

St Peter's, Little Budworth, Cheshire



Parish Profile 2018

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Our Parish

Little Budworth is a charming rural village situated between Winsford and Tarporley, being about 12 miles east of Chester. Liverpool and Manchester are easily accessible and trains to London run regularly from Crewe.

The parish is large as can be seen from the attached map. The main centre of the village is around the church and the Red Lion pub opposite. There are many outlying houses and a secondary centre near the A54, Chester to Winsford road, called Commonside, where the Methodist chapel is located, a number of houses and the Shrewsbury Arms pub.

The total population is 613 of which about 40 are children. Agriculture remains the main industry and the population is a mixture of retired, professional, executive and manual people.

The church owns and lets the Village Hall, which is located a few hundred yards from the church, to a management committee. The lease is long, 35 years. And a small rental income comes to the church. Should it be needed the church has free access to the village hall on Sunday mornings (see later). The village hall committee arrange many events during the year such as Rural Touring shows, and the hall is used for the annual Church Autumn Fayre. Furthermore, there is a visiting Post Office in the village two mornings each week.

Amenities for villagers and visitors alike

Within the parish we are proud to include a number of amenities which bring people from far and wide:

Oulton Park racing circuit is a national venue for all sorts of motor racing (excluding Formula 1) and the church has a very close relationship with the management of the circuit as will be described later. The grounds of the circuit are located where Oulton Hall, which burnt down in 1926, once stood. They are kept immaculately.

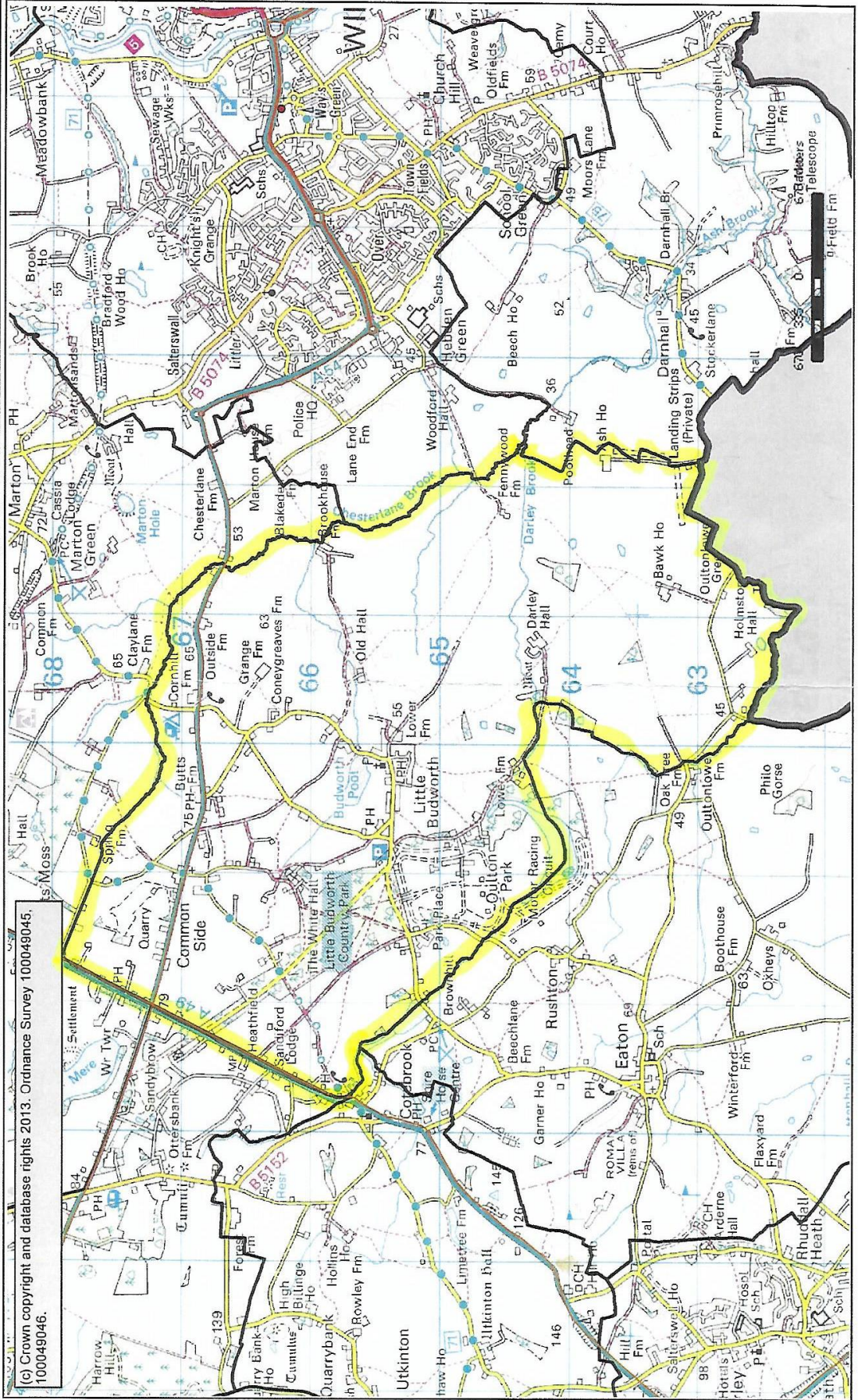


Little Budworth Country Park also attracts many people for walking in the countryside with and without dogs. This is said to be a remnant of the ancient forest of Mara and Mondrum.

LITTLE BUDWORTH PARISH



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Oulton Park Cricket Club is a flourishing club with the third village pub, the Egerton Arms, adjacent. Cricket at this club is of a high standard and caters for all ages.

The Village Green was donated to Little Budworth a few years ago. This has various play activities for children and is used for the Village Fair which takes place in July. The village Green is situated next to the church and churchyard.



Village Organisations

Women's Institute. This is a very active group which has monthly meetings with visiting speakers. There are 19 members.



Cheshire Polo. Although the Polo grounds are just outside the boundary of the parish, many of the Polo ponies are stabled within the parish.

Friends of Little Budworth Common. Much maintenance of the country park is undertaken by the friends.



Bowling at the Red Lion. There is a well-maintained bowling green behind the pub.

Little Budworth Community Choir. The choir meets in the church most weeks to enjoy singing together. There are about 20 members.



School. There is no school within the parish and children can attend either the primary school in Eaton, a neighbouring village, or Whitegate School. Secondary school education takes place in Tarporley and there is a 6th form college in Northwich.

Ministry Team and Lay Participation

The Ministry team shared with Whitegate comprises:

- The Vicar
- SSM Curate (part time)
- Reader Emeritus
- Licensed Pastoral Worker (part time)
- Qualified Children's Worker (part time)

At St Peter's the life of the church is enriched by:

- A Festival Choir which comes together for special services
- 3 Chalice Assistants
- 2 Intercessors
- 2 Church Wardens and deputy Church Warden
 - Cora Cowap (warden): cosyathome@gmail.com
 - Anne Hall (deputy): tony1949hall@gmail.com
 - A 2nd churchwarden will be elected in September
- 16 Lesson Readers
- 10 Sidespersons

Communications

There is a monthly Parish magazine called The Good Shepherd which is circulated to far more people than actually attend church. The magazine contains articles of both regular and special events, advertising, the church rota for the month with bible readings, and contact details of the officers of the church, the church diary and of course the vicar's message.

There is a web site, www.stpeterslittlebudworth.co.uk which is used for publicity of events and is complimentary to the village website, www.littlebudworth.co.uk

There is also a Facebook account and the church room has telephone and internet facilities.

St Peter's Church

The church is set on a prominent position in the village and is visible from a distance. The church is Grade 11* listed, having an early 16th century tower and a main body which was rebuilt in 1800.



In the 1920s the internal roof was altered and there is now a fine barrel roof which gives excellent acoustics.



In 2013 the facilities were enhanced by building an attached church room and installing a toilet and small kitchen in the former vestry. These facilities greatly enhance the ability to hold functions such as concerts in the church and the acoustics are very well received both by performers and audience.



The Hill and Sons organ has recently been completely refurbished through the generosity of parishioners. Therefore, it is a shame that our organist left for another post (prior to the refurbishment) but we are seeking a permanent replacement.



The tower houses a clock dating back to 1727 and a ring of 5 bells (the only ring of 5 in mid-Cheshire). The bell ringing team is made up of members from both Whitegate and Little Budworth and also the Methodist chapel. We are actively seeking to take on new recruits.

The church yard is adjacent to the church and still in use.

Worship at St Peter's

The tradition of the church is broad and there are many similarities between services held at both churches in the benefice. There is always a warm welcome for everyone attending services both old, not so old and young. There are 83 people on the Electoral Roll. Clergy are robed for services.

The regular pattern of services

Day	Time	Service
1 st Sunday	11.00a.m.	All-age Worship *
2 nd & 4 th Sunday	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)
3 rd Sunday	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
5 th Sunday	11.00 a.m.	Matins (BCP)
1 st Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
2 nd Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Joint Choral Evensong at St Mary's
3 rd Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Said Evening Prayer (BCP)
4 th & 5 th Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Service at Methodist Chapel
2 nd & 4 th Wednesday	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)

Average weekly attendance is about 32 +2-3 children. This varies somewhat but not greatly with the type of service. Numbers have been relatively stable over the past few years. The congregation is a mixture of villagers and those who live outside the village, many of whom have longstanding relationships with the village.

* Variants to the All Age Worship on 1st Sunday of the month.

(1) Weather permitting these services can be held on the Village Green which is adjacent to the church and church yard.

(2) Recently a Café Church has been held in the village hall. This is a very informal occasion and is in the process of being developed.



As can be seen from the table, there is a good relationship with the Methodist chapel and joint evening services are held every month.

It should be noted that until recently there were evening services at St Peter's every week. However, the departure of the organist and falling attendance has resulted in the reduced number of services. A benefit of this has been that some of the regular evening service attendees now go to the Choral evensong at St Mary's.

Other Church Groups

There is a **Men's breakfast** on the second Wednesday of the month, attended by members of both St Peter's and St Mary's congregations, at the Red Lion.

There is also a **Ladies Supper** on the first Monday of each month.

There is a very active **Mothers' Union** group which is well integrated with the church. There are 14 members. The leader is also Chester Archdeaconry President until 2021.



Knit and Natter takes place in the church room on a Monday afternoon.

The **Tower Bellringers** practise on a Friday evening.

Special Services

There is a range of special services reflecting not only the Christian calendar but also the rural and farming nature of the parish and the other amenities in the village.

Every year Oulton Park generously allows us to use the circuit for walking, running and cycling so that we may raise money for the church. The day begins with a service in the "Pits" which is very well attended. There were 127 adults and 6 children in 2017. These events have so far been in February, but we are hoping to have a summer occasion either as well as or instead of the February event.



Other services in church and around the village include

Plough Sunday in January when a plough is brought into the church and some livestock if possible and an old tractor outside the church.



There are Lent services at the beginning of Lent and on Good Friday (7.30pm) as well as Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday there is a short procession to the church with two donkeys who live in the village.

Rogation Sunday takes place at one or other of the farms in the village in May.

We have a Harvest Songs of Praise together with a bring and share supper in October. This is followed by **Harvest Festival** the following Sunday when the food gifts are donated to the Salvation Army in Winsford.

Christingle is normally at the end of November.

The Christmas tide services include a service of 9 lessons and carols, Crib and Toy service, Christmas Eve midnight service and Christmas Day service at 11.00am

In addition, there is Carol Singing around the village and in various houses and pubs on the evenings just before Christmas

The **Patronal Festival** takes place in June and this year was a joint evening service with St Mary's.

The **Remembrance Service** in November is followed by a short memorial service by the war memorial at the other end of the village street. In 2018 we will be ringing the bells (half-muffled) along with many other churches in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

During 2017 there were 5 baptisms, 1 wedding and 6 funerals.

The **Confirmation services** which take place every year alternate between St Peter's and St Mary's. In 2017 the service was at St Peter's when 7 adults were confirmed by Bishop Libby.



Management of the Church and Finances

The management of the church is carried out by the PCC which consists of:

The incumbent (chair)

Curate

Church warden and deputy Church warden

Secretary

Treasurer

Synod Representative

6 PCC members

Children's worker (non-voting)

Pastoral worker

Some sub groups are formed on an ad hoc basis but there exists

A standing committee

An Events committee

A Mission and Giving committee

Finances

The total reserves of the church at the end of 2017 stood at £133,600. The cost of running the church is about £50,000 per annum. Unfortunately, we struggle to have sufficient income to cover our outgoing most years. Income from planned giving amounts to about £25,000 including recovered gift aid. Other income is generated by an active series of events including Oulton Park, concerts in church, Autumn Fayre, Carol singing and other activities in the village developed by the Events committee.

Major costs include the Parish Share (£21,500 in 2017 which is one third of the total for the benefice), maintenance of the churchyard, heating and lighting.

The church allocates the sum of £2000 per annum for charitable giving which is dispersed by the Mission and Giving subcommittee.

Generally speaking, Little Budworth pays one third of joint costs including the Children's worker but half the expenses of the incumbent and curate.

Church Education

Children's Work

The lack of a school in the village is perhaps a difficulty with respect to having contact with children and young people. It has been difficult to attract children to the Sunday group organised by the Children's Worker, but we persist. The means of attracting families to the church is certainly an issue in Little Budworth and will benefit from leadership by the incumbent.

Adult Education

The joint Lent and Advent courses are available to people from both parishes. They are led by clergy and lay people.

Outreach and Mission

Our church is noted for the friendliness of its welcome both to regular churchgoers but particularly to visitors and new members of the community.

Much of the outreach comes from the many events described in this document, which are organised by members of the PCC and congregation. This undoubtedly enhances the community spirit of sharing within the parish.

People support one another in numerous small ways which further provides cohesion within the village and whilst there is no formal organisation of outreach and mission the fact that it happens is testimony to the philosophy of the Christian life.

Our Vicar and Curate work hard to visit the sick both in hospital and at home and they offer Home Communion to those who cannot get to church.

One area where outreach and mission could be strengthened is visiting by the incumbent. Informal visiting would make the presence of the church more known to those who are not regular church goers. Since the incumbent does not live in the village, visiting would help to bring the church to the wider population.



The two parishes come together to say farewell to Canon Chris & Barbara



Are you called to be our new vicar?

Are you enthusiastic, outgoing, a good communicator who can connect the Bible to everyday life in an imaginative way?

Are you warm, compassionate and ready to listen?

Are you willing to take a leadership role in the management and running of church affairs?

Will you help us to build for a sustainable future?

We set out below what we believe to be the key issues for development and growth. If you feel that you can help us, we'd love to hear from you.

- Build on and develop existing Baptism Preparation breakfast, Wedding and Confirmation preparation.
- Encourage a wider participation in Lent and Advent courses
- Maintain and enhance pastoral care for all.
- Encourage and enable every member of our church to recognise and use their gifts in the service of God.
- Develop our mission and promote the church as a communal focus for the parish
- The congregation of St Peter's is getting older, so we would like to encourage you to help us draw families and younger people to join in the life of the church.