

# ST CHAD'S ANGLICAN AND METHODIST CHURCH, ERDINGTON



Parish Profile  
2026

# WHO WE ARE

St Chad's Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership Church, with a single congregation, situated in Erdington, Birmingham, governed by a formal constitution. We are part of the Erdington Oversight Area, within Aston & Sutton Coldfield Deanery, and part of the Sutton Park Methodist Circuit. Since the pandemic, our Sunday congregation usually ranges between 15 and 25 people, predominantly older members of the local community. Most members are resident in the parish and our ethnic diversity reflects, to some degree, the make-up of the local area. While we are few in number, our worship is Spirit-filled and visitors are guaranteed a warm and genuine welcome.

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

**“To be a worshipping, serving, loving, learning and growing church.”**

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In the past our buildings have been used by local community groups such as Irish dancing, Asian dancing, private parties, birthday parties, various church groups and the lunch club. Now, during the week, there is still a rich life at St Chad's. A food pantry and coffee club runs out of our building every week with new groups being launched around warm welcome and a lunch group. The church is being re-developed as a community facility, and a growing Place of Welcome has grown around that, run by church members. Excellent youth work has been provided by Urban Devotion Birmingham, who operated a regular group encouraging young people to develop their spirituality. Our local Councillor uses the church to run his ward surgeries and holds regular public meetings with local people. Other church communities also worship here.



There is so much potential in our area and we are seeking a new priest in charge with a vision to lead the transformation of our church, to develop spirituality locally and engage children, young people and families as they begin and continue their journey with us. To lead us as we explore the future of our church, our buildings and our partnerships within Erdington, the Deanery and the Methodist circuit, and to help us find our place afresh within the local community.

This is a half time post, and we would like the priest in charge to play a key role in initiatives such as the 30k project focusing on work with children, young people, and families across North Birmingham. Co-ordinated work with young people is essential for the work of the church generally and our church in particular. We feel led to seek a person based with us who can take a leading role in developing work with young people in Erdington.

# WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

**We are seeking someone who will:**

1. Lead the church forward in mission and growth.
2. Work ecumenically and in the Oversight Area.
3. Have a down to earth, practical approach to all people in pastoral care and preaching.
4. Have the ability to enable, encourage, and empower people into leadership.
5. Be able to work with the congregation and JCC to devise new ways of bringing people to church and church to people.
6. Be a person of prayer and spirituality with a lively faith.
7. Be a visible presence engaged with all parts of the community and schools.
8. Have experience of and a real calling to work with children and young people. To recruit them, lead them to Christ, and empower them to be active Christians at St Chad's and in North Birmingham.
9. Empower church members to develop the mission of the church and who is able to lead and facilitate different styles of worship and inspire us with their preaching.
10. Develop a pastoral team in the parish that includes home visits by the priest in charge and others.

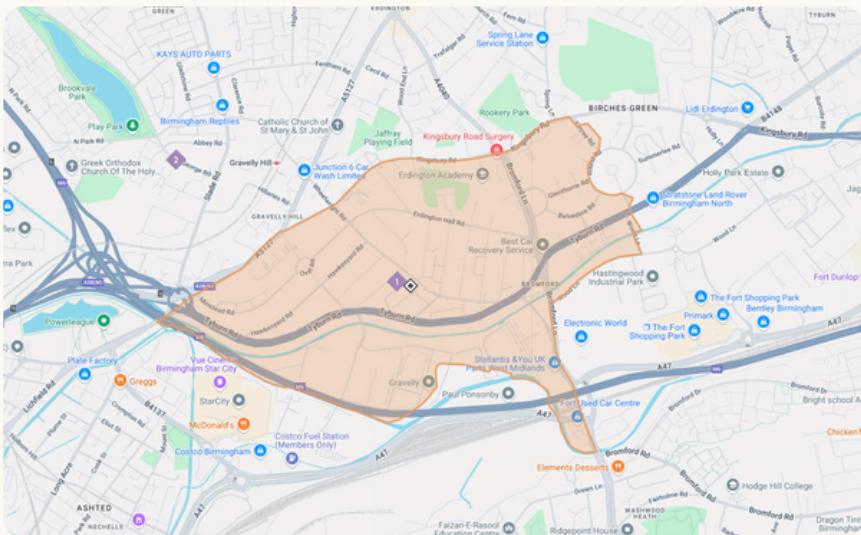
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## WHAT CAN WE OFFER OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE?

**We are a friendly, welcoming church, who can offer:**

1. Prayer, friendship and fellowship.
2. A committed core congregation that has remained bound by strong fellowship and love.
3. Encouragement to maintain a work life balance, including days off, holidays, opportunities for learning and development within the Deanery and Methodist Church.
4. Support from the Erdington Oversight Area and the Sutton Park Methodist Circuit.
5. A long standing tradition of youth work. We are keen to explore how the valued ministry by Urban Devotion Birmingham might be renewed or developed in the future.
6. The opportunity to work and make a real impact in a multicultural community that is in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country.
7. Buildings that are used by local community groups and other denominational church groups.
8. A congregation willing to embrace change and committed to St Chad's being developed in all its different aspects.

# OUR LOCATION



## THE ST CHAD'S PARISH

The parish is located at the southern end of Erdington, close to the M6 Spaghetti Junction. It is bounded by major roads and possesses very little open space for play or recreation. There is now very little industry within its boundaries. The parish population is 7,844, according to the 2021 census of which some 21% of residents are under 14 and 10% are aged 65 and older, both of which are about average for Birmingham as a whole.

Just under a quarter of the parish's population of working age are living in poverty. This rises to 29% among pensioners and 32% among children. Erdington ward's unemployment rate is above the national average, but slightly below Birmingham's average.

The majority of the population is housed in three pre-war housing estates. There is, however, a growing proportion of private dwellings ranging in age from Victorian to present day. There are a significant number of properties with multiple occupants. These range from well managed HMO's serving discrete groups to unregulated multiple occupancy dwellings in so-called supported accommodation causing significant local concerns as they have done right across Erdington.

Ethnic diversity is a significant factor in the character of the parish, and showed further change in the 2021 census. The parish population is approximately 42% white, 32% Asian, 16% black, 5% mixed ethnicity and 5% other ethnicities, representing a richly diverse population with roots from all over the world. More recently, a growing community of people from different parts of Eastern Europe have settled in the parish. It is a place of transition. While many people are from poorer socio-economic groups, there are also pockets of professional people and students.

The parish is in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. The residents experience significant health and social problems. These include pollution from the M6, A38, and a number of local industry polluters; health conditions from cardiac, pulmonary and circulatory conditions. Identified local problems contributing to these issues include the impact of traffic, the condition of the older housing stock and very limited community facilities (especially for older children).

In the last census, 35% of the parish population declared themselves to be Christian, 35% Muslim, 28% did not state, or stated no faith and there are a small number of adherents to other faith communities. Along with St Chad's, the parish's Christian communities are served by two independent evangelical churches serving the African Caribbean community – a Pentecostal church and, just outside the boundary, a large Roman Catholic Church.

There are no hospitals in the parish but a number of homes for the elderly and disabled exist, including Priestly Rose, of which the vicar has in the past been chaplain. Hostels for people with special needs also exist, including Shepherds Green House Women's Refuge. There is a large comprehensive school, a primary school and a pre-school nursery.

Local transport links are good with the M6 on the doorstep giving access to the motorway network. The local bus network connects the parish to the city centre, Erdington and Sutton Coldfield. The cross-city line at Gravelly Hill gives easy access to local and national railway services.

# HOUSING



## ST CHAD'S VICARAGE

St Chad's vicarage is detached, of brick cavity construction and likely constructed circa 1980s.

The property is orientated to the West and is set back from the road with a car park in front with potential parking for 2 to 3 cars.



# ST CHAD'S CHURCH BUILDINGS



The present buildings were erected in three separate phases. A brick building with pitched roof was erected in 1949 – this is now the Youth Hall. Added to this in 1967 was the Terrapin prefabricated building, comprising the worship area, vestry, and lounge. The final phase of the main hall, kitchen, toilets, and entrance hall were constructed in traditional brickwork in the early 1970's.

The site itself is ready for redevelopment and a feasibility study was completed in 2022 by APEC architects. The asbestos roof of the Youth Hall was replaced in 2022 but the church itself is generally regarded as being beyond economic repair. The buildings generally are in a varying state of repair. The congregation moved out of the church itself in response to Covid and now worship in the church hall. The buildings stand well back on a sloping site but are in no other way notable. At the back of the Youth Hall and old Sunday school room is a grass area of c.3000 square metres. At the front there is a car park for up to 12 cars.

Over the last couple of years, the congregation has become increasingly aware that, while it retains a strong heart for the site, it needs to be redeveloped due to its age and disrepair. The church council has agreed to look for a partner organisation who might buy or lease the site from us to enable its redevelopment, with St Chad's maintaining a significant presence on the site and in the parish. This work is ongoing, and we are hoping our new priest in charge will help us on this journey, as well as helping to raise up new gifts of leadership within the local community.

We have now begun another feasibility study process for the full or partial redevelopment of the site, to provide worship and community space aligned with the current use of the existing building, together with the provision of social housing.

We will be determining whether it would be appropriate to retain any part of the existing building, considering the current condition of the building and net zero aspirations.

The Joint Church Council has also requested that the church worship space and housing be evaluated to ensure the worship space is prominently positioned and easily identifiable to both passing traffic and pedestrians as a place of worship.

# WORSHIP AT ST CHAD'S



St Chad's is an Anglican/Methodist LEP served by ministers from both denominations. St Chad's has strong links with the Aston & Sutton Coldfield Deanery and the Sutton Park Methodist Circuit. We are part of the Erdington Oversight Area, of five Church of England Churches working closely together in mission and ministry, and are also a part of "Erdington Churches Together".

The membership of St Chad's on the 2014 Electoral Roll is 41. The membership is about 64% African Caribbean and 33% White British and 4% Korean.

There is a Sunday service at 10.30am every week with Holy Communion once or twice a month when we have a Church of England or Methodist Priest/Presbyter with us (attendance 15 – 20). We do not have an organist or choir. Music for hymns is accessed online.

St Chad's is one congregation valuing two worship traditions. The LEP agreements reflect this, and a new Constitution was accepted by the Annual General Meeting in 2023 with the blessing of both denominational authorities. The preferred pattern for worship is for Anglican and Methodist services to alternate wherever possible. This makes no difference to the size or make up of the congregation. Ministry has been shared with a Methodist minister and Local Preachers from the Sutton Park Methodist Circuit.

**People are always made to feel welcome at St Chad's, and at the end of the service you know you have worshipped.**

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## TEACHING

- Lent and Advent study groups are organised by the Oversight Area.
- Previous priests in charge have been school governors at Erdington Hall Primary School and regular visits have in the past been made by the school to the church and the priest to the school.
- The youth club 'Pizza Club,' formerly run by Urban Devotion Birmingham at St Chad's, provided weekly spiritual teaching, and we are exploring how similar opportunities might be developed in the future.

# COMMUNITY LINKS

St Chad's has a long history of active youth work, previously delivered in partnership with Urban Devotion Birmingham. This work is currently paused as UDB reviews its activities.

Our exploration of the future includes a continued commitment to serve the community of Erdington, with dedication and heart.



Our location is in the centre of a housing estate. We are a community church giving service to the people around us. Small as we are, we feel called to extend these links and reach out even more, especially in helping the elderly, young families, children and young people.

There is one primary school in the parish – Erdington Hall, and one secondary, Erdington Academy, with many other schools very near to the parish boundary.

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## DECISION MAKING AND ADMINISTRATION

- There is a single Membership Roll, and nearly all members are joint members of both the Church of England and the Methodist Church.
- Sub committees are formed as necessary to deal with specific items. The committees have Lay Convenors and meetings occur on a regular basis.
- All Joint Church Council members are members of the Parochial Church Council and Methodist Church Council.

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## FINANCE

- In general terms, over the last five years, income has approximately equalled expenditure.
- We have a free will offering scheme.
- We contribute to both the Church of England Birmingham Common Fund and the Methodist Circuit on a regular basis.
- Special events and fundraising campaigns are organised to support missions and other charitable causes.
- In addition to the day to day general fund there are significant investment funds that are held in reserve and support revenue.

# FELLOWSHIP



- All church services are followed by refreshments and social gathering.
- Fellowship lunches take on special occasions.
- We have Caribbean and Harvest events annually.
- Regular social events are held for church members and the community.

## HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS

1. In October 2024 we celebrated our 50th anniversary as an LEP.
2. Windrush Celebrations, including a wonderful Caribbean lunch in September 2024.
3. We run a Warm Welcome on Wednesdays and hope to launch a community kitchen.
4. A regular quiz night is held through out the year for the churches and the community.
5. We have youth clubs run by Urban Devotion Project staff.
6. Our building is consistently in use by the community; including public meetings, a coffee club and a food pantry.
7. A committed core congregation that has remained, bound by strong fellowship and love.
8. We replaced the roof of the Youth Hall and purchased £5,000 of youth resources, having raised grant aid ourselves.
9. We have a strong tradition of work with older people.
10. We have continued to grow in faith and commitment, exploring new ways to serve our community.