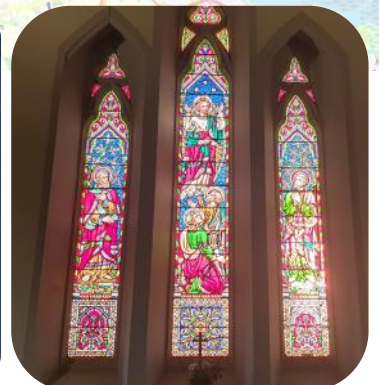


CHRIST CHURCH MORETON

"Making Disciples, Growing Disciples, Being Disciples"



christ church
moreton

2022

Let us **hold unwaveringly**
to the **hope** we profess,
for **he who promised is faithful**.
And let us consider how we may
spur one another on
towards love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:23-24

making disciples
growing disciples
being disciples



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 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester



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Introduction

Christ Church is a busy Church in the centre of Moreton. It has many hard working and committed members who are focused on the work of the Church and getting the message of Jesus into the community.

We run a lot of outreach activities and have formed close links with Christ Church Primary School. The church sees its vision as **'Making Disciples, Growing Disciples and Being Disciples'** and the aim is that every part of church life should seek to fulfil this mission.

We're looking for a new Rector who will come on this journey with us, celebrating and supporting those areas which are working well, and helping rejuvenate, refocus or remove those which aren't.

This parish profile aims to give a flavour of what our church, community and area is like, along with a view to where we think God is taking us.

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Our mission

Our mission as a church is to be *making disciples, growing disciples and being disciples*. Each aspect of church, the people and the groups are challenged on a regular basis to look at how their part meets this mission. At its most basic, making disciples is part of the great commission for all Christians as we should be committed to sharing our faith with others. As Christians, both as individuals and church together, we should be continuing to develop and learn more about what it means to live as followers of Jesus, growing in our faith as a result. As we grow in our Christian faith it is important that we are encouraged to put what we know into practice by 'Being Disciples' both in church and wider community



For a number of years, a group have been involved in looking at the direction the church needs to take and working with five year plans to help make this progress happen. Our current five year plan involves,

1. **Our children's and families' work will be well established.**

We recognise that many of the older generations have contact with the church and became Christians through learning about God in their early years. While we have strong links with Christ Church School we have not yet seen this translate into more families becoming part of the church. We will be looking to better develop this work, with the children and youth subgroup helping to look into this in more detail.

2. **Every member ministry will be embedded in the church**

We are keen that at every level people can be involved in church. That new people are properly welcomed, and that they can easily see ways to become more involved, that there is a place and a role for them. And that our existing members, who may have been part of our church for many years, see new opportunities to engage, to know that their membership is important and necessary, and that their contribution matters.

3. **We will have stronger links with our community**

Since returning from lockdown we have formed new links with external community groups who benefit from some of our resources while we look to be able to tell them more about the importance of what we do. We want to look to ensure that these links are developed and new ones formed but to ensure that any links made will be fruitful for the gospel. Many in the community have no understanding of what church, or Christianity are and we want to change that wherever possible.

4. **Finances will meet the ambitions of the church**

While the church is ambitious in many areas, there are the basics that first need to be paid for, such as maintenance of two large buildings and paying of the parish share. Paying these areas generally leaves us with little or no scope for any development which may require funding and areas such as children and families work, where we may look to recruit a part or full time worker are left vacant. We are looking into how our church is currently funded (i.e. what percentage is gifts, what is hall hire etc.) to look at what may be potential growth areas, but also considering where new funding streams may be available from to help grow and support the work we want to do.

Our need

We wish to appoint a Rector whose love of God will show itself in their love of, understanding and commitment to the Gospel, the congregation, and the community in which we serve.



We would like a Rector who

- will build on and develop the vision and mission of Christ Church particularly to 'Making Disciples, Growing Disciples and Being Disciples'.
- is gifted in Biblical teaching, committed to prayer and ministry.
- someone who will aim to widen the reach of Christ Church to a more diverse and younger group of people, build on our close links to Christ Church School. Good at developing leaders as well as nurturing and encouraging young people and lay people into all aspects of church life.
- will encourage the congregation to live out their Christian faith in everyday life, Monday to Saturday and not just on a Sunday
- will provide leadership on safeguarding and encourage all to contribute toward creating a safer church.
- works closely with the PCC, Church Wardens and Officials, and support local initiatives such as Family Pack.

The role involves management of the Parish Administrator and providing office backup if needed, experience in these areas would be useful.

The applicant should be a team player with good management skills, likes to work with others, delegates effectively, is computer literate, and recognises the importance of our online presence.

We would like someone who is flexible, does not take themselves too seriously and has a good sense of humour!

Our Worship Life

We currently hold two Sunday services per week with plans to re-introduce a third.

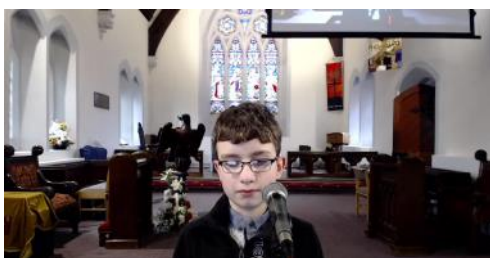
9.00 a.m. - a traditional service alternating between morning prayer and holy communion.

10.45 a.m. - a family friendly service where the children help to deliver the service once a month.

The 10.45 service is [streamed on YouTube](#) for those who are not able to attend church in person.

6.30 p.m. – A more informal service held in the parish centre.

This was put on hold due to Covid and has not returned due to the interregnum and our capacity to run a third Sunday service.



During 2020 we moved our 10:45 a.m. service online, streaming from both the church and rectory when required. We invested in more professional equipment in 2021 after deciding that making our services available online would support those who are unable to attend for various reasons and allow those looking for a local church to see what we do.

To replace the 6:30p.m. service during lockdown we introduced a [mid-week meditation](#) on our YouTube channel which provides a small thought to reflect on each week. Despite returning to church, due to this being popular, we have decided to keep producing these for the time being.



The music group play at the 10.45 service and special services, providing a mix of contemporary and more traditional music which is led by a number of committed worship leaders. There is a team of preachers and leaders who, along with running the service, plan the teaching series and continuously review what the teaching needs of the church are, this is made up of both clergy and lay. In our services we welcome the participation of guest, licensed, lay speakers and contributors.

We have home groups which continued during lockdown online and in person, this is an area we would like to develop and re-focus to ensure that the existing members continue to grow in faith and that all members of the church who want to can find a group that suits them. The study notes are produced in-house and often link with the Sunday Sermon series.

Along with our YouTube channel we have an active [Facebook page](#) which keeps many of our members and community up to date with what is happening in church.

Some of our local schools, including Christ Church School hold regular worship at the church, the beginning and year end services as well as the Easter, Harvest and Christmas celebrations.



Our prayer life

Prayer is a key part of our church, one which we are focused on developing and encouraging throughout all aspects of our work and lives.

We have prayer ministry team who are available to pray at the end of each service for those in need and who request prayer.

During the week we have our prayer chain where a group of church members are texted whenever there is an urgent need for prayer, and we have Say One For Me prayer boxes which are installed inside and outside the Parish Centre, inside the Church and by the gates of Christ Church School. Anyone in the community can fill in a Say One For Me card with a prayer request and put it in the box, and it will be responded to.



Morning prayer via the internet and monthly prayer meetings allow members of the church to regularly spend time praying with each other for the needs of the local church, community and the wider world.

During the Sunday services we have a rota of members who lead us in our intercessions, including young people in our monthly Children and Youth service.

Our Community Outreach

Building relationships with our community is a vital part of our evangelism, allowing us to tell people about God not just through the words of our Sunday services but through practical help, time and importantly, food. Some of the ways we do this are

- The Family Pack Project which was set up in 2014 to help disadvantaged families in Moreton. We



provide free bags of toiletries, children's clothes and bedding to those families referred to us. We are also able to refer them to other agencies who can provide them with help. The support workers, early years centres, schools and other local agencies who refer to us, work closely with the families and understand their needs.

During Covid we worked closely with Age UK and delivered small treat bags to the elderly in Moreton who were isolated and alone. We are continuing to support them and are now planning to invite them to our centre.

- Christianity Explored and Hope Explored, Bereavement course – a number of courses are run each year which have resulted in Church growth
- Men's Breakfast – An early morning one hour long cooked breakfast takes place once a month with 20-30 regular attendees from within and outside of the Church. Speakers and those giving their testimonies attend.
- Ladies Lunch—Similar to men's breakfast, but with the ladies and at lunchtime, this is well attended and appreciated by all who come.
- Work parties – generally sandwiched between the men's breakfast and ladies lunch, a two hour long hands on party of Church and local people meet every few months to tackle small and big jobs around the Church and its grounds



- External Groups – the Church supports Moreton in Bloom giving them space to prepare floral displays and hold the Christmas Fayre which gives us the opportunity to be at the heart of the community and promote Church and the Bible.

- Foodbank – the Parish Centre hosts a Foodbank distribution centre which is supported by Church.

- Church Weekend Away – an affordable and all age annual weekend away at a Christian holiday camp (MCYC, [Tyn-y-Nant](#)) attended by approximately 50 Church members

with guest speakers, this is a great time for worship as well as socialising



Our Children and Youth Work

Children, youth and family work is a key part of our work at Christ Church. As many other churches have found, the pull of other secular Sunday activities have, in recent years, had an impact on the size of our groups. This can be an area of some frustration as many years of working closely with Christ Church School has not seen a significant impact on our overall numbers; as our relationship with the school continues to develop we hope and pray that this will become more fruitful.

We currently run a Sunday club with a small group of children who meet each week during the 10:45 service for the majority of the month with the first week in church usually being committed to a younger age service where the children, along with the youth are encouraged to run and take part in the service.

For the past few years we have been able to run a youth group of mainly secondary school age, this is currently an area of growth both in numbers attending and frequency with the group now running for three Thursdays a month. The group has a time for craft or more energetic fun, food and a time to discuss Bible topics which reflect some of the issues that this age group may be facing.



There is a weekly toddler group "Fun time Tuesday" during the week. Until recently this was run in house but is now co-ordinated by Leasowe Families and Children's Centre who work closely with Church members. This is full to capacity every week with the church members serving drinks and having conversations with the parents.



Throughout the year we have special services which are well attending by our church, school and community families. These include Christingle (incorporating the shoebox appeal), early Christmas Eve, and a light party at Halloween.

Our Structure and Committees

Christ Church is focused on its activities delivering its vision of “Making Disciples, Growing Disciples, Being Disciples”.

A number of Committees aim to support each activity within the church and feed into the Parochial Church Council and its Mission. Each of the following Committees has an important brief;

- Preachers and Leaders
- Vision
- Missions
- Pastoral Care
- Youth and Children
- Standing and Finance Committee
- Outreach
- Facilities and Building



Our Finances

Despite being an area of deprivation a good number of the church are generous givers.

The parish share payable for 2021 was £55,154 and was paid in full by Christ Church. The accounts showed a small surplus despite the challenges of the pandemic and lack of income from hiring the Parish Centre Hall and facilities for the whole of the year.

In recent years we have not been able to pay the whole parish share, mainly due to other financial commitments which have arisen during the year.

For major building work and other projects we have secured grants from various locations which have allowed us to sustain and develop the buildings and services we can offer.

The Church tithes 10% of its income to charities and this year it supported 15 Christian charities.

Christ Church is a registered Charity ([#1152051](#))



Our Officials



Rev Debbi Stott
Associate Minister



Rev Betty Turner
Distinctive Deacon



Jane Matthews
Office Administrator & Warden



Steve Eaves
Warden



Jane Fisher
Pastoral Worker



Lindsey Lawrence
Reader



Lynda Jones
Treasurer



Les Evans
PCC Secretary



Our Background



Christ Church Moreton lies within the Deanery of Wallasey in the Diocese of Chester.

The beautiful Grade II listed Church was constructed in 1863 following a generous donation of land from Mr Thomas Webster. The Church and its fittings were built by Mr William Inman at his own expense. Many of the original features are retained today. The surrounding Graveyard is now managed by the Local Authority, with burials and interments available to family graves only as there are no new plots available.

The church has seen many changes since it was built but has always been at the centre of the community with many members of the community thinking fondly of the church as the place they went to Sunday School or were married, with some returning many years after having left to now discover a vibrant and enthusiastic community of worshipers.

There are approximately 120 members on the Church Electoral Roll. This number has remained consistent over the past several years with approximately 50 to 80 people attending church regularly.

The Church is supported by two salaried and part time posts - Office Administrator, Jane Matthews and Cleaner, Angel Waite.



We currently have around five weddings per year and twenty five funerals of which around half will be in church. We request children have a service of thanksgiving prior to their baptism with around five of each occurring each year.

Our Buildings



Alongside the main church building, **the Parish Centre** is a superb facility. Constructed in 1985, it is next to the Church and forms the central hub of many of the activities we do with the church and community. It consists of the church office, a coffee bar and kitchen, and a large hall which makes it a popular venue to hire for parties and family functions and a good source of income.

The coffee bar area was extended and refurbished with new flooring, fixtures and fittings in 2016 with the heating system's plant room renewed in 2021. There are plans to refurbish the main hall in 2022 to ensure it remains welcoming for both church and community use.



The rectory is approximately 300m, or two minutes walk from the Church and is currently undergoing refurbishment. It is a 1920s detached house, has a private garden and driveway. The five bedroom house offers good accommodation for a family, and includes a ground floor study for private home working as well as a separate lounge.



Our Village



[Moreton is on the Wirral peninsular](#) - twenty four miles from Chester and six miles from Liverpool across the River Mersey, with a population of approx. 18,000

The coastal area is known locally as Moreton Shore which is approximately five minutes

drive away and includes a coastal path that leads from West Kirby to Seacombe. In the warmer months this is popular with swimmers, having a lifeguard and a café alongside views over to both Liverpool and the Welsh mountains.

The centre of Moreton has a number of health facilities, pubs, cafés, independent shops, charity shops, a library and children's playgrounds within easy reach of the Church. There is currently a housing estate development in the parish which will bring over 200 more families, along with development of a new supermarket and community facilities to be built in the coming years.

The Parish has numerous other churches close by, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and an independent church.

The 'Wirral Way' walking and cycling route follows the route of a disused rail line, and there are several golf courses, large supermarkets and leisure centres nearby. Moreton train station is nearby with regular trains to other parts of the Wirral, Liverpool and beyond.

Moreton is an attractive but deprived area and ranks 1,126 out of 12,382 for deprivation, meaning Christ Church lies within one of the most deprived Parishes in the country - [Church Urban Fund data](#).

Social housing, single parents, people living alone and older population statistics are all around the average for the Chester Diocese. The ethnic diversity of Moreton Parish is below average.



Christ Church School



[Christ Church School](#) is our linked school. It is approximately 5 minutes walk or 0.25 miles from the Church. It is the local primary school with around 350 children and works closely with the Church. It is part of the Chester Diocesan Academies Trust. We have a close relationship with the school, its pupils and staff. Of the ten governors six are Christ Church members including the Chair.

Christchurch Moreton @ChristchurchMtr
Exciting start to a Sunday @ChristchurchMtr for our back to school service #worship #pupils



Amanda Donelan, Headteacher at Christ Church School, Moreton

“Christ Church Primary School has a strong and valued relationship with our church that is well supported by the clergy team. We are passionate that we continue to develop and grow together and hope that our new incumbent will be a regular member of our school community. Currently we welcome the Rector and Associate Minister to lead school worship each week and work with us to celebrate Christian festivals throughout the year.

We have developed a working partnership whereby the Rector, Headteacher and RE leader plan the collective worship, Christian values and liturgical calendar together so that staff are supported and children have the opportunity to reflect and celebrate. We also welcome the Rector to work with children to develop their critical thinking and explore questions together to deepen our understanding.

Our Rector is an active member of the Local Governing Body; advising particularly on the Christian Distinctiveness of the school and helping us to prioritise our faith and ethos in decision making. Working closely with the Governors and school leaders, we have grown together as a church and school to serve our community.

We very much look forward to welcoming our new incumbent and continuing this successful relationship; being open to new ideas and opportunities to develop our shared faith.”

Ecumenical links


Andy Frith – Baptist Church Minister

“Christ Church has invested in building good relationships with other local churches and has developed a close relationship with the local Baptist Church.

This relationship is much appreciated and has allowed the two churches to work closely together with various aspects of ministry and mission (liaising with projects, occasional joint services and seeing if there are ways that we can support one another).

There is an ongoing desire for this to be maintained and for the relationship between the churches (and ministers) to continue.”





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