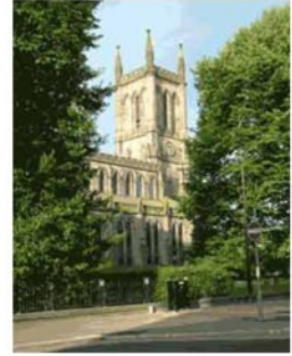


St George's Chorley



the Town Centre Church



St George's Street, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 2AA

In the name of Christ, we seek to love and serve God and His people

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Where we are

Chorley is a traditional Lancashire market town with good rail and road links. As well as the many attractions in Chorley itself (Astley Park, Yarrow Valley, Rivington and the Pennine Moors) there is easy access to the seaside, the Lake District and the Trough of Bowland as well as to the cities of Manchester, Preston and Liverpool.

The Parish of St George is in the middle of the Borough of Chorley on the south west of the town centre. The Church is in the north-east corner of the Parish and is situated in a conservation area known as 'St George's Conservation Area'.



After significant building works, St George's Church reopened on Sunday 3rd December 2017

The Church has mainly shops and offices to its north and west sides and houses to the east and south. The Church Hall is next to the Church but has a different postal address.

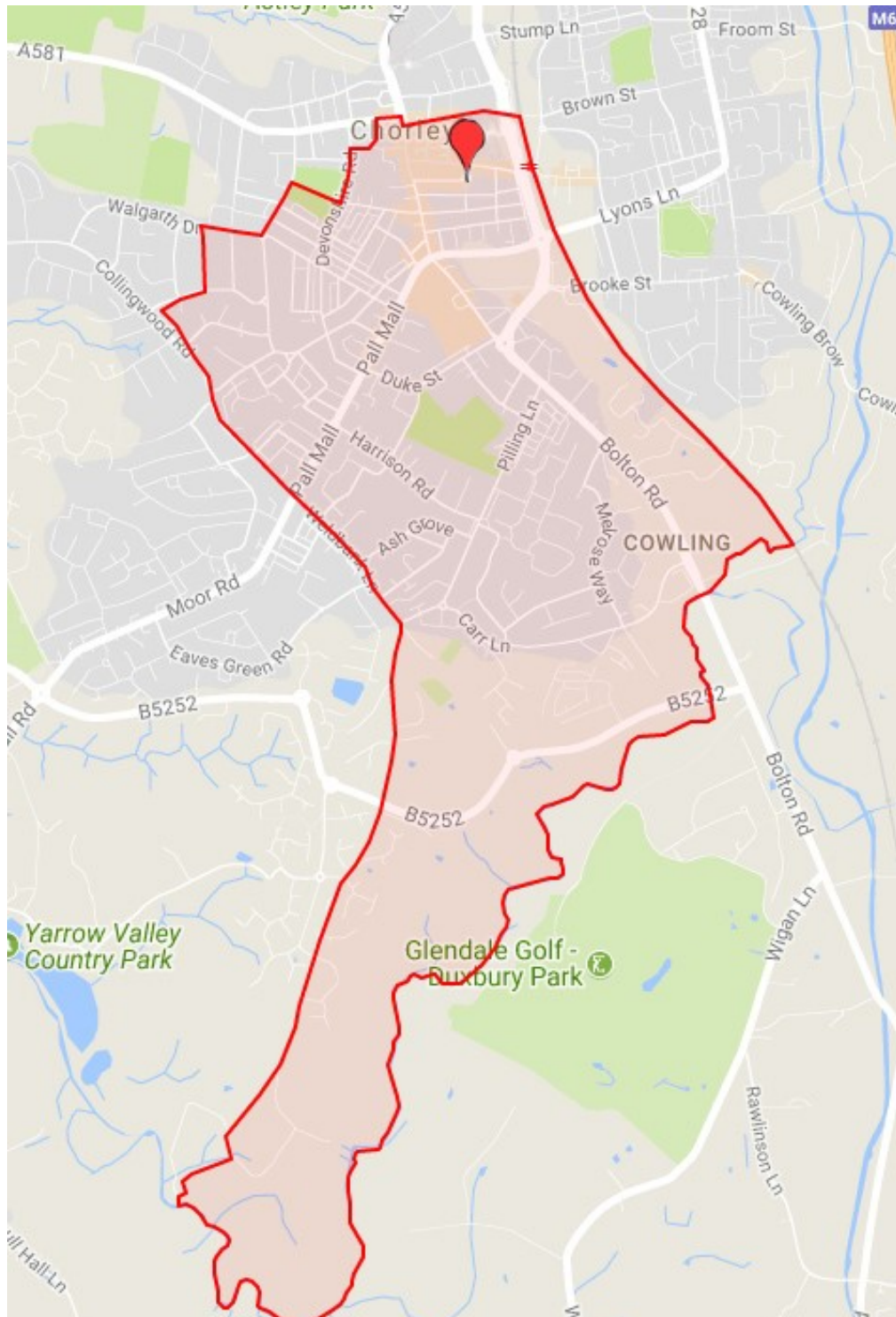
Both the train and bus stations are located within 150 metres of Church to the east and the town centre is encompassed within a similar distance to the north and west.

The Parish has around 5,000 dwellings. The variety of homes include older traditional terraced housing and very modern estates. Work is still going on to expand housing in one or two areas of the Parish especially towards the southern end. At the moment, the area is less wealthy than some parts of the Diocese which is shown by the Parish Share adjustment (reduction) through the application of a socio-economic indicator of 0.86.

The Parish has a population of around 11,000 individuals with a good spread across the whole range of age groups. The number of young families and young people is growing. The Schools within the Parish boundaries are:

St George's C of E Aided Primary School
Holy Cross Roman Catholic High School
Albany Academy
Duke Street Primary School
Mayfield Special School (LCC)
Westmorland Independent Special School

There is no heavy industry in the Parish, but there is a variety of office and shop environments and smaller business premises. As well as the employment opportunities in Chorley many people commute to work in Preston, Manchester or other neighbouring towns. St George's Church Institute, a social club with strong links to the Church, is located within the Parish, close to the Vicarage which is about a ten-minute walk from the Church.



The Parish of St George's Church

Who we are

Our regular Services are:

Wednesday 10.00 am (said)

Sunday 8.00 am (said) & 10.00 am Sung Eucharist with a Church Parade on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday School 10.00 am except on Parade Sunday.

Evensong is held monthly on a rota basis using different Churches in Chorley with a combined Chorley Churches Choir.

We follow the pattern of Services for Holy Week as suggested in Common Worship; the Eucharist with reflections on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday followed by the Watch; the Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday; and the Easter Vigil, with blessing of Light on Holy Saturday evening. These Services are supported by the Drama Group performance of the Passion Play on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Eve. At Christmas, we celebrate a Crib Service and Christingle at 4.00 pm on

Christmas Eve, with Midnight Mass and Services on Christmas morning.

In 2016, there were 58 Baptisms though this number has fallen in 2017 because of our circumstances. In that year, there were also 7 weddings and 43 funerals of which 13 were conducted at Chorley Crematorium. St George's has one confirmation service a year and in 2017 17



Chorley Walking Day (Walk of Witness)

children and 1 adult were confirmed. The Church also occasionally hosts the Archdeacon's Visitation Service. The town's annual Walking Day Service is held at St George's at the end of June. The School join the congregation for Education Sunday and attend regularly throughout the year.

Wednesday 10.00 am average attendance 24

Sunday 8.00 am average attendance 50

Sunday 10.00 am average attendance 120 adults plus 40-50 children in Sunday School.

On Parade Sunday, these numbers are usually slightly higher at 140 adults and 50 children.

In Holy Week 2016 from Palm Sunday to Easter Day there were 485 communicants. For Christmas Eve Crib Service and Christingle Service in 2016 there were 500 in the

Congregation and at Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Eucharist there were 142 communicants.

We have an active Sunday School for children aged 3 years plus, attended by an average of over 40 children with 7 leaders. There is also a Creche for younger children.

The Electoral Roll stands at 207 in July 2017 and the age profile of the congregation is 0-17 years 25%; 18-69 years 60%; 70 years plus 15%.

St George's benefits from a strong laity involvement both to help in worship and in the general running of the Parish. These tasks include serving at the altar; reading the lessons and leading the intercessions (on a rota basis with rotas prepared in consultation with the Clergy); preparing and editing the Parish Magazine; preparing and printing the weekly news sheet; organising the Visiting Team for the sick; taking home communion; organising the Christmas Fayre; distributing 5000 Christmas and Easter cards throughout the Parish; acting as Marshalls for Walking Day; managing Stewardship and Gift Aid, and providing refreshments after the 10.00 am Service on Sundays. We are continuing the operation of the Pilgrim courses which have run for over two years with an attendance of 15-30 people a week. Bible study Advent and Lent courses have also been run successfully in the past.

St George's has many organisations meeting regularly in the Church Hall. These include Mothers' Union, Thursday Ladies' Circle, Men's Fellowship, Badminton Group and St George's Dramatic and Musical Society (DAMS) - which performs a pantomime in February, the Passion Play at Easter and puts on a show in October.



DAMS Pantomime

A number of social activities, including a Lent Lunch, Family Harvest Social and Carol Singing, is organised by our Social Committee. We have a thriving bell ringing group of children supervised by our Bell Ringing Captain.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Young Leaders, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts also use the Church Hall and Red Bank Mission Hall for their meetings.



Mothers' Union Social Event

St George's Church worships in our lovely Grade II* listed "Waterloo Church" which was opened in 1825. The Church building was closed May - December 2017 so that major restoration work to the flooring could be carried out. The Church opened again just prior to Christmas 2017. During the closure, Services were held in the Church Hall next to the Church. The Hall was set up for the weekly Services, on Wednesdays and Sundays, by a team of volunteers on a rota basis. The Bishop of Blackburn conducted a service in the Church in December 2017. We also have a small building near St George's School (about a mile away from Church) which is known as Red Bank Mission Hall. It is mainly used by our Uniformed Organisations (for more information see "Our Buildings" section on Page 10).

Our Church has two Churchwardens and an active and hard working Parochial Church Council (PCC) as well as an experienced Verger and a skilled Organist. The Church is a registered charity under the Charities Act and PCC members are Trustees. All PCC members are asked to serve on one of three sub-committees which support the day to day management of the Parish. These are:

Vision and Mission Committee – supporting the ministry and mission at St George's;

Finance & General Purposes Committee – dealing with finance and general matters and the management of the Church Hall and Red Bank Mission Hall;

Fabric Committee – which deals with repairs to all the Church buildings and general maintenance items, many of which are carried out by a Volunteer Maintenance Team.

There was also a temporary **Restoration Working Group** set up to oversee the Restoration work on behalf of the PCC. We have in recent years enjoyed the ministry of Curates and Assistant Clergy, and continue to benefit from the ministry of a number of retired Clergy in our Congregation. At our Services, the Servers wear Albs and at Eucharist the Celebrant wears a Chasuble - with a Cope worn for Weddings and special occasions.

Our Buildings

The Church

Our Church is in Chorley Town Centre within the St George's Conservation Area. Its size and splendour continue to dominate the townscape. Designed and built by Thomas Rickman, with construction completed in 1825, this Waterloo Church is a fine example of this eminent architect's work, and is Grade II* listed. The Church can accommodate over one thousand people on special civic, national, ecumenical and military occasions, with seating in the gallery areas. The Church features in the 2017 edition of Director's Choice: Churches of the Church of England which is considered a testament to this magnificent building.

In general, the Church is in a good state of repair. There was a Heritage Lottery funded project to strengthen and resolve issues with the flooring. This was completed in December of 2017. The "Closed Churchyard" is very well maintained by Chorley Borough Council who are responsible for the general maintenance of the Church curtilage in perpetuity under an agreement dating back to 1938 when St George's ceded some land to the Council for a road-widening project. An area of consecrated ground is still used for the burial of ashes.



Our Church is normally open for regular Services on Sunday and Wednesday mornings, with other Services on special occasions. The Church has step free access into the building and accessible toilet facilities as well as car parking in the Church grounds for disabled drivers. It also has a Hearing Loop System fitted.

The Church has ten bells which are unusual and not traditional ones. They are Ellacombe chimes produced by Mears and Stainbank in 1919 which can play peels and hymns using a series of ropes on a framework in the Tower Room. They were installed as a memorial to those from St George's Church who died in the First World War. A generous donation from a member of our Congregation allowed the bells to be restored in 2013 by Taylors of Loughborough.

Our organ was installed in the nineteenth century by Jardine & Co with major alterations being made in 1968 by John Cowin Ltd of Liverpool. This enlarged the instrument considerably and it now contains 3189 pipes and 81 drawstops. In 1991 further restoration and cleaning work were undertaken by David Wells Organ Builders of Liverpool which included the modernisation of the Console and the installation of micro-electronic controls.



Easter Eve Service



Sunday Eucharist in the Church Hall

Regular maintenance is undertaken within the Church and Church Grounds. We are fortunate to have a small Volunteer Maintenance Team to help with these activities. Our Quinquennial is due to be undertaken this year.

The Church Hall



Social Event in the Hall

The Church Hall is adjacent to the Church and was built in 1983; it is a large building with a main hall including a stage and two separate side meeting rooms and a kitchen.

The building is well maintained and is in a good state of repair. The Church Hall is well used by many organisations, including non-Church groups which contribute to the promotion of community cohesion and extended mission.



Meeting in Side Room



St George's Church Hall

Red Bank Mission Hall



The Mission Hall is located close to the southern Parish boundary on Little Carr Lane very close to our Primary School. It has been owned by St George's Church since 1909. Its purpose and use are strictly controlled through Church Governance and the specific deeds of the property. The purpose of the Mission Hall is to provide for the spiritual and social wellbeing of the various Church organisations and its use is limited to Church Organisations. Over the years, the Mission Hall has been used for a variety of Church purposes, including Church services, mission and fellowship meetings, Sunday School classes, Confirmation classes and the meeting location for some of our Church youth organisations. In more recent times, the majority of use has been towards that of meeting the needs of our continually growing Church youth organisations.

Currently it is used by our Guides, Rainbows, Brownies, and Young Leaders Units (in addition to those that meet in the Church Hall) and Scout Groups covering Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders.

The Mission Hall is currently undergoing a programme of refurbishment which is being undertaken by our Volunteer Maintenance Team.



Volunteers at work

Vicarage

The Vicarage is in Letchworth Place, a quiet residential area close to the Town Centre, and is about a ten-minute walk to the Church. It was built in 1975 and enjoys a fine plot of land with the building set back slightly from the road. It has ample parking spaces at the front in addition to a garage. It has four bedrooms, one bathroom, a kitchen, a dining room, a study and downstairs toilet. It is fitted with double glazing and has central heating. The front and back gardens are landscaped with the back garden offering a good degree of quiet privacy. Over the years, the Vicarage has been well maintained.



Our Finances

St George's Church has a sound financial base and generally manages to “balance the books” from year to year. We have also built up sufficient reserves to meet any short-term fluctuations in fortunes as well as to fund a number of longer term objectives including the maintenance and development of the Church buildings.

We have a fairly solid Stewardship base accounting for about 40% of our annual income. No active Stewardship campaigns have been undertaken in the last few years while we have been focused on raising money for our Restoration Fund. It is planned that a Stewardship campaign will be held in 2018 when our current phase of restoration work is completed.



Fund raising event

Our other sources of income include cash collections at regular Church Services, donations from Parishioners and our various clubs and groups, receipts from raffles, Christmas Fayre, refreshment sales and magazine income as well as rents for the use of our Hall and our Church Tower (which houses a transmitter for our local radio station). We also receive an annual donation from St George's Church Institute which is based in the Parish. Gift Aid

receipts from HMRC account for about 10% of our total annual income.

We always meet the payment of our Parish Share in full and make our full annual contribution to the Barchester Fund which assists with the capital costs of primary Schools in the Diocese. We have always met the reasonable expenses of our incumbent.

We have finished the major project in our Church Restoration programme. This has involved the closure of the Church building itself for almost 8 months while issues with the flooring were addressed. This project, which has been part funded by a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund, operated within the agreed time scales and budget. The total cost of the programme over the last two years is almost a quarter of a million pounds. At least half of this has been funded from our own resources with the generous assistance of our Parishioners. We hope to go on to a further stage, involving the redecoration of the Church, before our bi-centenary celebrations in 2025.

Parish Income in 2016 was £138,110 of which £51,332 (averaging £7 per person per week) came from planned giving.

Parish Expenditure in 2016 totalled £128,213 which included our Parish Share contribution of £68,707.

Our Schools

We have strong relationships with two Church Schools.

St Michael's High School is in an adjoining Parish. As a Foundation Parish, we have a place on the Governing Body for a representative from St George's, and a number of children from our Parish attend the School. St Michael's Services are regularly held at St George's Church.

We have the strongest possible links with our Primary School. St George's School is outstanding as rated by Ofsted. We have an excellent headteacher, staff and pupils. There is a strong influence by our Governors. In October 2016, the School had a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). We quote from the Official Report which rated the School Outstanding:-

"The outstanding Christian leadership of the headteacher and senior leadership team, ably supported by skilled governors and dedicated staff, direct and inspire all aspects of School improvement.

Pupils' exceptionally good behaviour and attitudes to life and learning are closely attributed to their understanding of the School's shared Christian values.

Exceptionally strong and purposeful links with the Church make a very substantial contribution to the School's Christian character and to the spiritual growth of all members of the School family.

The caring, inclusive nature of the School nurtures and supports all pupils. It actively promotes their very good spiritual and personal development and well-being."



Getting ready for Wednesday Morning Service

St George's School is extremely popular with parents and is always massively oversubscribed. To this end, construction work has taken place to increase the School's annual intake of pupils from 35 to 45. The building work was completed in time for the September 2017 intake.

St George's School also leads the Teaching School Alliance heading up over twenty other Schools in this exciting new development.

We are looking for a Vicar to build on this strong baseline and play a full and active role in the future development of the School and its pupils.



School Summer Fair



Our newly enlarged Primary School

Our Community

Situated in the heart of the Chorley Conservation Area, St George's Church is at the centre of activity in the Community and is known as 'The Town Centre Church'. We have a large Church Hall adjacent to our Church which is run by a paid employee who acts as our Hall Manager. We have a range of bookings both for Church Organisations and diverse parts of the Community. A Coffee Morning operates every Tuesday.

We still make our Annual Procession of Witness through the streets of Chorley despite the practical difficulties. The concluding Service is held at our Church (though not in 2017 because of our building work). We work closely with Chorley Borough Council on the Procession of Witness. Liaison also takes place on the maintenance of our Church Grounds and arrangements for special Services. The size of our Church and our ability to relay the Service to our Church Hall assist us in hosting large Funerals. Our relationship with the Council is excellent.

Our Church also hosts concerts, organ recitals, Chorley Live and Heritage Days. Because of its size, various Schools and Colleges have held Services at St George's. A number of Diocesan events are also held in our Church and Hall.

In all of our various activities, we have tremendous support from businesses and individuals. Chorley MP, the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle always opens our Christmas Fayre and attends many events at our Primary School. Peter Wilson, Deputy Leader of Chorley Borough Council, is also very supportive of us, as is Mrs Bev Gore from Lindsay Hoyle's Office. The Mayor also supports as necessary.

South Ribble NHS Trust has hospitals at Preston and Chorley (the latter currently only having a 'walk in' emergency facility rather than a full A&E). Whilst Chorley Hospital is not in our immediate Parish, members of our Congregation need to use the facilities there or in Preston from time to time.



Our MP opens our Christmas Fayre

There are a number of day centres, rest homes, care homes and nursing homes in the Chorley area. In our Parish, we have one care home.

There is a significant number of new homes being built in Chorley without, so far, a matching improvement in infrastructure. However, a Youth Zone is planned to be opened shortly near the back of our Church at an estimated cost of over £3 million.

We are looking for a Vicar who is outward looking and prepared to build and improve on our present position as a community leader in Chorley.

Where we are going – Our Vision

St George's has embraced the Bishops' call to work towards Vision 2026, and have a named Vision Champion who has been commissioned for this role. We took part in the Crossroads Mission in 2016, a Diocese-wide mission weekend with input from all Dioceses in the Northern Province.

We have a very dedicated, knowledgeable and active PCC, with functioning sub-committees. The recently renamed Vision and Mission Committee has responsibility for

- Supporting the ministry and mission of St George's.
- Developing and monitoring our Parish vision.
- Enabling our Parish to engage in effective mission.

Our overriding aim for our mission activities is to proclaim the Gospel to the Parish and wider community.

In response to Vision 2026, we have had prolonged discussions about our current position, during the process of completing a 'Healthy Church Audit', and have identified six areas which we would like to further develop. We believe that these are consistent with the three aims of the Vision of Making Disciples, Being Witnesses and Growing Leaders.

1. Develop a deeper engagement with 11 – 30-year-olds.

St George's has a very healthy and diverse Congregation, with worship central to the life of the Church. We have an active Sunday School, and good links with Uniformed Organisations, and would like to build stronger, long-lasting relationships with young families.

We aim to make greater use of electronic communication in order to keep in touch with people of all ages, and to ensure information is readily available.

Different forms of Service and worship to suit different ages / purposes might be a possibility, perhaps with different styles of music or prayer. It is important, however, that Services remain

in line with the Common Worship materials, in that the Service follows a predictable structure.

Preparing for Parade Sunday



2. Develop involvement of a wider range of groups from around the Parish.

Our Church has family friendly worship in an accessible style.

This is seen as one of our strengths, and something we would wish to maintain. We have some valuable contributions to worship from groups such as Uniformed Organisations, Sunday School, and a much-loved dramatic interpretation of the events of Holy Week, and we would like to build on this,

for example, by supporting Uniformed Organisations in preparing for worship and encouraging the further involvement of DAMS.

3. Develop shared ministry, and the breadth of vocations within the Church.

St George's has been fortunate in having very positive leadership from our ordained ministers over the years. Lay ministry has been more varied. Currently we have a team of visitors, including administering home communion, and a full team of Eucharistic assistants, servers, choir, readers of lessons and intercessors. In the past, we have had Readers and Pastoral Auxiliaries, and we feel that this area needs encouraging by positive reflection and dialogue on what God wishes us to do within the body of Christ.

4. Develop the work that is already in place, to encourage continued growth in faith in all members of our Church and Parish.

There has been, over the last few years, the provision of an enquirers' course, i.e. Pilgrim, which has been well attended (20 to 30 people) and very well received. We would like to continue this, and look to make provision for people at all stages of their faith journey. We would hope to do this by on – going provision of Enquirers' Courses together with opportunities for further study in small groups.

5. Build on relationships with families requesting Occasional Offices.

St George's has a large number of people who request Occasional Offices, and are happy with their contact and experience. We would like to build on this by providing appropriate preparation, and ensuring the relationship is continued in a constructive way by increasing for example the inter – action with parents before and after baptism, and continuing keeping contact with the families of all who request Occasional Offices.

6. Promote and develop positive relationships with local traders.

Because of the location of the Church, we have a relatively large number of commercial businesses within our Parish. We should like to build on the work instigated by the previous incumbent, maintaining extremely good, and mutually beneficial, relationships with our neighbours, keeping and developing good communications as the Town Centre Church.



Bishop Julian celebrates Easter Eve with us

What we offer

St George's has a large, active congregation, with a high level of involvement in worship. We have dedicated teams of sidespersons, servers, lay assistants, readers and intercessors. These are supported by wider contributions from, for example, the Verger, and St George's Flower Guild which links to the Church of England Flower Arrangers' Association.



Our magnificent Organ

High quality music enhances our worship, thanks largely to the skill and dedication of our experienced organist, aided by a traditional, four-part choir, within which we are also nurturing young singers.

Alongside this, there is a wealth of groups catering for different interest and activities. We have a thriving Sunday School, very well attended Uniformed Organisations, and groups for adults such as Mothers' Union, Men's Fellowship. The Dramatic Society has members whose ages range from 5 to 95!

The PCC is very well informed with a clear structure of sub-committees that meet regularly to allow for deeper and more focused discussions in key areas. The relationship with the incumbent has always been productive and the PCC actively seeks to further the ambitions of the Church leadership.

St George's is financially secure, whilst not complacent. We have a trusted finance system in place, which carefully monitors and adjusts the Church budget according to need.

An incoming Vicar can look forward to a very supportive and welcoming environment. We are keen to move towards developing our vision, and believe that St George's Church and Parish provide an excellent opportunity to the right person. We are excited about the spiritual growth that this appointment will bring to the future of our Parish.



A recent Baptism in Church

What we need

We are looking for an experienced Vicar who will offer spiritual guidance and effective leadership in our Ministry and Mission. He/she will lead our worship and guide our liturgy, seeking to promote our growth in faith and the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ.

The successful Vicar will have skills, experience and empathy in dealing with a wide variety of people of all ages and situations. The Vicar will have an appropriate and adaptive approach to the needs of the many different people and groups of the Parish as well as the local community. She/he will have good listening and communication skills, with a cheerful disposition and a sense of humour.

We seek a team leader who will teach, encourage and move us forward in our Church life. We hope our new Vicar will be able to encourage us in our wider mission to the Community of Chorley and beyond.

We would like someone who will be able to relate to the wide range of community groups, Church Organisations, Church Schools, local businesses and community organisations, playing a full part in our local life whilst enjoying their own life here in Chorley. He/she can expect a wide range of contribution and support from the laity in the Church and we hope that she/he will become a central figure to lead and direct our work and ministry, outside the Church as well as within it.

The main challenges for our new Vicar are:-

- To further develop the engagement with young families who come to us for Baptism and School entry.
- Building on the well attended Pilgrim Course, to enable people to move on in discipleship and identify God's call on their life.
- To build on the strong links that already exist between Church and School.

St George's Chorley

the Town Centre Church

