

St Andrew's Church Orford with Longford Parish Profile



Saint Andrew's: a place of Faith, Hope and Love in action

Summary:

We are looking for someone who will help grow our congregation and help it grow in faith. We have good links with the church school: this has achieved the School-Church partnership award at levels 1 and 2. We are looking for someone to maintain these links by leading School worship alongside our LML and the school mission team both in school and in church.

The church is in an area of north Warrington in which much local authority housing was built after the Second World War. Although a lot of this housing is now privately owned, it still ranks as a deprived area. An important part of the work of the church is the weekly charity shop held in the church hall, which serves the local community by helping deal with social isolation and providing an opportunity to purchase clothing and household goods,

Services have been largely Eucharist based with an average Sunday attendance of 25. The worship style is traditional with hymns from You Tube and a small choir.

The church buildings are in good condition and the hall is hired out to a wide range of organizations including scouts and dancing and fitness groups. The financial position is currently healthy and to date we have always paid the parish share. It is very important that the charity shop be allowed to continue because, owing to a decline in the numbers of the congregation, it acts as an important part of our income at the moment as well as providing an important social function.

We are addressing the numbers attending by having a family service call Bubble Church aimed at families with under 7yr olds, this services currently takes place every 4th Sunday of the month and has around 8 families regularly attending with an average of 46 attendees in total.

Each year new families and children join the school and thus there is a regular pool of people who can join the church community if we can attract them. Here is the potential to grow this church.

The Vicar we want:

Someone who can reach out to people and help grow the congregation in line with the diocesan vision: Bigger Church, Bigger Difference.

Someone who will help us grow in faith (discipleship).

Someone who will continue to support our community outreach work through our charity shop.

Someone who will work with us to maintain links with the school by leading worship in school and class Eucharist in church and school.

Someone who will support and develop the lay leaders in mission.

Someone who is a good communicator.

Someone who is outgoing and friendly and has a sense of humour.

The Parish:

Orford is a large area north of the centre of Warrington and bounded by the M62. The first church in the area was St. Margaret and All Hallows which was built in 1908. Following development in Warrington after the Second World War many new houses were built in the north of Orford and it was felt that there was a need for another church. Norman Carter, the curate from St. Margaret's started services first in houses, then in a social club and it was called the "Congregation without a name." The then Bishop of Liverpool chose the name St. Andrew's and in 1956 the home was a wooden hut from Padgate RAF camp (now still the Church Hall). The school was opened by Lord Derby in 1958 (the first completely new school built in Britain after the war) and worship moved to a sanctuary in the school hall under direction of the priest in charge Fr Tom Stanage. The present church was consecrated on St. Andrew's Day 1963.

The previous vicar was highly regarded and worked here for 22 years. The church then had an interim minister for three years, with a brief to explore and develop the future mission and ministry of St Andrew's.

The parish consists mainly of social housing, some of which is now privately owned but although there is some new-build private housing, the parish has the appearance of a traditional council estate with all the challenges that go with it. The population of this parish is 9322. It ranks 332 out of 12425, where 1 is the most deprived parish. This means that it is among the most deprived in the country.

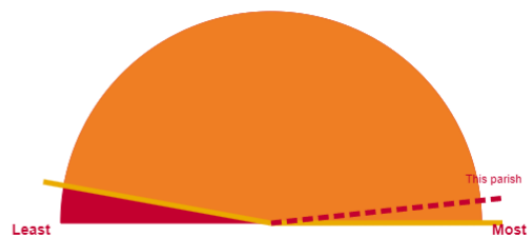
All this being said, the Church buildings are not subjected to constant vandalism and the church is highly regarded amongst the community and it has many friends even though they do not necessarily come to church.

"I like to come here (the charity shop) to meet new people"

Overall Deprivation

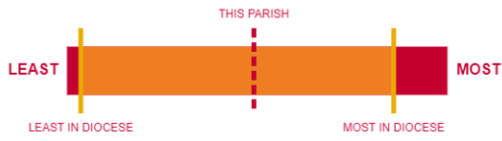
The population of this parish is **9633**. It ranks **416** out of **12239**, where 1 is the most deprived parish.

This means that the parish is among the most deprived in the country.

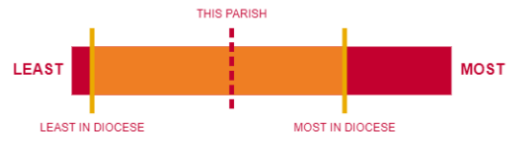


Poverty

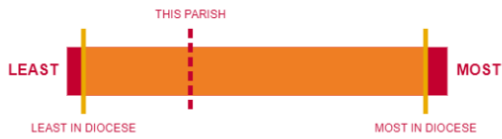
Child Poverty ?



Working-age Poverty ?

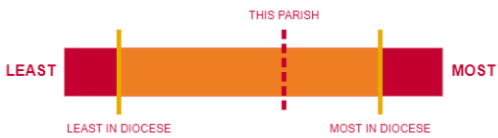


Pensioner Poverty ?

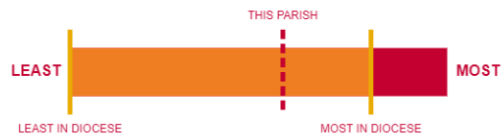


Demographics

No Qualifications ?



Social Housing ?



Older Population ?



Ethnic Diversity ?

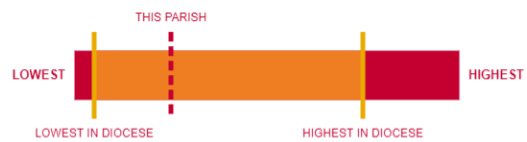


Life expectancy

Life Expectancy (Boys) ?

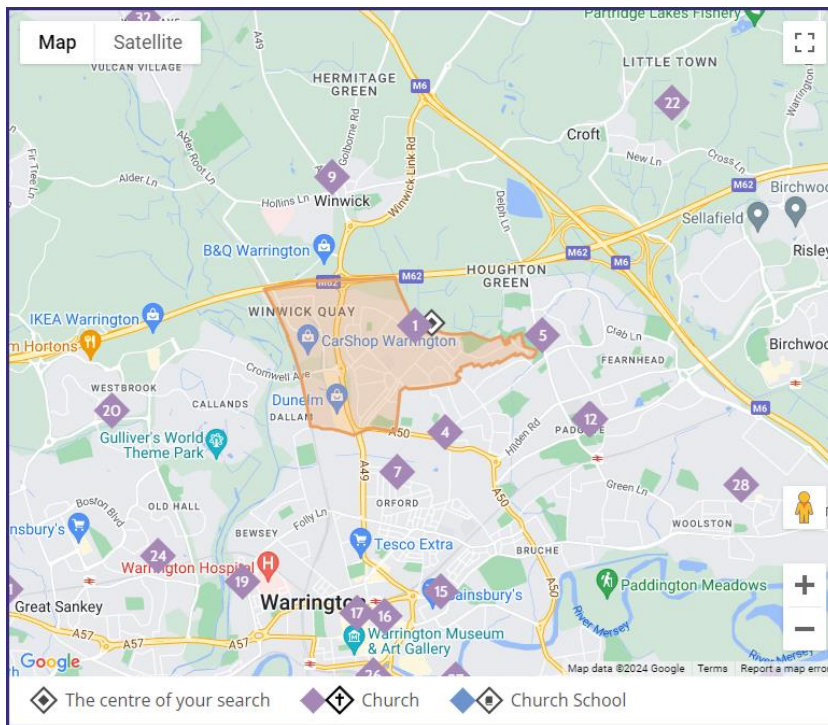


Life Expectancy (Girls) ?



Parish Data

Percentages and ranks	Least In Nation	Least In Diocese	This parish	Most In Diocese	Most In Nation
Child Poverty	1%	3%	29% Ranked 593/12239	50%	58%
Pensioner Poverty	2%	5%	25% Ranked 952/12239	69%	73%
Working age poverty	1%	4%	25% Ranked 443/12239	42%	58%
Years	Highest In Nation	Highest In Diocese	This parish	Lowest In Diocese	Lowest In Nation
Life expectancy (boys)	93yrs	83yrs	75yrs	71yrs	68yrs
Life expectancy (girls)	95yrs	90yrs	80yrs	76yrs	75yrs
Percentages	Least In Nation	Least In Diocese	This parish	Most In Diocese	Most In Nation
No qualifications	0.5%	6.8%	26%	37.2%	44.4%
Social housing	0%	0%	43%	60.8%	76.1%
Older population	0.3%	3.5%	11.8%	45.7%	65.9%
Ethnic diversity	0%	1.4%	5.2%	72.7%	96.4%



Map showing parish in relation to Warrington

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search/?lat=53.4165368&lon=-2.5847744&place=Warrington+WA2+9UE%2C+UK&text=>

The Church and its people:

Services have been largely Eucharist based and include Sunday morning said service, with the occasional evening prayer service.

We have planned and started a new worshipping community of Bubble church on the 4th Sunday of each month at 9:00 am, which is for families with children 7 years and below, we have a team of 8 people led by our LML and the Bubble church champion and have a congregation average of 45 attendees. This is a service of the word, and we serve breakfast after this service for both congregations. We also have had the first Bubble Church baptism out of London.



In 2023, the average number of communicants at the Sunday service was 25 In 2023, there were several funerals and 3 weddings. There are currently 53 on the electoral roll: 30 residents in the parish and 21 non-resident.

We have used Common Worship and the wealth of material that goes with it, including Times and Seasons but we are open to change. We have an up-to-date audio-visual arrangement, and the service is shown on 4 large screens and all music and hymns are taken off YouTube at present. A small choir sings each Sunday.

The worship style is liberal catholic, and coffee is served at the back of church on Sundays.



The age profile of the congregation is typical of most churches, however there is a new Bubble Church worshipping community that is growing that consists of families from 0 to adults of around 45 members. This is in its infancy, and we hope that it will grow over time. We also attract families in the 10 am worshipping community and have at present 3 families that attend that service regularly. The scouts and school join us for services throughout the year especially for events such as Mother's Day, Harvest, St Georges day and remembrance Sunday. On these occasions we endeavour to provide a family service that is attractive to the children and adults alike.





We have strong connections with Church Collective Warrington with Bubble Church being affiliated and the New School Worship of Stay and Praise which is a collective micro-church. We have activities for children at the back of church and encourage parents with toddlers to use the Lady Chapel, which is carpeted and has soft toys and books, to allow little ones the freedom to move around during services.

During Lent, we have included Stations of the Cross each week and in Holy Week, there have been regular services each day, with a special focus on the Triduum - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve, at which we have lit the first fire of Easter. Easter Day has been a liturgical feast.

We have regular small groups during the week, both based in the Church building and at people's homes that include prayer groups and bible studies, these have been led by the LML and other lay members as well as clergy in the past.

On All Souls Day, we have a service for those who have been bereaved and at harvest, we collect food for the local food bank helped by children from the school.

The church and the community

One of the key events at St. Andrew's is the Charity Shop, which is operated by volunteers each Wednesday from 9.30 – 2.45pm in the church hall. This was set up to serve the community and acts as a drop in centre helping to deal with social isolation. It serves as a recycling point: people bring clothing, games, household goods, bric-a-brac. One attendee was heard to remark, *"I don't know what I'd do without this charity shop"* and another said, *"We love it here."*



Tea and toast are served in the morning. The charity shop raises a considerable amount of money for the church and contributes a significant part of our annual income.

We recently conducted a 'Giving in Grace' campaign to address the levels of giving and the response was encouraging. We are aware that this should be our main source of income and we are working to that goal.



We have strong links with St. Andrew's school as evidenced by achieving the School-Church Partnership Award at levels 1 and 2. The school was graded excellent at the SIAMS inspection in 2019 under the new framework. The Tuesday morning collective worship is led by either the LML or one of the deanery clergy members at the present time and the Stay and praise is on a Thursday morning for key stage 1 which is lead by the collective and members of the Bubble Church team.

The school uses the church for RE teaching, harvest, Christingle, Christmas, St Andrew's day and Ash Wednesday and the school choir join in with the church carol service. Other events included confirmation classes in school, with the Deanery confirmation service held at St Andrew's.



We support various charities and give 10% of the church income to them. Charities that have been supported in recent years are USPG, the Church Urban fund, Mersey Mission, Mission for Deep Sea Fisherman, the Children's Society, YMCA and Church Times Train a Priest Appeal.

In 2022, 2023 and the start of 2024 we hosted the community choir Orford Singers which sang at community occasions, church services and Christmas carols on the hospital wards. Unfortunately, a new choir leader is needed so it is not active now. The desire is there to continue it, if a new choir leader can be found.



The church and its buildings:



Externally and internally, the church building is in good condition. 15 years ago, a small fire in one of the vestries caused extensive smoke damage to the building and the cost of cleaning up the building and redecoration was covered mainly by insurance. Any necessary work revealed by the quinquennial inspections has always been carried out. Careful financial planning over the last 27 years has built up a reserve to enable the eventual replacement of the heating system.



We have started an ambitious plan to refurbish the hall beginning with the roof and

ceiling. Our plans include new toilet facilities and completion of the structure behind the stage. Reserve funds are available for this work, which we hope will have the backing of grant-making bodies. The next Quinquennial inspection due in 2021 has been postponed but funds have been set aside for items that might need attention. We have recently been assisted by a generous legacy from a former parishioner.

The hall is well used by community groups including Zumba fitness dancing, mums and tots, scouts (with a membership of around 50-60 children), a Pentecostal Church and Hungarian dancers.

It is also used for car boot sales and a Christmas Fayre (organized by the church with help from the scouts) and it is sometimes hired out for parties.

The church organ has passed its 50th birthday and is in good condition and is tuned and maintained on a regular basis.

The wider context:

The Fit for mission and the changes to the clergy provision with St. Andrew's becoming a 0.5 Clergy post with St. Margaret's and All Hallows sharing the Clergy appointment there will be developments and changes necessary to how things have happened in the past and this will be a new and exciting time in the life of our parish.

This will give room for the development and new plans for mission and growth. St Andrews has many connections through the shop and the school with people who do not currently attend church and thus there is the potential for growth. A five-bedroom house with ground floor study, lounge and dining room is available in the grounds.

Any priest in the diocese, whether from within or externally, will be expected by the Bishop to sign up to the 'Rule of Life' and the Bishop's Mission and Growth agenda. They would be expected to encourage the parishioners to take these things on board too.

The current financial position of St. Andrew's is healthy at the moment but as mentioned previously it is currently subsidized by the charity shop. We have always in the past been able to pay our parish share. The number of regular givers is 35 and this will need to be increased. We have always paid reasonable clergy expenses and will expect a new priest to take proper holidays and days off. We will support them in their CME training, reading and personal development.