

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: Barnston 0801

DATE: January 2021

DEANERY: Wirral North

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

1. Number of C of E churches/places of worship in the parish: 2
2. Population: 15785
3. Number on electoral roll: 328
4. Usual Sunday attendance (*taken from last annual return*) under 16 years of age: 32; 16 and over: 247
5. PCC ordinary income (*i.e. total of voluntary income and other ordinary income taken from last annual return*): £ £211,834
6. Average weekly gift per regular giver: £ 13.50

PERSONNEL

1. Name of (former) incumbent: Rev. Peter Froggatt
2. Name(s) of Assistant Clergy (*indicate whether stipendiary (SM) or self-supporting (SSM)*):
Rev. Christopher Murphy - stipendiary
3. Name(s) of Readers, Pastoral Workers and any other licensed lay workers:

Readers - Mrs Jane McCallum, Mr David Reed.

Readers (em) Mrs Ann Vassie, Mr David Williams.

Pastoral workers - Mrs Lynn Alexander, Mrs Marjorie Burden (em), Ms Eileen Hindley, Mrs Chrissie Irlam, Mrs Carol Jordan (em)

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

Mr John Putman - Children, Youth and Family Worker; 35 hours per week

Mrs Joanna Hill - Parish worker / discipleship co-ordinator; 12 hours per week

Miss Cecelia Oliver – Parish Administrator; 25 hours per week

Mrs Chrissie Irlam – Hall Administrator Pensby; 8 hours per week

THE PARISH

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

Rural/suburban

2. Is the population

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

3. Is the population (from 2011 census)

(a) Predominantly retired/middle-aged/young families? approx 0-19... 18%, 20-45.....22%, 46-65.....27%, 65+....34%

(b) Does it include: professional/executive/manual/unemployed? All currently with little unemployment

(c) Describe any ethnic group's resident in the parish: Predominantly White British, with some British Asian and Black British

4. Estimate the proportion of housing: (from 2011 census)

- (a) owner-occupied: 84%
(b) local authority: 9%
(c) privately rented: 7%

5. Please list:

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

4 state primary schools, 1 RC Primary School (Ladymount) ,1 special school, 1 high school (on the Parish boundary which is technically in Heswall Parish but practically part of Pensby due to catchment).

(b) number of nursing homes/elderly persons' homes:

1 (one of the pastoral workers is regularly involved there)

(c) any youth centres?

No church-affiliated community centres or youth centres

Pensby Recreational Centre (next door to St Michael's) and Thingwall Recreational Centre (Sparks Lane)

(d) any community centres?

Kylemore Community Centre (on Kylemore Drive) which is council and charity/volunteer run; Pensby Children's Centre, council run (Fishers Lane); Hope Centre, with unknown current status – acquired from council by now disbanded local Pioneer People (Fishers Ln). Pensby Wood (Wirral Evolutions LATCo) on Somerset Road is a day centre for adults with learning difficulties – member of congregation are involved with monthly music and singing sessions.

(e) name(s) of hospitals in the parish: N/A

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

N/A. There is a private hospital - Spire Murrayfield - in the parish. Several members of the church serve on the chaplaincy team at Arrowe Park Hospital and Clatterbridge Hospital and associated hospices, all outside the parish but which serve it and the peninsula.

7. Does the incumbent have specific civic responsibilities? If so, what?
No
8. Are there any links with local industry?
No
9. Does the parish have any significant social problems, e.g. high unemployment?
Not currently

CHURCH SERVICES

1. How do you describe the church tradition? Traditional catholic / modern catholic / central / open evangelical / conservative evangelical or some other label?
Bible based Evangelical

2. Give the pattern of Sunday services

There is a new service pattern being trialled post-lockdown

Barnston - 08.30 Holy Communion, 10.30 Family service

Pensby - 09.30 Family service, 11.00 Holy Communion; *the future of the 6.30 pm evening service which alternates between the two churches is yet to be decided.*

During the 09.30 and 10.30 services there are crèche facilities for the under 3's and groups for those up to 14 years

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

Book of Common Prayer, Common Worship

Is there a traditional use of eucharist vestments? No

coloured stoles? No

scarf and hood? Yes at 08.30 and 11.00 Holy Communion

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

Hymns and songs on projector screen/ Songs of Fellowship

5. (a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? 26% overall (20% at Pensby, 33% at Barnston)

(b) Does any one age group, gender or social class predominate in the congregation?

Parish wide

60:40 women: men,

70:30 over 60s: under 60s

85:15 middle class: other.

Varies with services – more formal services– over 60's and more female

More informal services – more mixed ages and gender, families

Age range under represented 15-30

Christ Church more middle class, greater variation of social class at St Michaels

6. Average number of communicants on a normal Sunday: _

Figures are pre-service pattern change so include, a weekly early service at each church, a monthly mid morning at each church and a monthly evening which alternated between churches

Barnston 58

Pensby 54

Wednesday 10.30 a.m. at Pensby 15-20

7. Numbers during the last year
of baptisms: 10
of confirmation candidates: 0
of weddings: 1
of funerals in church: 23
in crematoria:31

BUILDINGS AND CHURCHYARD

1. (a) Name of the parish church:- Christ Church, Barnston
(b) Year(s) built; 1871
(c) Date of last quinquennial inspection; 2016
(d) List any urgent repair work still to be done:
Works to the church dilapidated rainwater goods and stonework. (expensive works to be covered by legacy) It was also our intention to repair defects in the surface water drainage system - mostly that part serving the north side, but also partly a section serving the south side of the building – these works to be completed under our insurance cover and at relatively little cost to the church.

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

St Michael and All Angels, Pensby. Following the Quinquennial Inspection September 2016 a decision was taken by PCC early in 2020 to use an amount from the Julia Oxley legacy to carry out outstanding repairs. Quotes obtained pre-lockdown to be reviewed in new year (2021) were for the following:-

- Re-pointing Bellcote brick work and stone copings
- Repair flower room door and roof
- Repair boiler room door
- Repair/re-bed ridge tiles, re-point copings and brick work.

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

Positives - A character house from 1881. Garden is lovely, rural setting and space. Large rooms, plenty of storage, space for people to stay. Lovely views from stairs and landing. Double glazing has made a big difference. New shower room upstairs is good. New shower in bathroom as well. Most of rooms in reasonable repair with little sign of damp anywhere (except for top floor and utility room - see below)

Difficulties – This is in need of interior redecoration. Repair work needed to door frame upstairs. Seals around sink in Kitchen have just gone. Utility room is damp and a bit unpleasant. It is not warm and bills are high: £289 pcm to Good Energy (also, perhaps, because a renewable supplier used). Central heating likely to need imaginative reworking. The insulation was put in under the floor boards of the second floor 10 years ago but the rooms on the top/third floor are cold and damp. One currently used for storage, the other as a guest room but it is very damp. House is huge but really has only four large bedrooms. The biggest problem is that it feels a bit like living in the car park. Most of the windows look that way and when it is busy it is quite public - despite the net curtains. The temptation to keep the curtains closed all the time is strong. Ideally the diocese would invest in remodelling the kitchen and opening it out to the garden. People in church understanding that there is an issue here has been a help.

4. What other buildings (*e.g. church hall, curate's house*) and land (not churchyard) does the parish own? *Give addresses, use and condition*
 8 Antons Road Pensby (Associate Ministers House): works to repair and improve carried out over last few years. -
 Barnston church hall: downstairs has large hall and smaller room and kitchen used by community groups and other users. Upper storey has a hall plus offices used by administrator and church workers-
 Pensby Church Centre: a foyer with cafe style tables and chairs links the church to the large church hall used for large functions. Hall is well used by community. Also has kitchen and small meeting rooms. The buildings are surrounded by an open grassy area with flowers and trees,
5. Has the church got a churchyard? Yes at Christ Church
 Is it still in use? Yes/No closed graveyard
 How many new graves were opened last year? 0
 How many re-openings were there last year? 16 (Figure includes interment of ashes)
 Estimate how many years are available for new graves: 0
 Is there a special area for the interment of ashes? Yes

FINANCE

1. Please e-mail (or send) a copy of 2019'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. Not recently
 - (a) What was the amount of expenses paid last year to the: incumbent £ 610
assistant clergy £ 1370
 - (b) Were these the full amounts claimed? Yes If not, why not?
 - (c) Does the PCC pay a lump sum or reimburse actual expenses claimed?
The PCC reimburses actual expenses claimed.
Is a claim form used? Yes. It is very basic, simple headings.
5. What is the current amount of Parish Share payable by the parish? £ 128,485 p.a.
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
 If not, what amount was paid: £ N/A
 In the current financial year, is the PCC up to date with its Parish Share? Yes
7. Is there any capital project in hand at the moment? Yes
 Please give brief details with costs and how they are to be met.
 During 2019/20 we received a large legacy. After repaying a loan, tithing 10% and committing £110k to known ministry projects, £346k remains. Consequently, we are beginning substantial quinquennial noted maintenance to both of our church buildings, one of which is grade 2 listed. We are also considering building alterations and schemes to improve how they work. It is not envisaged that such maintenance and alterations would exceed the legacy funds available.

CHURCH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROVISION

1. (a) Is there a church school in the parish? No
Is it controlled or aided? Yes/No N/A
(b) Number of children on roll: N/A
Is the number static/rising/falling? N/A
(c) What relationship/links are there between church and school? N/A
(d) If the school is aided, what is the condition of the building? N/A
2. What provision is made by the church for teaching:
 - (a) children:
Sunday Morning groups for children. 0-13s. Also, All-age songs and talks included in many services.
 - (b) young people:
14+ encouraged to remain in service and listen to sermons. Separate youth group fortnightly on Sunday evenings with more targeted age appropriate teaching.
 - (c) adults:
Preaching, Hub and one to one (see below)
3. List church organisations with approximate numbers for:
 - (a) children:
Messy Church circa 25, Holiday Club circa 30-40, little tugs -
 - (b) young people:
Sunday Focus 4_
 - (c) adults:
Mothers Union – 45-50, Carers get together and support – 25-35, Bereavement ministry and lunch – 30-40, family plus –varies greatly in numbers and age range depending on the activity, mens fellowship and breakfast – 35-40, Holidays at Home - 75, Barnston sewing group - 12, Coffee and company - 10 , Choir – varies depending on occasion and service,
4. Give details of house/prayer groups:

House groups were disbanded in 2017 though a few home groups continue. Otherwise, these were replaced by “The Hub” which initially aimed to offer a menu of three evangelistic and discipleship courses each running for a half-term of six weeks. These were initially well attended but numbers have decreased as has the breadth of the courses. The remaining home groups follow the same textual exegesis as the Sunday sermons. The church follows a pattern of daily prayer: until the Covid-19 pandemic, morning and evening prayer was observed daily in the parish and although was open for anyone to attend has few participants from the church family. During lockdown this became morning prayer only (over Zoom) and this will probably remain the pattern from now on. There is a weekly prayer meeting, on a Thursday evening before ‘the Hub.’
5. Are the leaders clergy or lay?

The church wardens are very involved in helping run the practical side of the parish and help with compliance, finance and fabric. The youth worker is lay and heads up the ministry amongst families, and children aged 0-18. There are two licensed readers, who lead services and preach.

There are pastoral workers, who are involved in a range of ministries, from providing respite to full-time carers, to making phone calls to those who are isolated. Leaders at the more contemporary services are more often lay than ordained. The main strategic body within the church is the Mission Leadership Team (MLT). Both clergy are on this committee but the other six members are 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?

The parish is self-consciously thinking through how lay leadership can be developed and how lay people can be equipped for Christian ministry. The development and strengthening of lay leadership has been through initiatives like 'The Hub,' the "Joshua Group" (which no longer operates, but enabled discussion on topics and future directions), an emphasis on one-to-one bible reading and the appointment of a new discipleship co-ordinator.

2. Does the parish have a discipleship course? (e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, Christianity Explored). We use "Christianity Explored" as our primary evangelistic course, but we have also run "Uncover," and "Tales of the Unexpected." In terms of discipleship courses, we have run book groups looking at "God's Big Picture" by Vaughan Roberts, "A meal with Jesus" by Tim Chester and "The Generosity Project."

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

We encourage Christians to grow through Sunday Services, through reading the bible publicly, praying the intercessions, leading the service, leading the music and occasionally through preaching. There are also opportunities for those who wish to be involved in teaching children at Sunday School to be involved in children's ministry.

For those who want to explore the possibility of full-time Christian ministry, we would encourage them to attend a suitable training course. We currently have two members of the congregation on such a course and one who has attended in the past 3 years.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

1. State involvement in local council of churches, if any. N/A
2. Is there a formal covenant with any other denominations? No
3. What informal contacts are there?
informally linked with the Wirral Gospel partnership

OUTREACH AND MISSION

1. Please give details of the support of the Church overseas. How much is given annually?
During 2020 (an exceptional year) our church overseas donations amounted to £12.5k, and the norm is circa £7.5k. We have three overseas mission partners:
Sena and Jane Ounate-Lare who are church planting in Normandy, France, with BCMS Crosslinks.
Joshua and Miriam Mbithi who run an orphanage for children affected by HIV in Eldoret, Kenya.
Diego Pacheco who is a church planter in Santiago, Chile, working with BCMS Crosslinks.
2. Give details of the support for home missions and charities:
During 2020 (an exceptional year) our home missions and charities donations amounted to £31.7k. The norm is circa £7k. We have two domestic mission partners:
Dave Casson who leads the youth ministry at St Peter's Church in Rock Ferry.
A debt coach (Jess Parkhouse) working with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) on the Wirral. Our aim is to support individual Christians who are undertaking Christian ministry in a way that is consistent with our own Purpose, Vision and Values.

3. Is there an organised system of evangelism in the parish? If so, please describe it:
We believe in equipping Christians to do evangelism. We have deliberately moved away from event-based evangelism. Rather we aim to equip every member of the church with the ability to share their faith confidently with those they know.
4. Is there an organised system of follow up to baptisms, weddings, funerals? If so, please describe.
Baptisms: There is no follow up as such, but before anyone can have a baptism, they must undertake a period of preparation. We run a three-week baptism course during the Sunday Service, which explains the basics of the Christian faith and the significance of baptism. Weddings: All married couples are invited to attend 'the marriage preparation course' presented by Nicky and Sila Lee.
Funerals: Every family who is affected by bereavement is invited to attend the monthly bereavement lunch, if they live locally. Once a year, the parish has a service of remembrance (on remembrance Sunday) and all those who have died in the past year have their names read out.
5. What part does the church play in community care (*e.g. the unemployed/homeless/ drug addicts/disabled*)?
At an institutional level we run several projects: (i) we provide "holidays at home", which runs during the summer holidays and the Christmas holidays so that those who are retired can get out and enjoy the holidays, but not too far from home. This is mostly attended by church family (ii) We provide a monthly "carers-get-together" where those who are full time carers receive some respite with a cooked lunch, some light entertainment and a chance to talk to others in a similar situation. (iii) We participated in the Wirral Arklight Shelter project during the winter months. This aims to provide a hot meal, a bed and a safe place to stay for the homeless of Birkenhead during the colder months of the year.
6. Is there an-organised system of care for the sick and elderly? If so, what?
Christ Church and St Michael's both run a "pastoral link" scheme. The licensed pastoral workers and other pastorally minded people from both churches meet up every 6-8 weeks to keep in touch about those who are sick and housebound in order to ensure that everyone is being looked after. At these meetings we decide what level of care we might be able to provide: from a telephone call through to a home communion. One of the successes of lockdown has been a telephone cascade system. A team of telephone callers has been responsible for ensuring that everyone on the electoral roll is called to see how they are doing. Some people have opted out, but most people appreciate the chance to chat, especially if they are isolated, and to pray over the telephone. For those who indicate that they are in need of acute help, a team of volunteers has been able to collect shopping and pick up prescriptions.
7. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (*e.g. open youth work*)?
Currently no open youth work

PUBLICATIONS

1. If there is a history of the church/parish, please e-mail (or send) a copy. Yes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. What are your current goals to achieve for vision (or Growth Action Planning (GAP) goals) for the next 5 years?

Purpose:

To make Jesus known and to grow together in Him.

Vision:

To be bigger and more representative of the community, equipping everyone for ministry

Values:

We are a church –

defined by grace,
directed by the bible,
dependent in prayer,
with compassion for our neighbours,
confident and joyful in our faith

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

Community: understanding the needs and dynamics of the population (e.g. consequences of pandemic), showing we are representative of the local community, our visibility and local action, resurrecting Alpha course and flagship outreach (e.g. Jesus Video project), ecumenical links

Wider arena: environmental and climate issues - awareness and response

Intra-parish: operating as one church family more often, house-groups, online group devotionals, considering mid-week service times that address specific demographics e.g. families/elderly

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, address in Yearbook. (Hard copy for file and electronic copy)
3. The Archdeacon, address in Yearbook. (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