

The Diocese of Manchester

PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

The benefice or parish of:

St John the Baptist

Roughtown



1. INTRODUCTION

St John's is currently a small and caring fellowship with a low evangelical church tradition and evangelistic outlook. It has a history of varied worship styles and a tradition of significant congregational involvement in Sunday worship. There is currently one midweek cell group meeting, although several were formed following Alpha courses some years ago. A significant number of worshippers from St John's have joined other local fellowships in the last decade, but there now remains a committed and faithful congregation.

Whilst numerically only a small fellowship, we have big hopes for future growth through outreach into the local community and the development of dynamic worship and ministry. During the interregnum the congregation has pulled together, making the most of the limited number of people and their available time. The experience of the last few months has already empowered us to meet new challenges successfully and to discover new gifts and skills both individually and as a congregation.

We look to a new vicar to bring enthusiasm, and ideas appropriate to the different natures of the three churches and the people therein, who will form the foundation for future growth.

2. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

- 2.1. Full name of parish
St John the Baptist, Roughtown, 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
- 2.4. Archdeaconry, Deanery, and name of Area Dean

Archdeaconry of Rochdale,
Rev David Sharples archrochdale@manchester.anglican.org
0161 828 1423; MOBILE: 07909231278

Deanery of Oldham and Ashton
Area Dean: Rev Daniel Ramble DanielRamble@manchester.anglican.org
07471 234 493

- 2.5. Official clergy housing: address and brief description

St John's Vicarage, Carrhill Road, Mossley OL5 0SA

The vicarage is located behind the church, adjacent to Mossley Community Centre. It is a 1980s, purpose-built 4 bedroomed vicarage with study and downstairs toilet that can be separated from the main house. It has an integral garage and large garden with lovely views of the Pennines.





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| 2.6. | Official population (3347 - 2011 Census, updated 2018) | 3520 |
| 2.7. | Number on electoral roll | 26 |
| 2.8. | Average Weekly Attendance for the last 3 years | |
| | 2 years pre-COVID | 20 |
| | Latest 12 months | 9 |
| 2.9. | Average Weekly Attendance of children and young people under 16 | 1 |
| 2.10. | In the last twelve months (1 July 2021 - 31 July 2022), numbers (if applicable) of: | |
| | a. those baptised | 6 |
| | b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation | 0 |
| | c. those confirmed | 0 |
| | d. marriages | 2 |
| | e. funerals | 4 |
| | f. Christmas communicants (all services) | 25 |
| | g. Easter communicants (all services) | 12 |
| 2.11. | Anglican churches and licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here | |
| | a. Name of principal church | |
| | St John the Baptist | |
| | b. Approximate key dates for the building | |
| | 1878 | |
| | c. Approximate seating capacity | |
| | 300 | |
| | d. The last Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in June 2016. The building is in a good state of repair after extensive works carried out under Heritage Lottery Fund grants. The next Inspection, delayed due to COVID, has been arranged for November 2022. | |
| | e. The church building comprises the main Sanctuary, a Side Chapel and a room suitable for small to medium size social events, which has an adjacent kitchen. | |

- f. The Benefice of Mossley comprises St John's and St George's parishes. This profile only addresses St John's church with St George's church the subject of a separate profile.
- 2.12. Details of publicity that the parish produces
 achurchnearyou.com - web page
 minor contribution to Benefice Magazine published by St George's
- 2.13. Address of website and other social media
 stjohnsroughtown@gmail.com
- 2.14. Names of churchwardens
 There are currently vacancies for 2 church wardens.
- 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:-
 Mrs Susan Warburton
 Mr John Maiden

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

Understood to be not applicable

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

Understood to be not applicable

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY

Mossley is a market town near the edge of the Pennines with a strong sense of community and tradition. A lot of young families with children are well served by good local primary schools and a good secondary school. The population has risen and continues to rise with housing development. The town is moving from a working class (traditionally wool mill workers) to more of a commuter belt area. Most of the housing in this parish is owner occupied with a percentage of rented accommodation. There is a demand for new housing development in the town.

The age profile of the parish at 2011 Census was:-

age 0-4	6.6%
age 5-17	13.8%
age 18-29	13.1%

age 30-44	24.9%
age 45-64	30.4%
age 65 and over	11.3%

The parish population is largely of white ethnicity (97% - 2011 Census).

The primary engagement with the community is through the Church of England school, Milton St John.

There are occasional requests for Baptisms Weddings and Funerals, often prompted by some historic connection with St John's.

Although limited by numbers the congregation has a desire to contribute to the needs of the community, which is addressed in a small way by the collection of contributions for the local Foodbank.

Roughtown is the oldest part of Mossley, a town which has traditionally seen itself very much as an independent community, separate from Ashton and Oldham. Mossley has its own Town Council and Town Mayor. There is usually an independent councillor from Mossley on Tameside Council.

There are several businesses in the town such as garages, pubs and restaurants, solicitors, accountants, metal workers and pallet makers.

There is a variety of shops including a CO-OP supermarket, local butchers, 2 post offices and several medical practices. There is also an Emmaus enterprise within the town which has links with the church.

5. SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

The local church primary school is Milton St John's. The whole school comes to church once a term. The vicar is regularly invited to address the school assembly. Messy church was run in the school prior to COVID and there is a desire to resume this activity. This area of outreach is viewed as a key opportunity for St John's.

The old church school next to the church is now Mossley Community Centre, a thriving hub of activities across a wide age range.

The church has historic links with St John's Brass Band who play in church for the Harvest service and for Nine Lessons and Carols. They also play for the Whit Friday Walks which is a big event in the Mossley Community.

6. WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS

There is currently a 9.30am Sunday Service every week. Subject to the availability of clergy, it is a Communion Service, taken from Common Worship, using the range of orders of service appropriate to the church seasons. Readings are taken from the Common Lectionary. The Hymns Old & New hymnal is used with music played from a collection of CDs. The organ is seldom used but functional using only the Great keyboard, with some stops inoperable. The Swell organ is not currently functional due to a constant drone.

The congregation has a relaxed approach to vesture, which allows visiting clergy the flexibility to adopt their preferred practices.

When there is no clergy availability Sunday Service takes the form of a Service of the Word, led by one of several willing members of the congregation.

The congregation is predominantly female, with about 75% aged over 60 years and there is only one under the age of 20 years. About 50% of the congregation live outside the parish boundary.

The congregation considers itself to be informal, friendly and with a low evangelical tradition. In the past there was a thriving youth group associated with St John's, and a 10:30 service was led by a worship band. At that time there was also a more traditional 09:00 Eucharist. Subsequently a single service was instituted at 10:00, but it was then considered necessary to change to 09:30 for compatibility with other services in the Benefice. The 09:30 start proved to be a difficult time for some elderly members of the congregation.

7. CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

St John's has one active home-based cell group which meets at least once a month and is always open to welcome new members. The current number of attendees is 5.

In times past several cell groups were established following Alpha Courses, a proven platform for contact with the community outside the church.

Pre-COVID, a breakfast club met monthly and there were occasional social evenings, for example, quiz nights. The numbers currently attending preclude such activity at St John's.

8. NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES

The Mossley churches were until the last twelve months part of Ashton Deanery which has now merged with Oldham to form the Oldham and Ashton Deanery. The Deanery is starting to adopt and apply the principles of the Manchester Diocese concept of Mission Communities. It is early days for this initiative which is supported in principle although at present the primary focus is maintaining Sunday Worship at St John's.

On the arrival of the last incumbent St John's and St George's churches were together formed into the Benefice of Mossley. There is good cooperation between the two churches and there have been some joint services and social events, but not during the interregnum. Since the vicar left the Benefice the church wardens at St George's have supported the St John's PCC, particularly in finding clergy cover and producing the shared weekly Service Sheet. There is also a magazine produced by St George's covering the activities of the Benefice.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer carries the responsibility for both churches.

9. ECUMENISM

In addition to St John's and St George's there is, in the immediate vicinity of Upper Mossley a Methodist Church, a Roman Catholic Church and a Free Evangelical Church, Cornerstones.

St John's has played an active part in Mossley Churches Together, but regular meetings were suspended during the pandemic. Plans are in place to re-establish this forum. The next meeting is planned for 15th September 2022, at the Methodist Church in Mossley. There was close cooperation between the churches, earlier in the year, in resuming the Pentecost united procession of witness (the Whit Walks), after a two-year break.

10. MINISTRY

Since the departure of the last vicar there has been no recognised minister within the parish. There is no assistant curate, OLM, NSM, reader or any retired clergy. There was until late 2021 an NSM serving the Benefice but that provision ceased for medical reasons.

St John's has been registered for OLM ministry, several years ago, but that ministry did not materialise.

St John's fosters every member ministry with congregation members involved in reading, leading intercessions and providing Bible based teaching.

11.MISSION

St John's was a thriving fellowship in the first decade of this century but attendances have steadily fallen in the last decade. There is a keen desire within the remaining committed congregation to reverse that decline, but with a recognition of the challenge presented by the size and age of the congregation.

There is an opportunity for work to be re-established in the schools which will, in time, result in an inflow of young families into the church. The Messy Church initiative has previously been used in St John's church, initially, and then in Milton St John Primary School. The desire of the school to re-establish Messy Church provides encouragement for future strong links and growth.

An initiative which worked well in the past was the Alpha Course outreach programme – this is a proven form of outreach which may have an application at St John's.

We are 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.

12.FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

There is encouragement for the congregation to participate in a regular giving scheme either by use of the envelope scheme or increasingly by bank transfer. The majority of giving is under the provisions of the Gift Aid legislation.

There is currently no active encouragement of the congregation to increase their giving although there is a recognition that church income must be significantly increased. The reduction in attendances during the pandemic has had a dramatic negative effect on the level of financial support to the church.

With the time lag between church income survey and the setting of the target for Parish Share, and a declining level of attendance, St John's has fallen short of paying the Parish Share for several years. The only exception to this was for one year, 2018, when a realistic assessment of affordability was made and that sum was met. However subsequent increases in demand were not met for the reasons already stated, as indicated below.

Year	Parish Share	Contribution
2018	£5000	£5000
2019	£6000	£1500
2020	£7000	£2000
2021	£7140	£5500

There has always been a desire to pay the Parish Share but concern about its unrealistic level. This is typified by the payment in 2021 of £5500 against a target of £7140. The amount paid was funded by the premature anticipation of the Gift Aid payment from HMRC which should have contributed to the current year's Parish Share. Hence the current year's payment will fall well short of the figure requested.

In the last financial year, a sum of £708 fully covered the expenses of the Vicar and the NSM.

The church currently gives small donations from Parish Funds to Yorkshire Historic Churches and Greater Manchester Church Preservation. St John's also encourages contributions through the Christian Aid annual appeal envelopes channel and pays the proceeds of the Christingle Service Offering to the work of the Children's Society.

A summary of the annual accounts for the last three years follows:-

Income	2019	2020	2021
Planned giving		6154	7319
Collections at services	9536	7	1684
All other giving		2635	3119
Gift Aid recovered	0	3487	2419
Fundraising	0	0	0
Trading	316	0	0
PCC Fees	2743	424	1688
Other income	986	0	0
Legacies		500	0
Grants		0	0
Total income	13581	13207	16229
Weekly average planned giving per planned giver		11.83	8.28
Number of planned givers		10	17
Expenditure			
Mission giving and donations	850	0	75
Parish share paid	1500	2000	5500
Salaries and expenses	2561	553	3457
Church running expenses and utilities	8923	6318	8739
Other expenditure	630	291	0
Capital expenditure		0	1899
Total expenditure	14464	9162	19670
Surplus on Year	-883	4045	-3441
Total Bank and Cash reserves at 31 December 2021			£2,561

13. THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST

As we look to the future our hope is for a vicar who is an inspirational leader of people, personally led by the Holy Spirit and committed to meeting the differing demands of three different parishes: a person with a realistic understanding and appreciation of different traditions and styles of worship across the parishes, and who recognises the opportunities for growth alongside the challenges of introducing change.

We hope for somebody who is adept at working with people of different ages from a wide variety of church and social backgrounds. We seek a person who will approach individuals sensitively but also in a manner that will help to identify new gifts, skills and abilities that can be used to grow the fellowship.

An essential characteristic of our new vicar will be the ability to relate to and build relationships with school children, and their families, thereby continuing and developing established links between St John's and the local community.

7th August 2022