

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: Upton (Overchurch) DATE: February 2025

DEANERY: Wirral North

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

1. Number of C of E churches/places of worship in the parish: 2
2. Population. 12,946
3. Number on electoral roll. 364
4. Usual Sunday attendance (*taken from last annual return*)
under 16 years of age: 24 16 and over: 220
5. PCC ordinary income (*i.e. total of voluntary income and other ordinary income taken from last annual return*): £ 497,916
6. Average weekly gift per regular giver: £ 32

PERSONNEL

1. Name of (former) incumbent: . Nicola (Nikki) Eastwood
2. Name(s) of Assistant Clergy (*indicate whether stipendiary (SM) or self-supporting (SSM)*): Associate Vicar Alec Ham SM, Lyn Weston SSM, Bishop John Hayden, Chris Bray, Beth Gardner, John Rainer (all retired)
3. Name(s) of Readers, Pastoral Workers and any other licensed lay workers:
Dave Wood, Graham Morris
4. Name(s) and office of any other staff (*such as Church Army Captain, community worker, administrator*) employed. Please state number of hours worked per week:

Sandra Cookson - cleaner - 6 hours, Cat Farrell - Youth Worker - 30hours,
Sandra Fletcher - caretaker - 40 hours, Christina Green - CAP Debt Coach - 15 hours,
Lizzie Hsuan - Parish Nurse - 7 hours, Becca Johnson - 0-18s Development Worker - 40 hours,
Darren Jones - cleaner - 10 hours, Malcolm Kydd - Parish Youth Worker - 40 hours,
Inga Lanigan - Finance and 0-18s Administrator - 35 hours, Jess Parkhouse - CAP Centre Manager - 23 hours,
Tracey Pugh - Pastoral Care Coordinator - 14 hours, David Steele - Operations Manager - 37.

THE PARISH

1. Is the parish inner urban/urban/suburban/village/scattered rural?
Suburban

2. Is the population
(a) static rising or falling? Slowly rising
(b) settled or mobile? Settled

3. Is the population
(a) Predominantly retired/middle-aged/young families?
Complete range

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

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

93.5% White British

4. Estimate the proportion of housing:
(a) owner-occupied: 74.8%
(b) local authority: 14.5% - Housing Associations, Social Housing
(c) privately rented: 10.7%

5. Please list:
(a) number and types of schools in the parish:

Upton Hall School (RC Grammar School for girls)
Overchurch Infants School
Overchurch Junior School
St Joseph's R.C. Primary School
Hayfield School (Primary School for children with special needs)

(b) number of nursing homes/elderly persons' homes 4 Care Homes, 2 blocks of Assisted Living flats
(c) any youth centres? 1 - The Bank. This is the home of our Village Youth Project
(d) any community centres? No
(e) name(s) of hospitals in the parish: N/A

6. Name of hospital, if any, of which the incumbent is chaplain:
N/A

7. Does the incumbent have specific civic responsibilities? If so, what?
Shared responsibility for Remembrance Sunday service at Upton War Memorial

8. Are there any links with local industry?
No

9. 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?
Evangelical

2. Give the pattern of Sunday services:

<p>8.45am - a traditional service of Morning Prayer, Communion once a month. Average numbers - 35. 10.30am - informal service of Morning Worship, Communion once a month. Children's groups run alongside this service except once a month when we have an all-age service. Average numbers (adults) - 93. 11am - informal service at St. Mary's Centre, Communion once a month. Average - 55. 6pm - informal adult service, Communion on 2nd and 5th Sundays of month. Average numbers - 44 or Sundays@7 - an interview with a Christian with a story to tell. 8-9 times per year, 110-180 attend.</p>

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 <u>No</u>
coloured stoles?	Yes/No <u>No</u>
scarf and hood?	Yes/No <u>Yes - 8.45 Sunday</u>

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

<p>Hymns for Today's Church and Songs and Hymns of Fellowship - 8.45 service. Worship songs are downloaded from Easyworship for all the other services. .</p>

5. (a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? Approx. 50%
(b) Does any one age group, gender or social class predominate in the congregation? 20-40 age group is under-represented. Middle class predominates

6. Average number of communicants on a normal Sunday:
57. Average for 10.30am service is 92

7. Numbers during the last year
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| of baptisms: | <u>6</u> |
| of confirmation candidates: | <u>0 (6 in Dec. 2023)</u> |
| of weddings: | <u>0</u> |
| of funerals in church: | <u>15</u> |
| in crematoria: | <u>3</u> |

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

BUILDINGS AND CHURCHYARD

1. Name of the parish church: St. Mary's
 Year(s) built: 1868 with extension in 1977.
 Date of last quinquennial inspection: 20/12/20
 List any urgent repair work still to be done:

Some of the work on the tower hasn't been completed. The architect will be doing a further inspection soon.

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

St. Mary's Centre, Saughall Massie. There is a flat above the Centre which is rented out. There have been problems with damp in the Centre and flat and roof repairs have been done in the past year.

3. In your view, is the parsonage house likely to need extensive refurbishment/ replacement? ~~Yes~~/No No.

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

43 Grafton Drive, Upton - occupied by Associate Vicar - fairly good condition
 10 Manor Drive, Upton - formerly a clergy house but now rented out. Unsuitable for clergy but in good condition.
 Caretaker's house, Ford Road Upton - good condition.
 'The Bank', Ford Road Upton - good condition. Now has solar panels and an air source heat pump.
 Cemetery, Salacre Lane, Upton - good condition. Some trees were removed due to storm damage.

5. Has the church got a churchyard? Yes/No Yes + cemetery
 Is it still in use? Yes/No No. Cemetery - Yes
 How many new graves were opened last year? 0
 How many re-openings were there last year? 2
 Estimate how many years are available for new graves: ?20years
 Is there a special area for the interment of ashes? Yes (Cemetery)

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.

A stewardship Sunday is held each year to ask our congregation to review their giving. Occasional gift days and events such as Village Youth Project fund raising bistros. Our new Church Building which is linked with the Church was opened in 2018. The money for this was raised by Church members and 10% was put into a Tithe Fund. Money has been donated to projects in the UK (70K) and overseas (70K) gradually over the past few years. Just under 13K remains to be donated.

4. (a) What was the amount of expenses paid last year to the:
 incumbent £ 900* assistant clergy £ 920
 (b) Were these the full amounts claimed? If not, why not
Yes *£100/month until she left at end September
 (c) Does the PCC pay a lump sum or reimburse actual expenses claimed
Vicar - lump sum, Associate Vicar - reimburse actual expenses claimed.
 Is a claim form used? Yes (Associate Vicar)
5. What is the current amount of Parish Share payable by the parish? £ 133,406-26
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
 If not, what amount was paid: £ _____
 In the current financial year, is the PCC up to date with its Parish Share?
Yes/No _____
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.

CHURCH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROVISION

1. (a) Is there a church school in the parish? Yes/No No
Is it controlled or aided? Yes/No _____
(b) Number of children on roll: _____
Is the number static/rising/falling? _____

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

(d) If the school is aided, what is the condition of the building?

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

(a) children:

There are four children's groups who meet at the same time as the 10.30am service on Sundays. They are Seed and Grow (0-4), Jam (4-7), Explorers (7-11) and Pathfinders (11-14). At present Explorers and Pathfinders meet together because of a lack of leaders. The older groups follow Scripture Union teaching material. Our Youth Team visits the local Primary schools to do assemblies and curriculum sessions. These schools also come into church for seasonal services.

(b) young people:

CYFA (14-18) meet at The Bank on Sunday evenings. There are drop-in sessions after school on three days/week with a Bible Study during the Wednesday session.
Students in the lower 6 age group can attend a year-long leadership course (Melt). Anyone can attend but it is primarily a Christian leadership course.
There is a 5 day residential at Quinta Conference Centre near Oswestry every February Half-Term.
A group goes to the Keswick Convention for a week in July.

(c) adults

Sermon teaching series, materials for further study in small groups.
Alpha courses - usually 2 per year.
Wednesday morning Communion service.
Elderbranch epilogue.
Services in local Care Homes.
Occasional teaching courses (evening or Saturday morning). Bible study groups.

3. List church organisations with approximate numbers for:
- (a) children: Seed and Grow - 9, Jam - 17, Explorers - 8
- (b) young people: Pathfinders - 15, CYFA - 23
- (c) adults: Forget-me-not cafe - 40, Our Place (Centre) - 25, Elderbranch - 30-40 (60 on books).

4. Give details of house/prayer groups:

Monthly all-church prayer meetings.
 Small groups - approx. 180 people are in a small group. Numbers per group are between 7 and about 16. There are 19 groups.
 World Church Group - regular prayer meetings.

5. Are the leaders clergy or lay? Lay

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?

There is a broad range of lay leadership. We have some very able and enthusiastic people leading the above groups and involved with the children's and young people's groups.

2. Does the parish have a discipleship course? (e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, Christianity Explored). Alpha courses - usually 2 each year. Christianity Explored course. The Bible Course.

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

Serving in church activities. This includes volunteering on the Welcome desk in the new building and catering for some of the weekly groups. There are welcomers for all the services, music groups and a tech team.
 All Together Now - St. Mary's Church Weekend Together has replaced a weekend house party since the pandemic. All the four congregations meet at another Wirral church on the Saturday with an outside speaker. There is an evening barbecue and ceilidh back at St. Mary's and a service for all the congregations at the church on Sunday followed by lunch.
 Eco Group - caring for creation and promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

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

Informal contact with the other church in the parish - St. Joseph's RC church.

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

No

3. What informal contacts are there?

Members of both St. Mary's and St. Joseph's are in the Upton Community Group.
Several members of St. Joseph's congregation have attended Alpha courses at St. Mary's.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

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

St. Mary's is linked with several mission partners and societies worldwide, (Senegal, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Portugal). Their work includes Bible translation, conservation, teaching and medical work. We have supported A Rocha since it was founded by Peter and Miranda Harris in 1984. We also support IPASC (Institut Panafricain de Sante Communautaire et Medecine Tropicale) in the NE of DR Congo. The amount donated in 2024 was £33,940. In Nov. 2024, £35,750 were donated from the Tithe Fund.

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

Christians Against Poverty - we have a CAP Debt Centre based at St. Mary's.
Charles Thompson Mission - a local charity based in Birkenhead who help those in need.
True Freedom Trust - supporting people with same sex attraction.
We have also donated to Birkenhead Foodbank, Forum Housing and a local women's refuge.

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

Alpha courses - usually 2 every year. Christianity Explored.
Sundays@7 when a Christian with a story to tell is interviewed. This is a good opportunity to invite friends who don't generally go to church.
There are occasional quizzes and film nights which always include an epilogue.
SMART (St. Mary's Active Retired Team) - a men's group. They have regular walks, local trips and other activities.

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

There is preparation for Baptism and Marriage. Afterwards they are given information about the various appropriate groups and services. Following funerals, the bereaved are told about the Forget-me-Not cafe. A Church member runs a bereavement course several times a year. There is also an annual Memorial Service which is held on a Sunday afternoon, usually in November.

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

A Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre is based at St. Mary's. There are two paid staff and a number of volunteer befrienders. Clients are given advice on managing their finances and are helped to become debt-free. CAP holds several social events during the year for their clients which include a Christian message and they are given hampers at Christmas. Most clients are happy for the staff and befrienders to pray with them.

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

We have a Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and a Parish Nurse. They are supported by a number of volunteers. The nurse does a drop-in session every week and both attend some of the groups who meet at the Parish Church and the Centre. They also do home visits including home Communion.

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

The Youth Team provides a Chaplaincy at Woodchurch High School, a Church of England Academy situated just outside our Parish.
School of Rock, Treading the Boards theatre group. Fuse after school club for those in Infant and Junior School. Includes a parents cafe. Toddler groups at the Church and Centre, Mini Praise.
Baby massage and breastfeeding groups.
St. Mary's Preschool runs four mornings per week during term time for children aged 2 to school age.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Is there is a history of the church/parish? If so, please e-mail (or send) a copy.
Yes/No Yes - a book entitled 'Set Upon a Hill'

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

To see growth in numbers, both at the Parish Church and the Centre. We particularly want to see more 0-18s, young adults and families attending St. Mary's.
To increase the number of volunteers and encourage them to develop their gifts.

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

We would like to see more young people and families joining the church.
Most of our volunteers are over 60. We need to encourage younger members of St. Mary's to find time in their busy lives to serve the Church.
The Centre is in need of redevelopment as the building isn't conducive to family worship.

Signed on behalf of the PCC: Anne Tomlinson

Office held: Churchwarden

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