

The Parish of St Andrew, Eccles

Setting

The parish has a population of approximately 6,627. It ranks 801 out of 12,606 parishes in England, where 1 is the most deprived and is within the 10% most deprived parishes in England



based on the indices of multiple deprivation. Small developments of new homes are constantly being built. The social character of the area is mixed; generally, the minority more prosperous area is to the north of the M602 motorway and the majority less prosperous to the south. It has a mixed age population. There is a significant long established Muslim community (mainly Yemeni) and the parish has the only mosque in Salford. There has been an influx of Pakistani, East European and North African migrants. There is a wide range of housing from low income homes to well-established private development. The parish is mainly residential but includes two large industrial trading estates and a few small business units. There are three primary schools in the parish, including the school founded by the Church, now St Andrew's C of E Controlled School. Branwood School is a small private preparatory school with good links to the church and there is St Mary's RC Primary School.

There are other Christian churches meeting in the parish including the Salvation Army, St Mary's RC Catholic Church, Gateway Christian Centre and the Connect Church.

Building

St Andrew's church was consecrated on 16th April 1879, it is a large, stone Victorian building with a 100 foot high square tower which is a landmark for the parish. It is Grade II* listed, with excellent stained glass and stone carvings. It is traditionally laid out, with pews in the Nave to seat 500. There is a side chapel for prayer and an area at the back of church used as a kitchen and café lounge, with a children's play corner. The café welcomes people all day Fridays



and community groups can meet here in a friendly atmosphere. Customers are invited to join in activities. A charity coffee morning is hosted monthly. Considerable renovation of the building has been completed and approval has been granted for re-ordering and extending the café area. We are doing this to update the building for community use. We are currently

working with our architect to install a disabled toilet and upgrade our current facilities as well as working with a heating consultant to replace our ageing heating system.

Vicarage

The house was acquired by the Diocese in 1981 and was built in the late 1970's. The family accommodation comprises, on the ground floor, hall, two reception rooms a large kitchen/diner and toilet. There is a private study which is accessed from the family hall. The first floor comprises a master bedroom with en-suite facilities, three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Attached to the house is a double garage and there are medium sized gardens to front and rear of the property. The vicarage is a 5 minute walk to St Andrew's Church and a further 10 minutes to Christ Church Patricroft.

Tradition and Vision

The church has an open evangelical background, welcoming people from different traditions. We are developing a balance between traditional liturgy and less formal modern worship. The Sunday service is at 11am with a Sunday School for children's activities. A midday communion service is held on Fridays at 12.15. There are three home groups held weekly, one monthly prayer meeting, one monthly youth home group and we have an established monthly Messy Church held jointly with Christ Church in St Andrew's Church building. The church is open for private prayer each weekday morning. A Carer and Toddler group is held weekly during term time. We look forward to increasing in numbers, and we use Start Course, Growing Leaders and other CPAS based Bible teaching courses. We have a good participation from local schools which have attended exhibitions and carol services held in church and have worked with the Christian charity "Pop UK". We run a weekly lunch-time JAM (Jesus and Me) club in St Andrew's school. St Andrew's has hosted the Christmas Transition Concert for year 6 pupils as they leave primary school and move to a secondary school. We have developed good relationships with the Uganda Christian Fellowship International who hold regular monthly prayer meetings at St Andrew's. We are currently developing partnerships with START in Salford and Sporting Memories. Sporting Memories work with older people in Salford living with dementia, depression or other mental health issues, or who may be experiencing loneliness or isolation. Sporting Memories seeks to introduce them back into healthy social and physical activity. Start in Salford is a charity that uses creative arts to help vulnerable people from all walks of life improve their skills and gain in confidence.

Team and Ecumenical Participation

St Andrew's is part of Eccles Churches Together and join with them in activities through the year. Youth work has a major Team participation with a youth weekend away and a team

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Profile 2017.doc

youth worker. We participate in the Team Quiet Day, in addition to joining together for some of the major Festival services. The clergy meet regularly to pray and plan the work in the Team.

Worship

We use Common Worship as the basis of our main Sunday morning services. We use computer and TV technology every Sunday for displaying the liturgy and talk illustrative slides. We use a mixture of traditional and contemporary songs with organ or guitar and keyboard accompaniment. Lay participation in leading worship is actively encouraged. We have developed strong links with Christ Church so that our OLM and Reader regularly minister there. As well as having recently a priested OLM, we also have an ALM who has trained in community work and we will soon have two ALMs one of whom will be commissioned in children's work and one is youth work. Evening services are held jointly as a Team service in Christ Church Patricroft.

At the Church Annual General Meeting held in April 2017. The electoral role had 55 members. The average weekly Sunday attendance is 28 Adults and 6 children.

What are we looking for in our Team Vicar?

A person who is sensitive to the worshipping needs of the congregation at St Andrew's and is comfortable in leading worship of a formal tradition as well as encouraging appropriate less formal worship. A person who is well founded in the scriptures and is able to communicate 'the Word' in an accessible and meaningful way.

They must have good interpersonal skills and be energized in growing our worshipping community by continuing to foster relationships with the schools in the parish, and engaging with the community at large. To continue the work already begun with 'Messy Church' and 'JAM Club'. In collaboration with the Rector and part-time youth worker, they should be innovative in their work with the youth of both the parish and the Team, considering how best to use a 'weekend away' that can be fun as well being a mission event.

We would like to support someone with a heart for mission to an urban multicultural population that experiences considerable deprivation.

We'd like someone who will prayerfully lead us to build up our faith and improve and expand what we offer in Jesus' name, including our worship, nurture, befriending, children's activities, schools' work and our building facilities.

We'd like someone sympathetic to our mission aim of forming partnerships to increase our welcome and support for disadvantaged people especially those with mental health concerns.

Our hope is for someone who will encourage believing and belonging as we try to engage with our community.