

## The Diocese of Manchester

### PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

*A completed copy of this form would serve as a Parish Profile for the purposes of an appointment, but it is recommended that it is used as the framework for a more attractively written and presented document*

The benefice or parish of:

## Mossley, St. George's Church

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Please return your Parish Profile when complete, together with any other requested papers, to:

**The Bishop of Manchester:**

[bishop.david@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.david@manchester.anglican.org)

**The Suffragan Bishop**

[bishopmark@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:bishopmark@manchester.anglican.org)

**The Bishop of Beverley**

[bishopofbeverley@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:bishopofbeverley@yorkdiocese.org)

**The Archdeacon.**

[archrochdale@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:archrochdale@manchester.anglican.org)

**The Registrar**

Diocesan Registry, 5th Floor, Church House  
90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2QH

**The Patron – if applicable**

**The Area Dean**

[danielramble@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:danielramble@manchester.anglican.org)

**The Deanery Lay Chair**

[laychair.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:laychair.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org)

A hard copy needs to go to the Registrar. Otherwise email copies suffice



## 1. INTRODUCTION

*In two or three summary paragraphs, summarise who you are (as a parish/benefice) and what kind of person you are looking for*

The town of Mossley is situated to the East of Manchester. The Benefice of Mossley was created in 2016 and has a population of approximately 11,500. It has two churches, St. George's and St John the Baptist with a four-bedroom vicarage in the grounds of St John's. St George's has a liberal Catholic style of worship and ecclesiastical traditions whilst St John's is more open evangelical. Within the Benefice there are three church schools which embrace every opportunity to collaborate with both churches with church events and services.

At St George's there is a thriving Junior Church every week during term time and a branch of the Mothers' Union which meets every month. Pre Covid there was an active Messy Church at one of the church schools every Monday as well as several mid-week services in both churches and a community cafe. The Benefice is active in local traditional events including the Whit Walks and Rose Queen and has excellent relationships with Mossley Foodbank, Emmaus and Mossley Youth Group to name but a few. The churches also support charities such as Christian Aid and Twinning Toilets. Within Mossley the Uniformed Organisations have a strong presence and have a quarterly service at St George's. The churches hold many social events during the year including Murder Mystery Evenings, Teddy Parachute from the Tower, plus many others.

The Benefice is looking for a vibrant forward-thinking incumbent who is willing to be fully immersive not only in our church community but also in the wider town community, charities and events. The new incumbent should have a clear vision for the future of the church within the Benefice and be keen and able to put this into action. The Benefice is also looking for an incumbent that will pro-actively take a lead in carrying forward our Benefice into the Mission Community Project currently underway in the Diocese. There is opportunity for an incumbent to have a wider local impact with a column in a local newspaper and segment spot on a local radio station and we would strongly encourage an incumbent to do this so that people know about and feel welcome to join us in our worship.

## **2. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS**

*Statistical information can be requested from the Mission Planning Officer, Alison Peacock at Church House, [alisonpeacock@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:alisonpeacock@manchester.anglican.org)*

*2.1. Full name of benefice or parish(es)*

Benefice of Mossley

*2.2. Title of the post that is vacant*

Vicar

*2.3. Name and address of patron (if the Bishop of Manchester, write "Bishop")*

Bishop  
Ashton-under-Lyne, The Good Shepherd

*2.4. Archdeaconry, Deanery, and name of Area Dean*

*Please include the contact details (phone and email) of the Archdeacon and Area Dean*

Archdeaconry	- Rochdale
Archdeacon	- The Revd David Sharples, 0161 8281474 <a href="mailto:davidsharples@manchester.anglican.org">davidsharples@manchester.anglican.org</a>
Deanery	- Oldham & Ashton
Area Dean	- The Revd Daniel Ramble, 07471 234493, <a href="mailto:danielramble@manchester.anglican.org">danielramble@manchester.anglican.org</a>

## 2.5. *Official clergy housing:*

St.John's Vicarage, Carrhill Road, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL5 0SA

The Vicarage is a purpose built 1970's vicarage in the grounds of St. John's Church, approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile by road from St George's. It is a large 4-bedroom house with office, visitor WC, dining room, lounge and attached garage, with commanding views over Mossley, Micklehurst and the Saddleworth moors.



## 2.6. *Official population*

The 2011 census population for Mossley was **10,921**

## 2.7. *Number on electoral roll*

The electoral roll has **79** members

## 2.8. *Average Weekly Attendance for the last 3 years*

Calculated on 156 Sunday Eucharists when the Church was open (which excludes the Sundays of Covid lockdowns) the average weekly attendance is **46.2**

## 2.9. *Average Weekly Attendance of children and young people under 16*

Again, excluding lockdowns, the average is **7.5**

2.10. In the last twelve months, numbers (if applicable) of:

- a. those baptised = **21**
- b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation = **0**
- c. those confirmed = **2**
- d. marriages = **13**
- e. funerals = **9**
- f. Christmas communicants (all services) = **205**
- g. Easter communicants (all services) = **131**

2.11. Anglican churches and licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here

a. Name of principal church

St. George's, Mossley

b. Approximate key dates for the building

The original building was consecrated in 1757 and the southwest corner of the chapel remains as a monument in the Churchyard.

The current building was consecrated in 1882.

The Lychgate is a WW1 memorial and Grade II listed. It was dedicated in April 1920.

There is a Commonwealth War Grave in the Churchyard of Pte Leo Conway who died in June 1946.

c. Approximate seating capacity

**400**

d. When was the last Quinquennial inspection done? What are the main things that the architect has highlighted as needing doing? How much did the architect estimate they might cost? What progress has been made thus far by the parish?

The last inspection was carried out in July 2020

- |       |   |          |
|-------|---|----------|
| (i)   | Renewal of slate roof coverings and rainwater goods south side of Nave.           | £125,000 |
| (ii)  | South aisle roof renewal, rainwater goods and repointing/window glazing overhaul. | £95,000  |
| (iii) | Overhaul Lychgate   | £5000    |
| (iv)  | Repoint west gable  | £15000   |

A copy of the QI report is available to view.

During the previous incumbency applications for grants were prepared but due to the pandemic all progress ceased.

*e. Name of any attached or nearby hall or other similar facility*

St George's has an attached meeting room with small kitchen.  
Mossley Methodist Church Hall  
Mossley Community Centre  
St. George's (VA) CE Primary School  
George Lawton Hall (public building)

*f. Details of other Anglican churches or licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here*

St. John the Baptist, Roughtown, part of the Benefice of Mossley.

*2.12. Details of publicity that the parish produces e.g. newsletter, magazine*

Monthly Parish magazine approx. circulation 100  
Weekly MailChimp newsletter approx. circulation 165  
Weekly service sheet with notices  
Facebook page

*2.13. Address of website and other social media if applicable*

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15979/>  
<https://www.mossleyparishchurch.org.uk/>  
@mossleyparish - Facebook

*2.14. Names of churchwardens*

Mr. Nigel Hossle-Standring	Mrs. J. Hely
26 Andrew St.	1 Chapel Court
Mossley	Mossley
OL5 0DN	OL5 0EX
07561 638734	01457 834944

*2.15. Names of any representatives (usually two where applicable, but in certain notified cases more) appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 section 11 (1), or otherwise*

PCC held the meeting with the Archdeacon on 11-May-2022, no representative appointed as yet.

*Note: please do not enter names here until the relevant Section 11 PCC meeting (if applicable) has been held and the representatives*

*duly appointed. Consult the Archdeacon's office for clarification if necessary.*

### **3. PRIESTS (ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE 1993 HOUSE OF BISHOPS DECLARATION ON THE MINISTRY OF BISHOPS AND PRIESTS 2014**

*Since 17 November 2014 it has no longer been possible for a PCC to pass resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 or to petition under the 1993 Act of Synod for Extended Episcopal Oversight. It is no longer a requirement that parishes should consider passing or rescinding resolutions under the Measure at a Section 11 Meeting in a vacancy. Any new resolutions must now be passed under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. A PCC, on grounds of theological conviction, may resolve to request that arrangements are made for it under the House of Bishops Declaration.*

*Under transitional arrangements, though, any resolutions passed under the Measure will be treated as if they are resolutions under the House of Bishops Declaration until 17 November 2016.*

*Please record details below if either,*

*a) any resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure or the 1993 Act of Synod were passed by the PCC prior to 17 November 2014 and have not subsequently been rescinded, or*

*b) any resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests 2014 has been passed.*

The subject was considered in detail pre 1994 by the PCC and a minute at that time stated there would be no objection to a female celebrant.

### **4. LOCAL COMMUNITY**

*What is the social character of the area?*

The small Pennine town of Mossley lies on the borders of Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire. The Coat of Arms of each county is represented in the Mossley Coat of Arms; a sheaf of corn for Cheshire, a red rose for Lancashire and a white rose for Yorkshire. At one time, Mossley was split between all three counties but now falls within Tameside, a borough of Greater Manchester. It is located in the foothills of the Tame Valley, in the beautiful Pennines. The Parish Church of St. George can be found in top Mossley, near to Ashton-under-Lyne. Residents in the Mossley area have a thriving community which received Fairtrade town status in 2011; a status of which it is very proud.

The town boasts a number of nurseries, five primary schools, a library and a high school. Within the parish there is an abundance of local amenities, local shops and a small local supermarket.

Over recent years Mossley has seen some new development with housing estates being created with new build properties having a similar character to existing properties.

Mossley benefits from a busy community with many clubs and societies to suit most people including local football teams for adults and youths, cricket, running, and badminton clubs, three local golf clubs as well as musical societies which include an amateur orchestra, choirs, drama and dancing and two brass bands which are a local tradition of significant importance.

The local transport links are close by with Mossley railway station for links to Manchester and Huddersfield. The town has regular bus services to Hyde, Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne and Saddleworth. Road links are excellent as the M60 and M62 motorways are easily accessible for transport links to Manchester and Leeds and the Snake Pass for Sheffield.

Mossley boasts a 9 'Blue Plaque' WW1 trail throughout the town with an accompanying detailed leaflet prepared by the Mossley Town Team and in conjunction with Mossley Heritage Centre.

There is an Emmaus Community Mossley which was opened by Terry Waite in 1994.

*What would you say are the main issues facing your community?*

It is noticeable that the intake for places at our primary schools is decreasing. One of our church schools is joining an academy in the very near future which may impact on the number of children attending our other church primary schools in the future.

*What kind of houses make up the bulk of the parish?*

The bulk of housing type is terraced at **61.3%** followed by semi-detached at **35.5%**

*What engagement with the local community does the church already have?*

Churches Together

Whit Walks

Local schools, both ecumenical and non-ecumenical

Assemblies and worship engagement with local primary schools

Visits by local schools to the church as part of the school curriculum

Emmaus



Mossley Foodbank  
Mossley Town Team  
St John's Band

*What significant institutions such as factories, shops, offices, and hospitals are there?*

Co-op shop; numerous light industrial units; local cafés are springing up all over the town.

Three GP surgeries  
Dental Surgeries  
Tameside General Hospital  
Mossley Community Clinic  
Physiotherapy  
Opticians  
Fire and Police Station

## **5. SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS**

*What schools are there within the benefice / parish boundary (church schools or other)?*

*What links are maintained or desirable?*

St. George's CE (VA) Primary School  
Milton, St. John's CE (VC) Primary School  
Micklehurst All Saints CE (VC) Primary School  
Livingstone Primary School  
St. Joseph's RC (VA) Primary School  
Mossley Hollins High School

*Which voluntary groups (other than church-based groups) have a presence either on church premises or elsewhere in the benefice / parish?*

Mossley Churches Together  
Mossley Town Team  
Mossley Cancer Committee  
Mossley Community Centre

Scouts and Guides at Baden House  
The Vale – community music, dance, cinema and theatre  
Mossley Band (brass)  
St. John’s Band Mossley (brass)  
Abney Orchestra  
Time of Your Life Club  
Mossley Food Bank  
Emmaus  
Mossley Heritage Society including the Peterloo Exhibition  
Mossley Lifeboat Society  
Mossley Amateur Operatic and Drama Society [MAODS]  
Tameside Sea Cadets

## **6. WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS**

*What is the present pattern of Sunday and weekday worship?*

11:00am Sunday Parish Eucharist accompanied by Hymns Old and New CDs

7:00pm Tuesday Holy Eucharist (said) – but currently not held during vacancy

*Which books and service orders are in use?*

Common Worship is used for all services with various printed booklets across the liturgical year.

*What is the normal vesture for ministers (i.e. what robes are normally worn?)?*

The usual vestiture for a priest celebrating Holy Eucharist is an alb, stole and chasuble. For non-Eucharistic service an alb and stole or cassock.

*In the congregation(s), what is the mix of age, gender, and social groups?*

The congregation comprises some young families but on the whole middle to late age parishioners.

*How many worshippers live outside the parish boundary?*

There are **27** individuals on the electoral roll that live outside the parish.

*In the spectrum of church tradition how would you describe the worship – "evangelical", "central", "catholic", or some variation, or in other terms?*

Worship in our Parish centres on the Holy Eucharist, at which all members meet together to offer themselves to God and to draw strength for their daily lives. The tradition is that slightly higher of central, but during our current interregnum we have had several visiting vicars and have experienced different worship styles all of which have been embraced by our congregation.

*What else should be recorded?*

Annual baby memorial service organised in conjunction with the local funeral directors.

St George's has a large Garden of Remembrance which is popular as a place of quiet reflection. Funerary ashes are buried frequently and families have plaques placed on the walls.

Whit Walks  
Remembrance Day Cenotaph Memorial Service  
Good Friday Pilgrimage Walk to Mossley Cross  
200 Club

## **7. CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS**

*What church-based organisations and groups exist?*

### Junior Church

During the last 3 years we have met in St George's School and join the Service near the end, we have met via Zoom and occasionally meet in the Church room when there are low numbers. There are 3 classes for ages 3-7, 8-11 and 11-16. Over the 3 classes, on average we probably get 10-12 young people. There are currently 20 on the register in total.

### Mothers Union

Our MU membership is 31 (including 1 indoor member) and we average 22/24 members at most of our meetings which are held on the second Thursday of the month at 2:00pm in the church room. Over the years we have been fortunate to have had a varied list of interesting speakers each month. We are always happy to welcome our vicar to meetings as often as it is possible for them to attend.

We take an active role in many Church activities including catering, home bake at the Summer Fair and hamper raffle at the Christmas Fair etc.

For several years we have hosted a Diocesan Eucharist with afternoon tea on the first Tuesday in August, after a break during Covid restrictions we are planning to resume this service in August 2023.

For some considerable time, a few of our members have been knitting for the Premature Baby Unit at Tameside Hospital.

As well as our members, we welcome anyone from our Church family to join us at our monthly meetings – we aim to be a welcoming group within St. George's.

#### Uniformed Organisations

St George's has 5 Girlguiding Units (2 Rainbow Units, 2 Brownie Units and 1 Guide Unit, approximately 60 girls in total) that meet at Baden House, Carrhill Road, Mossley, along with 4 Scouting Units. All the Units are well attended. Girlguiding now hold 3 Church Parades per year and an annual Carol Service in Church. We also select a Brownie Queen who fundraises for the Brownie Units and her Crowning is held in St George's Church.

#### Church Rose Queen & Brownie Queen

Although not a group it is worth noting that each year the Church Rose Queen and the Brownie Queen and their retinues attend many Churches outside of the Mossley area as our ambassadors. Rose Queens from various other Churches have reciprocal visits to our Church too.

The Rose Queen and her retinue raise funds for the Church throughout their one-year reign.

*How would you describe the social life of the church?*

Very active!

Murder Mystery Evening

Historical Exhibitions

Breakfast with Santa

Christmas Fayre

Summer Fayre

Teddy Parachute

BBQ and quiz

Christmas Tree Festival

Afternoon teas

Sausage Sizzlers

Pancake Saturday

## **8. NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES**

*Describe any collaboration you have with neighbouring or other Anglican churches and parishes.*

During Covid, relationships with the neighbouring parish became impossible due to lockdown restrictions although we are now trying to reconnect.

*What activities or projects do you undertake or plan jointly?*

A summer event to which we have invited St John's and St George's Stalybridge is planned.

*Are there plans for any form of Mission Partnership with neighbouring parishes?*

Yes; there is the Mission Communities Project ongoing within the Diocese.

## **9. ECUMENISM**

*Are there churches of other Christian traditions in the benefice / parish or significant in the wider area?*

Within the Benefice of Mossley are the following Churches:-

St. Joseph's RC Church  
Mossley Methodists Church  
Cornerstone Church

*What links are maintained or desirable, formal or informal?*

The Churches Together meet to promote Christian unity in the area. Joint activities include:-

Christian Aid collection at the town Co-op  
Collection of items for the Mossley Food Bank  
Volunteers help with Emergency Appeals  
Good Friday service on the Market ground followed by a walk up to the Cross on the hillside overlooking the town.

*Have ministers met regularly?*

Up until Covid restrictions the ministers met regularly, post-lockdown meetings are starting to return to normal.

*Is there an active Churches Together or similar organisation in the area?*

Yes, as above

*Does another church or denomination use your building for worship or other activities?*

No

*What else should be recorded?*

Home Communion are carried out monthly.

## **10. MINISTRY**

*Are there licensed or emeritus Readers who minister?*

Current congregant on ALM training pathway.

## **11. MISSION**

*What are the benefice / parish's aims and objectives in mission?*

*Is there a Mission Statement? If so, please show it here.*

Seek to worship, adore and to lead others to an awareness of our God.

To encourage people in their share of ministry by their sharing of their talents and abilities.

Give witness to the love and power of God.

Effective use of the resources that we have, to the glory of God.

Outreach to others in love and mission.

Reveal our faith in our daily living.

Grant hospitality and welcome to all.

Extend our own vision in wonder and awe.

*What are the mission priorities for, say, the next two years?*

- a. To care for and develop our congregation in prayerful understanding of each other's needs bringing spiritual healing alongside embracing new opportunities that will emerge.
- b. To bring a closer working relationship with the school community – embracing new ideas / opportunities whilst maintaining the school's and the Churches vision for the future.

- c. To examine and find new ways of encouraging more people to attend church – especially from within the parish and parents of pupils at the schools and those who attend any of the groups mentioned in the document.
- d. To encourage all to look beyond St. George's with the aim of bringing a closer understanding of the mission opportunities that lie within the parish and beyond our boundaries.
- e. With the bringing together of Mossley into one parish there will be vast opportunities to spread God's word and serve the needs of the people of Mossley.

## **12. FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP**

*Please attach copies of annual accounts for the last three years*

*Is Christian stewardship practised, and when was the last campaign or renewal?*

The last Christian stewardship campaign was in 2010 as a means of raising funds for essential repairs following the quinquennial inspection.

*In what ways have you seen giving (in its broadest sense) increase in the last few years?*

Giving is slightly reduced, somewhat hindered by Covid-19 and its restrictions, but more recently there has been an increase in our more regular givers being unable to gift aid (due to retirement/ceasing to pay income tax).

*Is the benefice / parish committed to full payment of the Parish Share, and if it has failed to pay it recently what are the reasons?*

We are committed to paying 100% and have done so in the past 5 years excepting last year during lockdown restrictions when we paid 75%. Several trees were deemed unsafe following an official report of the Churchyard, and a sum of money was urgently required to pay for the essential tree work.

*Were the parish priest's expenses of office met in full last year and what was the total sum reimbursed?*

Yes. Approximately £900 including refunds for purchases made on the Church's behalf.

*To what extent does the benefice / parish offer financial support to home and overseas mission work, including projects, appeals, and charities?*

Mothers Union donations

Toilet Twinning Scheme

Christian Aid

Weekly donations to the local Foodbank

A portion of 200 Club monies donate bibles to local school year 6 leavers

### **13. THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST**

*In the light of and with reference to all of the above, and in particular your mission priorities (see Section 11), what are the key priorities that you would like the next parish priest to address?*

*What are the gifts and skills you would hope they will bring?*

*As well as being an important statement to prospective applicants, the answers you give to this section will be taken into account by the Archdeacon in drafting the formal Role Description and Person Specification for the post*

- a. A priest who is prayerful
- b. A priest who will embrace our aspiration to be a welcoming and inclusive Christian community built on the understanding that God accepts us equally, irrespective of gender, sexuality, race, social standing, belief, age or ability - and believing that God calls us equally to share that unconditional love with all people, without exception.
- c. A priest who will embrace and develop the traditions of St George's and St John's.
- d. A priest who will have a vision for the future of the Benefice and the skills and determination to bring this to fruition.
- e. A priest who is willing to embrace and actively lead our Benefice forward with Mission Communities within our Deanery.
- f. A priest who will work with us in strengthening our working relationships with the schools and uniformed organisations.



- g. A priest who will visit those who are sick/unable to attend church, taking the Sacrament to them where appropriate and who will work with us in the development of the laity to facilitate lay development within the Benefice such as the provision of Home Communion.
- h. A priest who will embrace the traditions of Mossley taking every opportunity to work with the other Churches in the town and become an active member of Churches Together.

St. George's Mossley PCC June 2022