



All Saints, Newton le Willows



Emmanuel, Wargrave



St John, Earlestown



St Peter, Newton in Makerfield



St Michael, Burtonwood

Newton Team and Burtonwood

(Winwick Deanery)

Profile 2022

Welcome statement from Team Rector

Dear friend,

Thank you for looking at our profile for the Newton Team and Burtonwood! I trust it will give you a clear picture of our five parishes – where we are seeing growth and where we are being challenged. This is an exciting time to be joining us!

The Newton Team comprises of 4 churches across Newton-le-Willows, in the Winwick Deanery. I came to All Saints, Newton-le-Willows, in October 2014, and became Team Rector two years later. The contexts for each parish are quite different, and initially they were quite separate, joining together for the main festivals and one or two key events in the year.

2020 proved to be a significant time for us. The lockdown has revealed that there are more things which we can do together. We have pooled our skills and energy, and a stronger team spirit has emerged as a result. During 2020 we also shared our online services with St Michael's Burtonwood. St Michael's was joined to the Newton Team in 2022 as part of reorganisation in the deanery.

As a team we recognise the challenges that lie ahead. There are clearly signs of growth within our churches, and some areas that need to be pruned.

Our vision is that we may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to increase our own faith and to build disciples wider, younger and deeper in the communities that we serve.

As one parishioner has said, *"We're at a point where we could see a new phase of significant growth with the right person joining us, as we appear to be growing in courage and teamwork"*. We pray that you, who as yet is known only to God, will be called to join us at this defining moment in the life of our churches. We pray that you will bring spiritual nourishment and new ideas to help us fulfil God's purposes for our parishes. In return, we offer our hard work, commitment and support as we begin this next stage of our journey together.

"This is a great opportunity to grow God's kingdom and demonstrate that ministry can thrive"

We look forward to receiving your application.



Rev Dr Chris Stafford
Team Rector



Context Summary

The post advertised is for a Team Vicar in the parish of St Peters, Newton-in-Makerfield. St Peters is part of the Newton Team, the other churches being St John the Baptist, Earlestown; Emmanuel, Wargrave; and All Saints Newton-le-Willows. The latest reorganisation in 2022 linked St Michael's Burtonwood to the team. All five parishes are within the Winwick Deanery. The team, with Rev Dr Chris Stafford as Team Rector (since 2016), has seen a move towards closer working together since 2019. The churches have informally named this expanded group of five parishes the 'Hope Hub'.

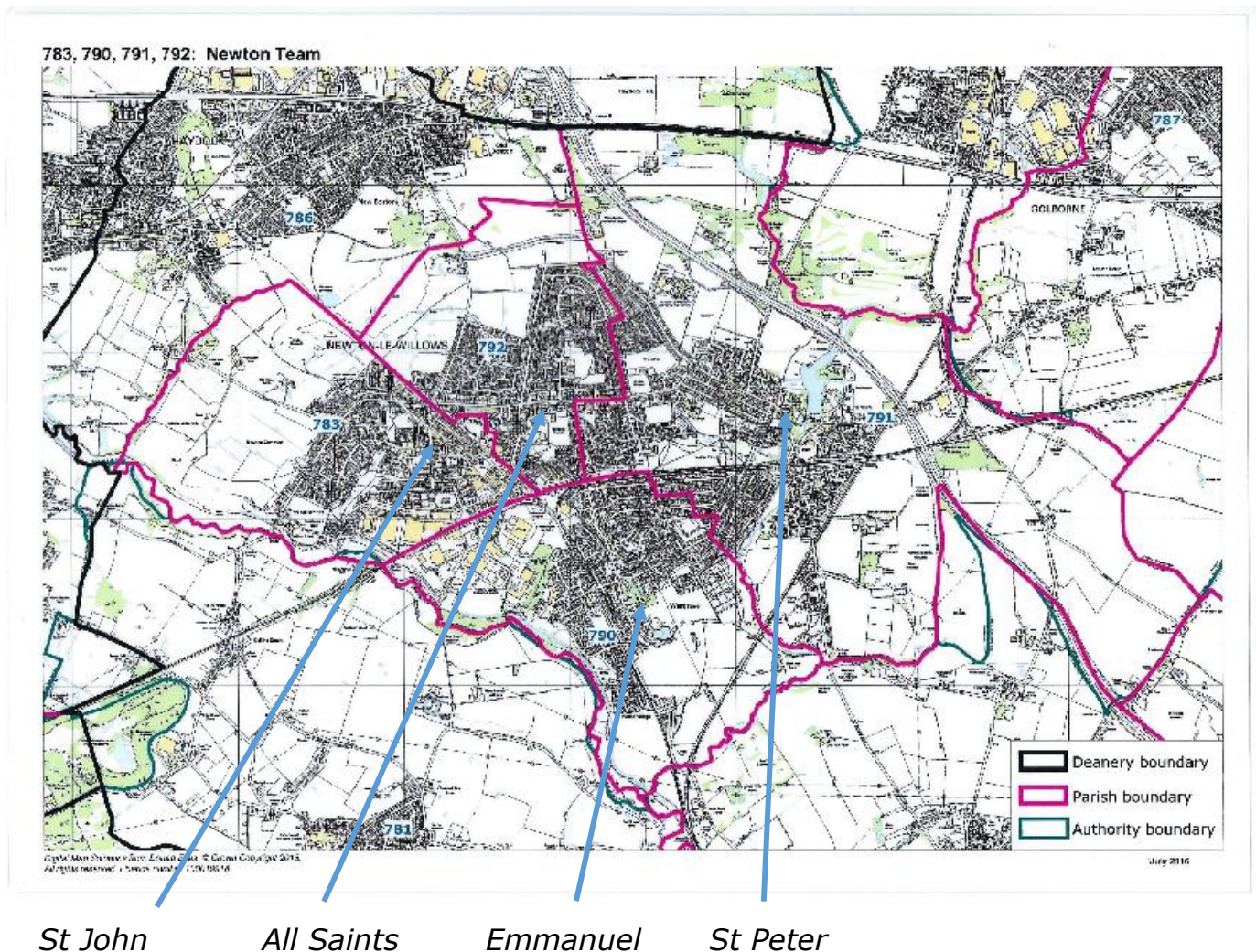
Within the Newton Team the figure for the 2021 Census data was 26,253, with the population growing by 18.7% from the 2011 census due to the construction of several new, large housing developments on brownfield sites. Pre Covid all parishes were meeting parish share payments in full.

Pre-pandemic the pattern of around 30 services per month across the group included traditional and family communion, parade services, morning worship, activity church and a prayer and praise café. Post pandemic we have seen significant changes in worship and ministry as we have sought to use our resources effectively in creating sustainable ministry. Our present forms of ministry include a range of Eucharists, and family and lay-led services. We review this regularly as circumstances change.

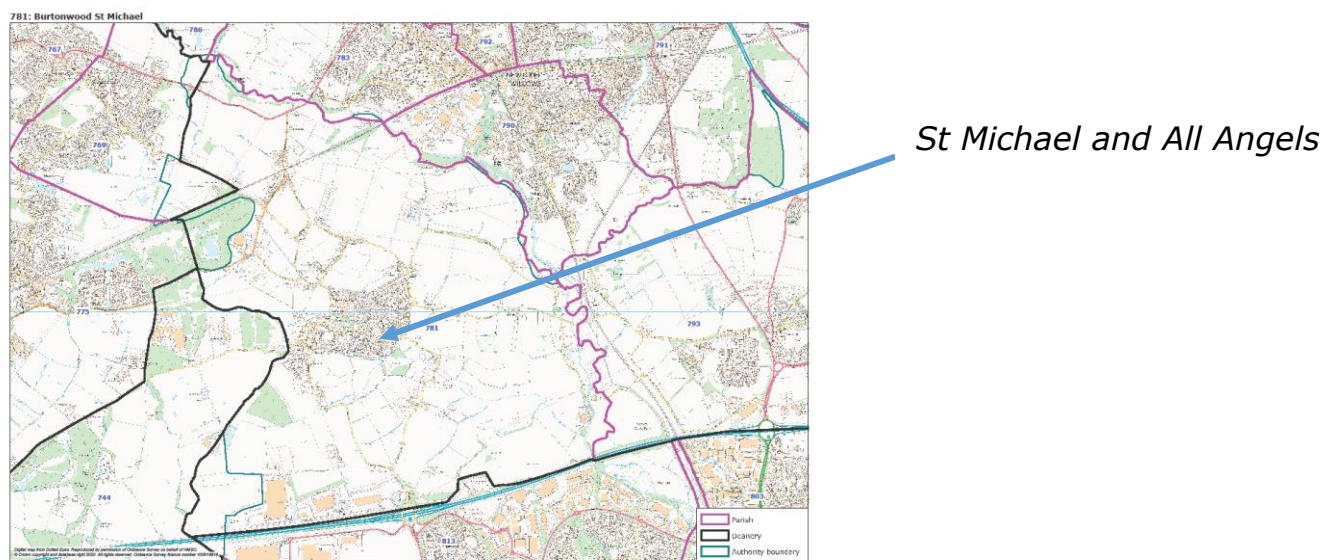
Our new Team Vicar will join us at an exciting time as we seek to discern how best to move forward in the post-pandemic world. We have gained and learnt from new experiences of sharing worship with each other across the group. We wish to retain the positives from this experience, whilst at the same time enabling both the rebuilding and the building up of face-to-face activities which are essential for a strong, vibrant and caring church community. We aim to work towards "building back better" not just in our churches but across our communities as a whole. We will welcome our new Team Vicar with love and support them with prayer as they join us, bringing their own individual ideas, gifts and aspirations for the common task ahead.

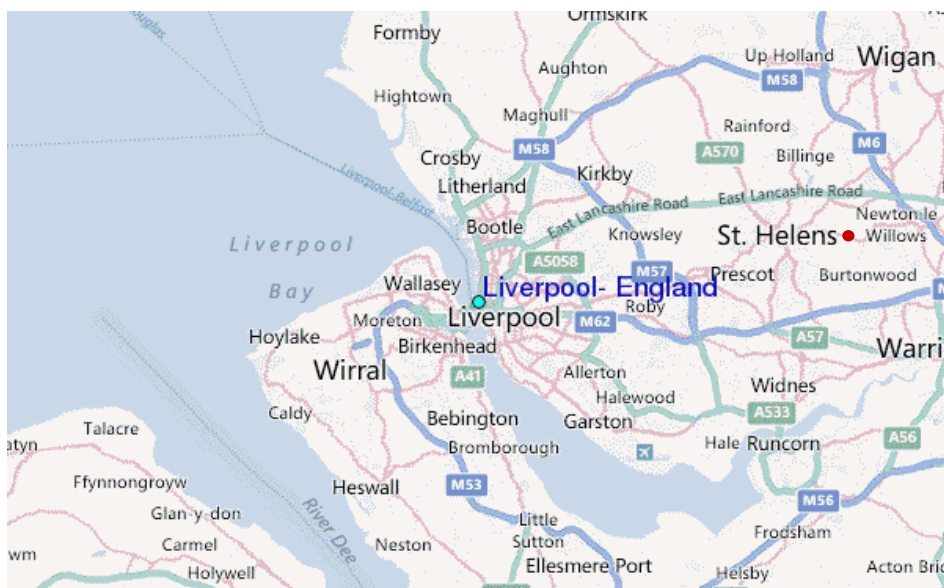
The Hope Hub forms the north-western quadrant of Winwick Deanery. Across the 5 parishes there is a wide range of housing and socio-economic circumstances. Newton-le-Willows is a popular place to live due to its proximity to good rail and road networks, and its vibrant high street with an eclectic mix of shops and services. However whilst parts of Newton-le-Willows and Burtonwood rank among less deprived neighbourhoods in the UK, other parts rank within the top 10% of most deprived areas according to the government indices of deprivation, with a worsening in the index from 2015. Housing ranges from large detached through to areas of tightly packed Victorian terraces with back yards, constructed to house the workers in the engineering works for which the area was famous. In recent years many workers' housing has been replaced with modern social housing, and large brown field sites redeveloped with modern private 2, 3 and 4 bed houses.

Map of the current Newton Team parishes



Map of St Michael, Burtonwood





Map showing approx. commuting distances from the parishes (●):

- to Liverpool centre 20 miles (45min on M62);
- to Manchester 22 miles (40min on M62);
- to Warrington 6 miles (20min on A49);
- to Southport 25 miles (50min on M58 + A570);
- Llandudno 75 miles (90min)

Good rail networks also exist, with stations in Newton-le-Willows and Earlestown.

Within the Hope Hub we have good links with the three Church of England Primary Schools (St Peter CE Primary Newton-le-Willows, The District CE Primary Earlestown, and Wargrave CE Primary Newton-le-Willows), and with the local secondary school Hope Academy (joint RC/CE). Links also exist with Newton CPS and Lyme CPS. We have also forged good links with care homes and day centres located within each parish. The Team is involved in a number of activities in their local communities, including civic activities (such as Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday) and running a local Food Bank.

Each parish has prepared a summary for you to look at, setting out their own local context, people, community and buildings.

Average numbers attending Sunday worship (this does not include special Sundays or midweek)

	Adults	Children
St Michaels	45	5
St John	40	7
Emmanuel	15	1
All Saints	38	1
St Peters	70	15

The Reorganised Team

Currently the staff team consists of:

Rev Dr Chris Stafford – Team Rector (based at All Saints) and Schools’ Minister for the Winwick Deanery.

Rev Tim Griffiths – Priest in Charge of St. Michael Burtonwood and Associate Priest within the Newton Team (based at St Johns Earlestown, and St Michael, Burtonwood).

Rev Veronica Hancock – Associate Priest to the Team (SSM) (based at Emmanuel Wargrave).

Canon Joan Matthews retired priest (with PTO at St Michael Burtonwood).

Readers: David Smith (Newton Team), Louise Forshaw (Emmanuel).

Annie Houghton – training for ordination through Emmanuel Theological College (currently on placement in Golborne).

Suzanne Quick – Ordinand with Emmanuel Theological College and on placement in the team (due to be Team Curate from 2023).

Kathryn Cunliffe - preparing for LML (based at St Peters).

As a team of churches we are in a period of transition. Due to recent pastoral reorganisation in the Winwick Deanery, St Michael Burtonwood has joined the existing Newton Team of parishes (to form what we informally call the Hope Hub). This spells the start of an exciting and challenging new chapter in the life of the reorganised team.

We are seeking to move towards more collaborative ministry. As a clergy team, we meet regularly for prayer and fellowship. Whilst members of the team are based in individual parishes, we seek to develop our vision of greater shared ministry based on our experiences during lockdown.

As a new member of the team we very much welcome your contribution to this vision.

The Team Vicar we are looking for.

Our new Team Vicar will join us at a time of change and transition – in terms of not only the people and parishes which make up the team, but also in terms of our ministry and mission to our communities in a post-pandemic world. We follow the vision set out by the Diocese of Liverpool: 'we are asking God for a bigger church so we can make a bigger difference; more people knowing Jesus, more justice in the world'.

Our team, like many others in the Diocese of Liverpool, is currently undergoing a process of transition as we aim to move to a more collaborative team ministry. Our new Team Vicar will be working primarily within the parish of St Peters, Newton-in-Makerfield, but will also be contributing according to his/her gifts and interests to the development of the team as a whole.

We are looking for someone who feels called by God to our group and parishes with all their foibles. St Peters seeks a priest who can act as shepherd leading us into the next stage of our lives as a parish church; helping us to build and consolidate on our current mission working with families and the Church school; inspiring us in our worship and having a modern approach to Bible teaching and presenting the gospel.

We need a gifted priest, who can work across all ages; who is able to build relationships with those connected to our church; and lead those seeking marriage and baptism closer to our church family. Our new Team Vicar will also work with the PCC on projects to attract non-church people. In return we offer hardworking people, who can be encouraged to contribute their gifting and to take part in preaching, prayer, worship, help in the services and church life.

Across the team we will welcome someone to join in our digital projects so that the online presence we have initiated during lockdown can be maintained. We also welcome input into greater collaboration and working together for missional projects across the team. We recognise that whoever comes will have their own special gifts and aspirations and welcome the opportunity to learn and incorporate these into the team vision for the future.

Above all we will welcome our new Team Vicar with our love, joy, support and commitment.

St John the Baptist Church **Earlestown**

About the Parish: Earlestown is a parish within the historic market town of Newton-le-Willows in the borough of St. Helens and is named after Sir Hardman Earle who was the Chairman of the London and North Western Railway. The market square is the town's centrepiece and trading takes place each Friday, with a mixed flea market/car boot sale every Saturday. The church was built to provide a place of worship for the many families coming into town to work in the new industries.

More recently we have joined with the other three churches in town to form 'The Newton Team'. There is a mixture of social and private housing, and there are currently two developments ongoing at this time that will provide hundreds of new homes in the parish. We have two Primary Schools in the parish, one of which is a Church school with whom we have good links.

The Church and its People: St. John's is active in the community. Many local people regard St. John's as "their" church and this is reflected in the amount of baptisms, weddings and funerals that take place. The congregation are passionate about their Christian faith and discipleship and missional activities are carried out on a weekly basis. These include two weekly Bible study group meetings, a monthly women's meeting and a thriving parent/toddler group which meet each week. The church also offers great pastoral support for its members and the community. A weekly link group offers bereavement support for those who have lost loved ones, this group is open to all. A weekly foodbank, operated by church members offers support to local people who may be enduring financial difficulty.

At St. John's we have a worship team who meet regularly to plan our worship and services. Our services from 2023 will include Holy Communion, once per month and two, family services of the word per month and one Children's activity service. On the day of the children's activity service, we will also hold an evening worship service. We have a philosophy of encouraging the use of the gifts of our congregation and our lay church members play an active part in our worship and frequently lead and participate in services including prayer, reading and preaching.

Although most of our congregation are over the age of 60, we are a growing church and have recently started to attract several families with young children. From a recent half day workshop our congregation identified that outreach to young families and children was a key area for development along with developing our worship further and looking to reach out to groups who may not ordinarily attend church.

Our church membership is predominantly white British, but we also have several members who are of various ethnic origins.

The Church and the Community:



We have excellent links with our community. Our well attended Remembrance day service includes local dignitaries as well as several local military groups.



We have established very good links with The District Primary School who frequently visit church for their Harvest, Christmas and leavers services. The school choir has also performed in church during local concert events. The Easter Journey is an annual event that takes place in our church for local primary schools within the Winwick deanery. St.John's support several charities including SAMS, CMS, St Helens Hope Centre and the Epiphany Trust.

The church and its buildings: The church of St John the Baptist, Earlestown is situated in the historic railway district of Newton-le-willows and dates from 1875. A traditional sandstone construction with a slated roof, built in the 'transitional early English style' by Joseph Pennington from plans by Whitley and Fry of Dover. Consecrated in 1879 by the Rt. Revd. Bishop Kelly it is known locally as '*St Johns*'. In 1978, an adjoining annexe was added, constructed of concrete block cavity walls, with flat, felted roof. The church was extensively reordered in the early 1990s to provide a more



welcoming and flexible place of worship. The internal refurbishment was completed with the addition of hardwearing carpet, cushioned seating and a new sound system. Services have been further enhanced with the recent addition of 2 high-

definition video screens. The church building is a very flexible space and can be used for a range of services, activities, concerts, etc.

About the wider context: The church is in a stable financial position and we have always been able to pay our Parish Share and utility bills etc. on time. This is partly because we have particularly good givers who, even during lockdown, have continued with their contributions to the church. The church building is currently undergoing some roof repairs and some internal upgrades to lighting and flooring. The church is otherwise in a good condition.

All Saints Newton-le-Willows



About the parish: All Saints is located at the western side of Newton-le-Willows, adjacent to the site of the former Technical College (now redeveloped as housing) and the Carnegie Library. It is the smallest parish in the Newton team, with approx. 5,500 residents. There is a mix of privately

owned and social housing, and a mix of ages, with many having lived in the area all their lives.

The Church and its people: our congregation is known locally for being friendly, warm and welcoming, consisting mainly of members of the upper age group who reside within the parish. Our worship is traditional and middle to high in style, with vestments and servers. An organist and choir accompany our principal Sunday Eucharistic service. A spoken Eucharist is celebrated on Wednesday mornings. Additional services mark the usual Church Festivals. A monthly Eucharist is held in a local day centre and there are regular visits to an old people's home. At present there are few families and no children's groups. There are around 25 funerals, 3 weddings and 20 baptisms per year.

The Church and the community: as a church we are very aware that our congregation is aging and that we need to do more outreach. Over the past six years we have initiated the following activities:

- a monthly film night. This is aimed mainly at the older church members and their friends, but it is open to all, and is advertised on the Newtonian plus Newton and Earlestown Community Group Facebook pages;
- an Open the Book team which goes into local primary schools to deliver Bible-based assemblies (namely Wargrave CE Primary and Newton Primary);
- occasional toddler services for the two nurseries based in the parish;
- use of the church as a venue for the 'Christmas Journey' - an interactive experience for Year 2 children based on relating the Christmas story to a wider understanding of Christianity. This is organised by the Team Rector in his half-time role as Schools' Minister for the Deanery and involves around 500 children visiting the church each year;
- All Saints has been part of the Diocesan '3 steps to Christenings' project (under the leadership of Sue Mitchell – *Diocesan Children & Families Missioner*). We set up a toddler group in response to our planning for what happens after a christening – so that we take parents and their children on a journey, and help them to develop in their faith. This has yet to restart after the pandemic.



The Church and its Buildings: the church was built in 1914 and stands in its own grounds with a short driveway to the small car park and church hall built alongside it.

The church building is currently undergoing major reordering. This work was initiated because of health and safety issues with the nave floor and is being paid for by the church insurance. The PCC are excited about the completed project (due to be finished November 30th, 2022), as it will create a much more flexible area, with modern seating – which can be used for worship and events.

The church hall is a modern building with a well-equipped kitchen, toilets, a stage which houses a projector screen with speakers, and an office behind it. It is used for coffee mornings, afternoon teas, hotpot suppers and Festive celebrations. Some of these activities raise funds for the charities which we support, including Christian Aid, The Leprosy Mission, and The Children's Society. A number of local groups rent the hall on a weekly basis for fitness and social activities. During lockdown the hall was used by a local charity, Business for Youth, for putting together food parcels for local families in need.



In 2013 the church benefited financially from the sale of a 'ransom strip' to enable developers to build a new road to access a new housing estate built on the site of the former Technical College adjacent to the church. However regular expenses combined with necessary repairs and maintenance mean that outgoings exceed income each year and reserves are diminishing. Many members of the congregation moved onto the Parish Giving Scheme a few years ago although finances are still a challenge.

Emmanuel Wargrave



Emmanuel Church is located towards the southern side of Newton-le-Willows in the area known as Wargrave. It was built in 1841 when land was granted for the erection of a church, schools and a rectory, at a time when the local population was expanding due to the coming of the railways. The parish has a population of 5,280 (2011 census), historically made up of a mix of Victorian housing built for workers at the large engineering works set up in the 1830s by Robert Stephenson (and others) to build steel girders and

locomotives for the emerging railway industry, and social housing: with one large estate built in the 1950s/60s and another 1970s; along with many private residences.

With the closure of the engineering works from the 1980s onwards, large housing developments are springing up on the brownfield sites which will add several thousand to the population. Amongst the additional population will be many families with children of primary school age. We have already seen significant growth in our school and have plans to connect with the 'new' families through church and school activities for families that will form the main thrust of our mission plan over the next three years. This starts with a Messy Christingle service during December and a Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

The Church and its people: our small faithful congregation has a mixed age group, ranging from family groups through to the more elderly, with the majority living in the parish. Worship is traditional and middle-of-the road. Lay people are encouraged to take part in leading services. We have a weekly Sunday service, which is usually Eucharistic - however our Reader Louise leads very creative services on a fairly regular basis which are hugely enjoyed by the congregation.

Since emerging from COVID it is our plan to hold one service a month that is more overtly 'all age' and will appeal to families with children. There is a monthly midweek Eucharist, and additional services at Christmas and Easter, and at other times (such as All Souls), when we may join with other churches in the team. There are around 15 funerals, 1 wedding and 6 baptisms a year. Members of the congregation take communion out to parishioners on request, and monthly services / hymn singing are about to resume at the Alexandra and Linear Park Care Homes.

During the pandemic we learned new skills and creative ways and were able to contribute to the *Team's* weekly online reflective service of worship. Regular weekly services resumed from Easter 2021 with the relevant

safeguards in place and it was lovely to see our parishioners returning to church, worshipping and interacting together once more. During the past year we have seen signs of growth, welcoming a small number of new people to our congregation.

The Church and the community: we have strong links with Wargrave C of E Primary School, located in the parish, and where our Team Rector is a governor. Prior to COVID he organised an Open the Book team which went into school regularly to deliver assemblies. Currently the Rector (Revd Chris) and our Associate Priest (Revd Veronica) deliver assembly on a weekly basis. In addition, the children visit Emmanuel Church for services, 'projects' and school Eucharist's throughout the year.

Links are currently being established with (our close neighbours) Wargrave House School which is a specialist centre for children and young people with autism and one of the largest employers in the parish.

Our church supports the local foodbank with donations and volunteers. Emmanuel Church takes its place in the community by being visible on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday when an 'open' act of remembrance is held in the churchyard and local people are encouraged to attend.

We have been successful in obtaining extra funds from the deanery/diocese to create a 'warm-space' Chatty Café which we will pilot over the winter months with a view to having a space for people to come into church and find out a bit more about us and what we offer.



The Church and its Buildings: our church sits within a large (closed) churchyard. The building contains large and small halls which are comfortable and easy to heat and keep warm. There is a kitchen, toilets and storage areas in addition to the main worship area.

Our financial position was stable in the past but (as with most churches) we struggled during lockdown. However, the PCC are committed to paying our parish share and we are currently in the process of moving people on to the Parish Giving Scheme (where possible) and making improvements to our outgoings to be as financially and energy efficient as we can.

Emmanuel church is full of love. The people are prayerful and committed to all we do together and marching into the post pandemic future full of hope for all that is yet to come. Thanks be to God.

The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Burtonwood and Collins Green

Seeking to follow Jesus:

striving to be a Christian community of worship, welcome and care.



About the parish: The parish's industrial history is in brewing, farming, coal mining and glass making. Its identity worldwide comes from the former RAF base close to the village. More recently it comes from being the junction on the M62 for IKEA. Burtonwood Brewery, based in the village, has bestowed many gifts of land and money to St Michael's.

Excellent ecumenical links exist between the local churches: St Michael's, St Paul of the Cross R.C. and Burtonwood Methodist. We share Quarterly Prayers; an annual service to commemorate the faithful departed; a Lent Course and a 'three churches' procession on Good Friday.

There are three residential homes in Burtonwood which employ a number of local people. The pastoral care (and regular services) is shared between the three churches. In addition there are two primary schools, Burtonwood Community Primary and St Paul of the Cross RC Primary; there is a day nursery and a breakfast/after school club. Other facilities include: two doctors' surgeries, a large Co-op – newly built in 2018 on the former car park attached to St Michael's Parish Hall. The land was sold to raise the funds to secure the future of the hall and church buildings. There are various local 'retail' facilities and social clubs; a library (with a post office); Bus routes to and from St Helens, Warrington and Newton Le-Willows and local recreational facilities including two parks and three nature reserves.

The Church and its people: The congregation is faithful, mostly made up of older adults. Most are generally fit and well, with a real and lasting 'heart' for our church and parish. We love to sing – which adds hugely to the worship. We have enjoyed a broad and rich spectrum of worship and liturgy. We are a warm, welcoming, hard-working and generous people.

We recently carried out a workshop for our congregation, which identified three key areas to focus on: our outreach to young families & children; a review of our use of the church hall and further development of our pastoral care in church and community. We are also developing teams for ministry, including a worship team which plans our worship, a church hall committee, a children's team and a prayer ministry team.

Our Sunday services consists of Holy Communion, with a lay team leading morning worship once per month. There is midweek Morning Prayer and a regular zoom service of morning prayer. A series of prayer workshops is planned for the spring along with the establishment of a parent/toddler

group. Our average congregation size is around 45 adults, and we have a small number of children. Lay people play an active part in our ministry and contribute to our services through prayers and readings.

We take a responsible approach to finance: we are committed to paying our Parish Share and are financially viable. We do carry out various fundraising activities to support the parish!



The Church and the community: The Church is at the heart of the village. Historically the residents in the parish take on some 'ownership' of the church which plays a large part in their family history. It is the first point of call for the life events. The lych-gate at St Michael's is the parish war memorial and connects us literally to our community. This provides us with a links to the uniformed groups and other local 'dignitaries' who attend at Remembrance Day and other civic services.

Links with both schools are excellent. Pupils visit church as part of their faith curriculum e.g. explaining baptism. The children come into church at Christmas and Harvest.



The Church and its buildings: The present building dates from 1716, being simple, elegant and much loved, and is in a good state of repair. Choir stalls and a large chancel make up the east end. The Parish Hall (opposite the church) provides adequate parking for church use. Refurbished in 2018, it is a large venue with excellent facilities. It is financially self-supporting and used regularly for church meetings, workshops, and by groups of all ages in the community.

About the wider context: we strive to be good neighbours and engage with the issues that affect the lives of people around us and support environmental projects undertaken within the community. We take a positive approach to diversity and inclusion; actively include others in all we do in terms of worship, ministry, church management and mission. Environmental policies are in place which prohibit all single use plastics; and which actively promote energy and water efficiency in our buildings.

As a PCC we keep up to date with legislation and training relating to issues such as safeguarding and safer recruitment etc. In the wider church, reps from St Michael's are active in Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod (including committees); and currently, the local Deanery Synod Lay Chair is a member of our church.