible by steps and ramp. With disabled toilet. Loop System.

**Name of any attached or nearby hall or other similar facility**

**St. Paul's Walkden:** Parish Hall situated to the side of the church and accessible via main road or path from the church grounds.

**St. Paul Peel:** Parish Hall situated to the left side at the front of the church, with access from the main road.

**St. John's in the Community:** - Access to the front on Algernon Road, and car park to the side on Gratton Close.

**Details of any publicity/literature that the parish produces e.g. newsletter, magazine:**

**Team e-news:** This is sent out via a mailing list on a Friday to members of all churches who wish to receive it.

Address of website and/or other social media or remote service offering:

**St. Paul's Walkden:** [Facebook](#) also [St Paul's Walkden - A Church Near You](#)

**St. Paul Peel:** [Facebook](#) also [Benefice - St Paul Peel - A Church Near You](#)

**St. John's in the Community:**

[St John's in the Community \(Little Hulton\) - A Church Near You](#)

[Facebook](#) – St. John (Ellesmere) Community Centre.

[Facebook](#) – St. John the Baptist Church

**Names of churchwardens:**

**St. Paul's Walkden:**

Mrs Barbara Barratt      Mrs Deborah Forrest

**St. Paul Peel:**

Mrs Andrea Oliver      Mrs Trisha Williams

**St. John's in the Community:**

Mrs H. Carole Gallagher      Mr. Brian Hancox

## **Names of any representatives appointed under the Patronage (Benefices)**

### **Measure 1986 section 11 (1),**

#### **Team Representatives:**

Mrs B. Barratt; Mrs J. Meredith; Mrs A. Oliver; Mrs T. Williams; Mr B. Hancox;  
Mrs. C Gallagher

## **PRIESTS (ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE 1993**

### **HOUSE OF BISHOPS DECLARATION ON THE MINISTRY OF BISHOPS AND PRIESTS 2014**

Since 17 November 2014 it has no longer been possible for a PCC to pass resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 or to petition under the 1993 Act of Synod for Extended Episcopal Oversight. It is no longer a requirement that parishes should consider passing or rescinding resolutions under the Measure at a Section 11 Meeting in a vacancy. Any new resolutions must now be passed under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. A PCC, on grounds of theological conviction, may resolve to request that arrangements are made for it under the House of Bishops Declaration.

Under transitional arrangements, though, any resolutions passed under the Measure will be treated as if they are resolutions under the House of Bishops Declaration *until 17 November 2016*.

Please record details below if either,

- a. any resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure or the 1993 Act of Synod were passed by the PCC prior to 17 November 2014 and have not subsequently been rescinded, or
- b. any resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests 2014 has been passed.

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### **St Paul Walkden Moor**

St. Paul's offer a warm and friendly welcome to all who enter the church.

- We see ourselves as a family where we support each other.
- We are supportive of ministry teams and receptive to new ideas.

- We have a team of very enthusiastic lay leaders.
- Our PCC is active and engaged with the development of our church and the wider community.
- We have a full complement of church officers: 2 Church Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 ALM's along with a regular organist who plays for our services.

The local community has grown substantially over the last ten years with housing projects across the parish.

The whole area has a wide range of socio economics. Whilst there is considerable new housing in the area where it would be considered fairly affluent, there is also deprivation and a level of poverty. The need for food banks is considerable.

Alongside this there are asylum seekers and several languages spoken in one of the primary schools.

The congregations demonstrate several ethnic cultures and are welcomed by the congregations and who which blend admirably within the churches.

The church is over 175 years old.

It has been maintained in good order having been re-carpeted and re-decorated in recent years.

The outside is maintained by an independent gardening company.

Members of the congregation developed a 'Friendship Garden' where there are benches to sit for anyone passing.

There is a Churches together group made up from all the denominations in the area.

Names of councillors are: Ms. Hilaria Asumu; Mr. Joshua Brooks; Mr. Irfan Syed

The locality has a large shopping area a few minutes' walk from the church. Plus, the Walkden Gateway Centre.

## **St Paul Peel**

### **Introduction**

Little Hulton is experiencing demographic changes with a rising population and a mix of housing types. The area is within the 10% most deprived parishes in the country, with diverse ethnic and national groups gaining representation.

### **Key Points**

- The church community is shifting from an older to a more youthful, family-

oriented demographic, enhancing inclusivity and interaction among generations.

- The Parish Church Council (PCC) is essential for governance, financial management, and safeguarding within the church community.
- A dedicated team supports worship services, including Licensed Lay Readers, organists, and volunteers.
- Community initiatives such as the Saturday Breakfast Club provide meals to low-income families and the elderly while fostering community spirit.
- The Parish Hall hosts various activities, including a Community Café that serves meals and supports different groups.
- Strong ties with local schools and care homes, along with outreach programs, enhance community engagement and spiritual support.
- Local officials, including MP Yasmin Quereshi and Councillor Teresa Pepper, participate in church activities, promoting collaboration.

Overall, the church in Little Hulton is fostering a vibrant community focused on inclusivity and support through various initiatives, bridging gaps and promoting connection among residents of all ages.

### **St. John's in the Community:**

The social character of our area is mixed; we are situated in a high deprivation area. The population is on the rise with new developments taking place as this is written. The population is changing with new families moving into the area and we have seen a growth in ethnic minority groups over time.

Main issues facing our area is a lack of amenities, such as doctor and dentist availability, lack of amenities for the youth, although we have a substantial number of younger children's groups.

St. John's in the Community is forming links with various groups and agencies e.g. local councillors, local P.C.S.O.'s through initiating intergenerational activities, e.g. Litter pick/Coffee Morning, Teddy Bears Picnic with a book theme, Scarecrow Festival and monthly events like Thursday Lunch.

The area has a mixture of offices, shops and other workplaces.

Regarding healthcare our area relies on what is available in Walkden South and Little Hulton.

Names of our local councillors are: Mr. Jack Youd (Deputy City Mayor), Ms Samantha Belemy, Mr. Adrian Brocklehurst.

Our M.P. is The Rt. Hon. Yasmin Qureshi (Bolton South & Walkden)

## **SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS**

### **St. Paul Walkden Moor**

There are several schools: Two primary schools: one church aided the other local authority but with governors from church. Two other local authority primary schools are in the parish along with two high schools.

The local schools attend for 'Experience' displays: Harvest & Easter when members of the congregation will take a 'station' and explain each one to the children and involve them in the meanings.

We host School assemblies at Christmas, Easter and Harvest in church (dependent on weather). Food from the School Harvest collection is amalgamated with the church collection which goes to the Foodbanks and Loaves and Fishes Charity.

### **St Paul Peel:**

The church community has strong connections with local schools, including its own primary school and two others that utilize church programs. The local high school also participates in educational activities. The Church warden serves as a foundation governor to strengthen these ties. Various events, such as the Easter Experience and Christmas Celebrations, promote young people's faith and community involvement. Efforts to deepen ministry with children and families include encouraging participation in church activities. The Parish Hall supports community engagement by hosting diverse groups and events.

### **St. John's in the Community:**

Here at St. John's in the Community, we are privileged to host an Experience Events Program, where children from years one to six visit our centre from the two local state schools within our parish. We do not have any church schools but cherish our links with North Walkden and Bridgewater Primary Schools.

Our centre is used by various private groups from Babyballet, LullaBaby Messy Play, Rainbows, a full complement of the Scouting Family (Squirrels; Beavers; Cubs; Scouts). An amateur singing Group (Farnworth Performing Arts Company). We host children's birthday parties upto the age of 10 years. A home educated group are trialling the centre as a venue. A Ukraine Bible Study for teenagers – organised by the Ukraine Church from Blackburn meet once or twice a month.

## **WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS**

### **St. Paul Walkden Moor**

Our regular Sunday service is either a Holy Communion service / Morning Prayer or All Age worship.

Ministers usually wear tradition robes.

The age profile of church members ranges from young children to people in their 90's and we consider ourselves to be traditional middle church of England.

We host various special services:

### **St Paul Peel**

Our primary act of worship is the weekly Parish Eucharistic, where we welcome with joy people of all ages and backgrounds. It is the long-held tradition of the Parish for Eucharistic vestments to be worn, and we would encourage this at all services. A full set of Liturgical colours and vestments are available in Church. Worship is based on Common Prayer, and is traditional in format, but we are open to marry this with new expressions of worship.

The current service schedule includes Sunday Parish Eucharist at 11 am. A monthly Morning Prayer/All-age service, and a monthly Eucharist on the first Thursday of the month.

There are a number of licensed lay Eucharist assistants. Members of our congregation are involved in reading the lessons and leading intercessions, with children undertaking these roles in our all-age services.

Music is an important element in the regular Sunday Worship led by our loyal organist. We do have 25 members of the congregation (according to Electoral Roll), who live outside the parish boundary. St Paul Peel is a diverse community with a full mix of age, gender, and social groups.

### **St. John's in the Community:**

Here at St. John's in the Community, our pattern of worship currently is; one Eucharist Service per month – normally on the first Sunday, Café Church on the second Sunday, Intergenerational Worship on the third and fourth Sunday – this can take the form of Song of Praise; Children and adults sharing their faith through word and song.

Since we have taken our worship into our community centre, worship has significantly changed, becoming more children and family orientated, we have encouraged more lay participation in services, from reading the lessons, leading the intercessions, to taking the elements at communion services to receiving the collection. Our young people take an active role in most services; we are learning well that the young people have so much to offer our worship and they are so keen to share faith in word, deeds and song. The blessing and amazing thing is people visiting often compliment us on our worship.

During the week we have morning prayer at 9.00 am on a Thursday, led by our Reader (L.L.M.) We did have a monthly mid-week said communion service with a lunch to follow. Currently, we have maintained this pattern but changed the service to a Formal Morning Prayer service with lunch.

Currently, we do not offer worship in any other language than English, but a member of our church family is keen to develop this area.

We have a relaxed attitude to the worshipping attire of clergy – our Reader/L.L.M. wears cassock and surplice for formal morning prayer.

Our congregation is made up of young families and elderly people; we only have three families with teenage children. Approximately 8-9 members of our worshipping congregation live outside the parish.

Our services have taken on a new look; we use laptop and screen for all worship. We would describe our tradition as 'Central' as we enjoy traditional and new hymns – traditional and new ways of worshipping.

We feel part of our worship is taking home communion to members of the church family who are unable to attend regular worship in the church centre.

We have become part of the Inclusive Church Network and carry this across into our work with the community. Plus, we are an Eco-friendly Church Community.

## **CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS**

### **St. Paul Walkden Moor**

We have a 'Little Fishes' group which takes place on a Sunday morning before our main service. This is for pre-school children who may be looking for a place at the local church school. It is designed to engage them in faith at their level and encourage their parents to develop their faith alongside their children.

Church organisations include Mother's Union, Coffee, Cake & Chat, Craft group, Um Pah Lumpas. There is a Rainbows and Brownies group who come into church for special services.

### **St Paul Peel**

We are very blessed to have such an inspiring, dedicated and vibrant community, with a committed team of fundraisers, the Mothers Union, Bible Study group, cleaning crew, and gardening squad working together to serve others. These groups vary in size from 5-10. The Saturday Breakfast Club plays a vital role in supporting low-income families and the elderly by offering a hot, cooked meal, made possible through the generous donations from the congregation and community. This collective effort not only addresses immediate needs but also fosters a strong sense of community and compassion. The average attendance at Breakfast club is 35-40 each week.

### **St. John's in the Community:**

We offer a monthly lunch on the fourth Thursday of the month – this is organised by the church and open to the community.

Stitch and Mix is a craft group led by both church and non-church leaders and is open to the community. They meet weekly on Monday. We are aware there is scope to develop this and forge new relationships.

We offer various one-off events to build our links with the wider community; we host local and general elections on behalf of Salford City Council and other links are mentioned above.

It is our belief and intention to develop links with the wider community, through the church making itself available and asking what the community want from the church.

We are here to serve and believe we need to take the church out of the building while being available within the church centre.

We are aware there lots of opportunities to build relationships and develop links. We already have some good links with outside agencies, in particularly the local P.C.S. O's, local councillors and groups e.g. Walkden in Bloom.

Currently, we are laying foundations to link with pre-school children and families, through developing a Messy Church Style Children's Service after school mid-week.

We were approached by a teenager to look at something for teenagers; immediately three of our P.C.C. members said they would investigate what we could offer and the rest of the P.C.C. agreed to hold the idea in prayer as plans are developed.

## **NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES**

### **St. Paul Wakden Moor; St. Paul Peel: St. John's in the Community:**

The Worsley Mission Community brings together the Benefice of Walkden and Little Hulton, team ministry, along with St Mark's Worsley St. Mary's in Ellenbrook and St. Andrew's in Boothstown. We are also part of a Mission Partnership with Holy Rood Church in Swinton. This creates opportunities for us to work together to help and support each other, and to share best practice.

As mentioned, Worsley Mission Community is a seven-church community, currently there is one stipend minister, possibly six or seven Reader/L.L.M.'s, (of which some are Emeretus) and a substantial number of A.L.M.'s across the churches.

Currently we do not have a Mission Community Leader.

We looked at #More Than Sunday as a Mission Community.

St. John's in the Community is visiting Mission Community churches for festival worship (mainly because we are in vacancy).

We have recently added a Worsley Mission Community Facebook page; this is still in the teething stage.

We also have WhatsApp group to share information between the churches.

With in the Walkden and Little Hulton Benefice Team Ministry, our three churches contribute to weekly e-news delivered to members of our church families usually on a Friday, across the team we seek to share each other's events and special services, through word or flyers placed on our notice boards. Team services usually take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month.

## ECUMENISM

### **St. Paul Wakden Moor : St Paul Peel : St. John's in the Community**

We have good relations with Walkden and District Churches Together (W.D.C.T.). W.D.C.T. is an active group, meeting together for Prayer for Christian Unity Service; World Day of Prayer; Good Friday Walk of Witness; Easter Sunrise Service; Christmas Carol Service; Supply chocolates to all schools in the Walkden and Little Hulton areas at Christmas to show our appreciation to school staff. Clergy from all denominations meet regularly together outside the normal meetings. We have four meetings a year and share the needs of prayer and events taking place in all churches, plus an informational Facebook page. The Team has five active members on the W.D.C.T. committee.

## MINISTRY

### **St. Paul Walkden Moor**

St. Paul's Walkden have one reader emeritus and two ALM's, one for children's ministry and the other for Community Outreach.

Several members of the congregation have been authorised as Eucharistic assistants.

A small pastoral group has been set up to be aware of needs within the congregation and act upon as necessary.

Over the past few months, we have seen growth in family attendance at services.

St. Pauls' regularly supports charities in various ways and support the local food bank on a weekly basis.

We regularly support Dementia awareness by hosting a service in church and having links with Dancing with Dementia.

### **St. Paul Peel:**

At St. Paul Peel, we take pride in our vibrant parish community, characterized by a high level of lay involvement and a rich tapestry of churchmanship. Our commitment to deepening and developing spirituality resonates throughout all sections of our community, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone can grow in their

faith. We have been fortunate to have a member of our congregation who has been recently ordained and a present parishioner undertaking FFM.

Our parish is guided by two dedicated Churchwardens who oversee a dynamic team that includes Intercessors, Readers, a Sacristan, and several Sidepersons. We believe in the power of diverse perspectives, which is why we occasionally invite specific members of our congregation to lead and plan services. This practice enriches our worship experience, although we aspire to maintain a more clergy-led approach in our services.

Our ministry support is a collaborative effort, featuring a mix of a Licensed Lay Reader, an Authorised Lay Minister (ALM), and active lay participation. Together, the Reader and Worship Group play a vital role in shaping and leading our worship, ensuring that intercessions, Bible readings, and other liturgical elements are thoughtfully shared among our congregation members

**St. John's in the Community** has one licensed Reader. One A.L.M. Emeritus.

We have members looking at A.L.M. Ministry in Eco Church; Prayer and Spirituality; Pastoral Care and Worship.

We understand and work on the premise that every member of our church family has a ministry including our young people – we see things like serving breakfast after the service as a ministry, the people who clear away church; the ones who sit with our young people at the back of church and those who put the rubbish into the bins as having a ministry.

Since we moved into the church centre the ministry of everyone has become even more apparent and everyone is happy to work with each other and help in all areas.

We have various WhatsApp groups; Prayer and Care; Fellowship and Chat; Setting up Team; and others which keep everyone informed and in touch with what is going on. The WhatsApp groups came from having Café Church and meeting in the centre.

We believe Pastoral care is the responsibility of all members, people are good at giving valuable information regarding health and well-being of members of the church family and celebrating everyone's birthday is a big part of who we are.

One of the things we are not so good at is carrying out the wishes of the Mission Community regarding **#More than Sunday** – this seemed to get lost in the transfer from the church building to the church centre.

## MISSION

### **St. Paul Walkden Moor**

Charity work is done on a regular basis some of which is mentioned above under different headings.

We support the local Food Bank every week. Member of the congregation bring items each week which are then passed on regularly.

As a welcoming and friendly church community we endeavour to look out for each other and offer support when it is needed.

We regularly try to have services that support the local community and charities:

- Remembrance Sunday service with the British Legion + band and parade to the cenotaph.
- Dementia awareness service - links with dancing with dementia.
- All Souls service.
- Taizé service during Holy Week.

Our Mission is to keep growing and serving the community to the best of our ability.

### **St Paul Peel**

Our vision and mission emphasize that the church is fundamentally a community of God's people committed to embodying Christ-like qualities, rather than simply a physical structure or a set of activities. By focusing on becoming contemplative, compassionate, and courageous, our church aims to foster a deep, reflective faith that cares for others and boldly lives out Christ's teachings, highlighting the importance of inner transformation and authentic community as central to its purpose and relevance.

St Paul Peel actively engages with the local community through various initiatives, including their Community Café "The Call Inn," and the Breakfast Club these fulfil a much-needed community need, especially for the older members of our community

and families. The Church Hall is used extensively, by local groups, providing, leisure, health and social activities. The church also hosts a wide range of fundraising activities to support its mission and strengthen community ties, reflecting its commitment to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment.

Our church's outreach programme effectively serves a diverse demographic by offering a variety of activities that foster community engagement and spiritual growth, establishing a welcoming centre for the community where individuals can connect, grow, and find support.

Our aim is to continue to nurture these activities in an area of high deprivation and social need.

### **St. John's in the Community:**

Here at St. John's in the Community, our aim is to be open to the Spirit leading us. Over the past three years Mission has taken on a completely different meaning, we have become more aware church is the people not the building; we have also become aware everyone is of equal importance and sharing roles and responsibility is key to our success.

Our aim over the next three years is to encourage members who would like to become A.L.M.'s or other chosen forms of vocation discern their path and develop in their faith and ministry.

To grow in number but remembering it is our responsibility to meet the community where they are, with this in mind we would like to:

- To develop a pre-school/young children's mid-week afternoon Messy Church Style service.
- To develop links with teenagers in our community

To continue to use our Mission Statement: Our Mission Statement

**'Our Mission is to help every person belong to God's family and follow Jesus.'**

Our core values are Teamwork; Welcoming; Valuing and listening to everyone whatever age, helping them to find their voice and their ministry.

We want to be more effective in our mission and to be a focal point for community in this neighbourhood.

Part of our mission is to obtain our Eco Church Silver Award; we have been blessed by opening an eco-shop for personal hygiene and cleaning products

## **FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY**

### **St. Paul Walkden Moor**

Stewardship is practised with the envelope scheme and with people giving through direct debits.

### **St Paul Peel**

The congregation shows generosity in its financial contributions, which has helped maintain a stable bank balance. Promotion of the digital giving platform is needed to boost ongoing stewardship efforts.

### **Key Points**

- A formal stewardship campaign will encourage increased donations and highlight the impact of contributions.
- The Manchester Diocese's "Parish Giving Scheme" is under consideration for its benefits.
- Fundraising events are held regularly, with a dedicated committee forming for the 150th Anniversary in 2026.
- Recent church expenses are met, though a reduced parish share is currently being paid.
- Volunteers maintain church cleanliness and planning for succession is underway. Strategic efforts in fundraising and stewardship will enhance community involvement and sustain financial health.

### **St. John's in the Community:**

St. John's in the Community have two sets of accounts – one for the church and one for the centre, even though both meet in the church centre, we have found the last three years slightly easier financially.

It means we have been able to fulfil our obligations regarding Parish Share and overheads, and our intention is to meet the diocese quarterly target for 2026, and continue to meet our running costs and expenses.

We have a continuous collection for Tearfund, we donate annually to the Children's Society and to Christian Aid. We also make donations in kind to CommUnity Little Hulton Easter and Christmas Appeals; plus, a substantial donation to Wharton & Cleggs Lane Foodbank (plus small weekly donations).

We have recently discussed the need to run a stewardship campaign not just for cash giving, but for time and talents – our aim is to run a campaign in late spring 2026.

We want to focus on the gifts God gives and that everything we receive comes from Him. We are truly aware some of our members are cash poor but asset rich – time and talents come under asset rich.

We strongly believe God is working through each of us to enable us to continue our work as St. John's in the Community.

### **A little bit of history:**

**St. John the Baptist Church (Little Hulton)** building was deemed unfit for public worship on Easter Sunday 2023.

The church family were gutted; however, they rose to the challenge of moving their worship into the Community Centre owned by the P.C.C.

Sadly, we did lose several people due to the move, however, we have gained new families and welcomed several families from ethnic minority groups.

We believe the Spirit was leading us then and is now leading us to make a difference in our parish community. We have grown in links with outside agencies, and groups.

We have completely changed the look and feel of worship and welcome because in the centre we are more relaxed and able to hear more of what God is saying to us regarding the community we serve.

As described above worship is more inclusive to all ages. Eucharist services for all are still semi-formal are appreciated much more. We have taken on the responsibility of all member pastoral care through the WhatsApp group and slowly building stronger links with local councillors and schools.

It has been a hard, uphill journey over the past three years, but we are proud to have been blessed by our amazing God, and we believe he answers prayer in abundance and will continue to bless us.

We also believe the Kingdom of God never stops growing and our prayer is, it continues to flourish here in St. John's in the Community.

St. John's in the Community is already being named as a hub for action in North Walkden by key workers in the Walkden North and Little Hulton areas.

Finally, everything we do is done with prayer at the base, because without the prayer we may not have been writing this profile today. **Thanks be to God.**

## Our Churches in Pictures

### St. Paul Walkden Moor:









Part of St. John's story is the closure of the main building:



