

Parish Fact Sheet

Incumbent



This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy to help it find an appropriate incumbent. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of a Parish Profile document.

PARISH: Whaley Bridge

DATE: 15th January 2025

DEANERY: Chadkirk

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

1. Number of C of E churches/places of worship in the parish: Two
2. Population. 5517
3. Number on electoral roll. 91
4. Usual Sunday attendance (*taken from last annual return*)
under 16 years of age: 3 16 and over: 30 _____
5. PCC ordinary income (*i.e. total of voluntary income and other ordinary income taken from last annual return*):
2023 £ 89,590
6. Average weekly gift per regular giver: 2023 £ 15.04

PERSONNEL

1. Name of (former) incumbent: Revd. Frances Eccleston
2. Name(s) of Assistant Clergy (*indicate whether stipendiary (SM) or self-supporting (SSM)*): None
3. Name(s) of Readers, Pastoral Workers and any other licensed lay workers:
Beryl Axcell (Reader with PTO) Sue Mellor (Pastoral worker with PTO)
4. Name(s) and office of any other staff (*such as administrator*) employed

Alison Rowland, Administrator – 4 hrs per week.
Lesley Mansfield, Cleaner – 3 hrs per week.

THE PARISH

Is the parish inner urban/urban/suburban/village/scattered rural?
Small Rural Town.

1. Is the population

- (a) static rising or falling? Rising Slowly
- (b) settled or mobile? Settled

2. Is the population

(a) Predominantly retired/middle-aged/young families?

2021 census shows, compared to England average, we have a slightly lower than average for 0-10 and 20-45 year olds; comparable for 10-19 year olds and more than average 45-85 year olds, so middle aged and retired predominate.

(b) Does it include: professional/executive/manual/unemployed?

L1-L6 managerial, administrative & professional	40%
L12-L13 semiroutine & routine	21%
L14.1 & L14.2 never worked & long term unemployed	5%
Unemployed and looking for work	2%

(c) Describe any ethnic groups resident in the parish:

White (98.3%)

3. Estimate the proportion of housing:

- (a) owner-occupied: 78%
- (b) local authority: 7%
- (c) privately rented: 15%

4. Please list:

(a) number and types of schools in the parish:

1 Church of England primary voluntary aided (Kettleshulme)
1 Church of England primary voluntary controlled (Taxal & Fernilee)
1 Community primary (Whaley Bridge)

(b) number of nursing homes/elderly persons' homes None

(c) any youth centres? None

(d) any community centres? None

(e) name(s) of hospitals in the parish: None

5. Name of hospital, if any, of which the incumbent is chaplain:
None

6. Does the incumbent have specific civic responsibilities? If so, what?
No
7. Are there any links with local industry?
No
8. Does the parish have any significant social problems, e.g. high unemployment?
No

CHURCH SERVICES

1. How do you describe the church tradition? Traditional catholic / modern catholic / central / open evangelical / conservative evangelical or some other label?
Central with a eucharistic tradition: diverse theological outlook and practice.

2. Give the pattern of Sunday services:

One service 10.30am.

1st Sunday, Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

2nd Sunday, Holy Communion at St.James

3rd Sunday, Family Church (or sometimes Morning Worship) at Holy Trinity

4th Sunday, Holy Communion at St.James

5th Sunday, No real pattern

3. Which prayer book is used for the services of Holy Communion – if both, please State? Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship: Common Worship

Is there a traditional use of

eucharist vestments? Yes/No No

Coloured stoles? Yes/No Yes

scarf and hood? Yes/No No

4. What hymn book(s) is/are used?

Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New (except when hymns are provided via PowerPoint)

5. (a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? 19%
(b) Does any one age group, gender or social class predominate in the congregation? The congregation is mainly retired.
6. Average number of communicants on a normal Sunday: 25

7. Numbers during the last year
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| of baptisms: | 1 |
| of confirmation candidates: | 0 |
| of weddings: | 2 |
| of funerals in church: | 16 |
| in crematoria: | 5 |

8. Has the parish received permission from the bishop to admit baptized children to Holy Communion before confirmation? Yes/No
 Yes
 If so, how many children were admitted to Holy Communion before confirmation during the last year? 1

BUILDINGS AND CHURCHYARD

1. Name of the parish church: Two Churches, Holy Trinity, Whaley Bridge &
 2. St. James, Taxal. Year(s) built: Holy Trinity_1905. St.James ancient tower 12th century. Body of church is Victorian.
 Date of last quinquennial inspection: 2024
 List any urgent repair work still to be done:

Awaiting surveyors report regarding lead on tower roof.
 Repairs to water leak on tower hutch has been done.

3. Other C of E churches (*mission church/daughter church/chapel of ease*) in the parish: Name and condition of repair:

None

4. In your view, is the parsonage house likely to need extensive refurbishment/ replacement? Yes/No No – Cosmetic wear and tear.

5. What other buildings (*e.g. church hall, curate’s house*) and land (not churchyard) does the parish own? (*Give addresses, use and condition*)

None

6. Has the church got a churchyard? Yes/No Yes
 Is it still in use? Yes/No Yes
 How many new graves were opened last year? 4
 How many re-openings were there last year? 1
 Estimate how many years are available for new graves: 30
 Is there a special area for the interment of ashes? Yes

FINANCE

1. Please e-mail (or send) a copy of last year's accounts and last year's annual report of the PCC.
2. Does the church have a stewardship, thanksgiving or planned giving scheme? Yes
3. If special money-raising events are held during the year, please give details.

Annual Christmas Tree Festival.
 Ladies Swap Shop (Clothes and Accessories) – Twice a year.
 Occasional choir concerts at St.James.

4. (a) What was the amount of expenses paid last year to the:
 incumbent £ 3642 assistant clergy £ _____
 (b) Were these the full amounts claimed? If not, why not
 Yes
 (c) Does the PCC pay a lump sum or reimburse actual expenses claimed
 _Reimburse actual expenses
 Is a claim form used? Yes or from submitted receipts.
 5. What is the current amount of Parish Share payable by the parish? £41,439 (2024)
 6. In the last financial year, did the PCC meet its financial obligations to the Diocese in full for payment of its Parish Share? Yes/No Yes (2023)
 If not, what amount was paid:
 In the current financial year, is the PCC up to date with its Parish Share?
 Yes/No No (Two months behind - 2024)
 7. Is there any capital project in hand at the moment? Yes/No No
 Please give brief details with costs and how they are to be met.
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CHURCH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROVISION

1. (a) Is there a church school in the parish? Yes/No Yes, two.
Is it controlled or aided? Yes/No One of each.

Number of children on roll: Taxal & Fernilee 197
Kettleshulme 64

Is the number static/rising/falling? Taxal & Fernilee – falling
Kettleshulme - static

- (b) What relationship/links are there between church and school?

Taxal & Fernilee Cof E (VC) School

Regular assemblies by vicar; services in church four times a year; foundation governor

Kettleshulme St. James CofE (VA) School

Regular assemblies by reader; Nativity & Easter services in church; 5 school governors linked to church

Whaley Bridge Primary School

Churches Together go in twice a term for Open The Book.

- (c) If the school is aided, what is the condition of the building?
Kettleshulme school is in good condition.

2. What provision is made by the church for teaching:

- (a) children:

Roots activity sheets are provided during morning service.
CATS (Carers and Toddlers) for pre school children accompanied by carers (monthly)

- (b) young people:

Nothing at present. Confirmation classes when required.

- (c) adults

Confirmation classes are held when there is a need.
Interdenominational Lent study groups are organised by Churches Together in Whaley Bridge (CTWB) and are well supported by our church members.
Living in Love and Faith Course – ran in 2023 and has been regularly referenced.
The Bible Course – ran in 2023.

3. List church organisations with approximate numbers for:

(a) children: CATS 11

(b) young people: N/A

(c) adults: N/A

4. Give details of house/prayer groups:

Saturday Prayer Group – Interdenominational monthly prayer group.

Celtic Prayer Group – nightly prayer submitted by WhatsApp by one person and received by many.

5. Are the leaders clergy or lay? Lay Readers

DISCIPLESHIP AND LAY MINISTRY

1. How do you rate the strength of lay leadership in the parish? To what do you credit the strength or lack of it?

Very strong lay readership with 1 reader (emeritus), 1 pastoral worker (emeritus) and numerous other hard working committed Christians in a variety of "leadership" roles. This is due to the quality and commitment of the personnel and the encouragement of the vicar.

2. Does the parish have a discipleship course? (e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, Christianity Explored). The Bible Course was run in 2024.

3. What other opportunities does the parish provide to lay people to deepen their discipleship and vocation?

One member of the parish is studying the Foundations For Ministry course.

The Start Course was run in 2022.

Interdenominational Lent groups run every year – organized by Churches Together in Whaley Bridge.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

1. State involvement in local council of churches, if any.

- Ecumenical relations in Whaley Bridge are excellent. There are many joint church activities organized through a vibrant CTWB. All the churches are represented in CTWB: Church of England, Good News (evangelical), Uniting Church (Methodist, United Reform and Baptist), Fernilee Methodist Church and Roman Catholic.

2. Is there a formal covenant with any other denominations?

- No covenant but all churches have agreed to the CTWB constitution

3. What informal contacts are there?

- CTWB Luncheon Club, organized and run by a multi-church team, provides lunches and social interaction once a month for lonely and isolated adults. About 50 people come regularly and for many it is the highlight of the month.
- A week long holiday club in the summer plus on a couple of other days each year is run by members of CTWB.
- Open the Book members come from a variety of churches and perform dramatizations of bible stories in our three primary schools, twice a term.
- CTWB organizes the Lent Study Groups each year and these are interdenominational.
- The Lent groups are followed by a joint service and on Good Friday an open-air service on top of Eccles Pike to which many people walk whatever the weather.
- CTWB arrange short services every day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- CTWB presents a nativity story at the Whaley Bridge's Christmas Tree lighting each year.
- Shared CTWB services at Advent, Remembrance Sunday and occasional special services.
- CTWB arranges carol singing around the village
- CTWB always provides a float for the local carnival and man a refreshment tent (free) together with children's activities on the day of the carnival.
- A couple of coffee mornings each year help to raise awareness of CTWB as well as funds.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

1. Please give details of the support of the Church overseas. How much is given annually?

- We contribute to a CMS Link which supports local missionaries, Jason and Tracy Day, in their work in Thailand. We are committed to send £500 annually.
- Members of the Parish are actively involved in supporting Christian Aid through The Christian Aid sponsored walk and by supporting The Big Breakfast and The Big Sing at the Uniting Church.
- The church sends Hope shoe boxes during Advent.

2. Give details of the support for home missions and charities.

- The Children's Society is supported by collections at the annual Christingle Service.
- Donations of food are sent at harvest to Whaley Bridge Food Bank by church and our two church schools.

3. Is there an organised system of evangelism in the parish? If so, please describe it.

No

4. Is there an organised system of follow-up to baptisms, weddings, funerals? If so, please describe.

- Baptisms: the Pastoral Worker keeps in touch and encourages families to come to CATS, Babies' and Childrens' Clothes and Toy swaps and to Stay and Play as the children get older.
- Funerals: the one who officiates at the funeral or the bereavement representative on the Pastoral team contacts the family about six weeks later to see if all is well. If necessary a visit or visits are arranged. Bereaved families are invited to the annual Service of Light which is held at St. James at All Souls and also to the quiet Christmas remembrance.

5. What part does the church play in community care (e.g. the unemployed/homeless/ drug addicts/disabled)?

- Church members support the fortnightly OASIS group for dementia and alzheimer sufferers and their carers.
- The WhatsApp Celtic prayer group is of particular benefit to the housebound and those suffering from long term illness.

6. Is there an organised system of care for the sick and elderly? If so, what?

- There is a Pastoral Team which meets every 6 weeks to ensure regular contact (visits or phone calls) is made with the sick or elderly known to us.

7. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (e.g. open youth work)?

- Arranges and mans several Stay and Play sessions in the church for primary school children during school holidays.
- Supports weekly "Tea and Toast" sessions held in another church for secondary school children on their way home from school.
- Encourages teenagers to volunteer to help at the CTWB holiday club sessions.
- Runs a session in 2 schools for pupils about to move to secondary school.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Is there is a history of the church/parish? If so, please e-mail (or send) a copy.
Yes/No Yes – St.James only.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. What are your current goals to achieve for the next 5 years?

- To find a way of deepening our relationship with God as individuals and as a church.
- Continue to work closely with the other Christian communities in the town.
- To find a way of engaging more with families.

2. List the areas of church life which you consider are in most need of development.

Having recently asked the congregation what they see as our greatest priorities, the following areas have been identified as priorities for development:

- To develop as a community to become more accessible for children and families and encourage them to follow Jesus with us.
- To engage with teenagers in the town.
- To support and encourage more young adults to find and develop a relationship with God, whether the church is involved in that relationship or not.

Signed on behalf of the PCC: _____

Office held: _____

Copies of this form, duly completed, should be sent to the following:

1. The Bishop of Chester, Bishop's House, Abbey Square, Chester CHI 2JD.
(Hard copy)
2. The Suffragan Bishop (Hard copy and electronic copy)
3. The Archdeacon (Electronic copy)
4. The Patron (if the Bishop is the patron, he need not be sent a second copy)
5. The Designated Officer (Mrs E A Geddes, Church House). (Hard copy)
6. The Rural Dean (Electronic copy)
7. The Deanery Lay Chair (Electronic copy)
8. The PCC representatives