

# The Diocese of Manchester

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## PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

### Christ Church Moss Side

### See Of Beverley



*How beautiful are Your dwellings,  
O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing  
to enter into the courts of the Lord:  
my heart and my flesh rejoice  
In the living God  
Psalm 84*

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Christ Church See of Beverley in  
the Diocese of Manchester Parish  
Profile 2024

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*The Area Dean:* Revd Nick Watson [nickwatson@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:nickwatson@manchester.anglican.org)

*The Deanery Lay Chair:* Cannon Dr Adanna (Addy) Lazz-Onyenobi

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*The Mission Community Leader:* Post Vacant

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We are a friendly and welcoming congregation from all over the Anglican Communion, seeking a dedicated person of faith - a spiritually mature, enthusiastic, and friendly Priest with wisdom to come and lead God's people here at Christ Church Moss Side.

Christ Church, Monton Street is a multi-Cultural inner-city parish church in Moss Side, a ward within the local authority of Manchester City Council.

The congregation that worships here includes people from the UK, the West Indies and Africa, Europe and South Asia.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- A church family that come to relate their life to God in Christ at the Eucharist on Sundays and other Holy Days.
- A church congregation where the living presence of God in Christ is focused on the Blessed Sacrament.
- An opportunity to engage in new expressions to expand our ministry beyond our church building.
- A Church congregation deeply rooted in the sacraments of the church.
- An opportunity to share your gifts and strengths, not to do everything (as we care for the priest's well-being), but rather to enable and encourage the whole Church community to grow in their relationship with God and be able to delegate.
- A good sized and well-proportioned rectory within the Church Grounds.
- An active children's ministry including Sunday School. Our children are also integrated into our main congregation and take an active part in worship.
- A well-maintained Grade II\* Listed building with many interesting features, notably a spectacular reredos.

## WHAT WE HOPE FOR

We are seeking a priest:

- who is a traditional Anglo-Catholic, who can build on the good work of previous incumbents and lead the Christ Church family forward in its desire to know and serve God and our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- with the energy and vision to build the church through outreach aimed at young people and young families as well as those who are currently unrepresented in our church family, whilst also ministering to those of more senior years who need love and encouragement.
- having a good awareness of the practical and financial aspects of managing our church and buildings.

## 2 BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

2.1 Christ Church, Moss Side

2.2 Rector

2.3 Patronage Board c/o Valrie Tait Saunders 154 Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford,  
Manchester, M16 7NY

2.4 Archdeaconry of Manchester - Venerable [KarenkarenBest@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:KarenkarenBest@manchester.anglican.org)

Deanery of Manchester South and Stretford- Rev. Nick Watson  
[nickwatson@mancjester.anglican.org](mailto:nickwatson@mancjester.anglican.org)

Mission Community Group 3  
Mission Community Leader- Vacant

2.5 Official clergy housing: Christ Church Rectory, Monton Street, Moss Side,  
Manchester, M14 4GP

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2.6 Official population: (2018-11,258) Awaiting statistics for 2021

2.7 Number on electoral roll: 78

2.8 Average Weekly Attendance for the last 3 years: - around 60

2.9 Average Weekly Attendance of children and young people under 16: 6

2.10 Is your Average Weekly Attendance returned to pre-Covid-19 levels - No (sadly several members have died or now have long term illness)

2.11 In the last twelve months, numbers of: -

- a. those baptised: 3
- b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation: Nil
- c. those confirmed: Nil (due to interregnum)
- d. marriages: Nil
- e. funerals: 11
- f. Christmas communicants (all services): 71
- g. Easter communicants (all services): 83
- h. last October survey: 43

## 2.12

- a. Christ Church Monton Street Moss Side
- b. Church- Built 1896-1904 (replaced previous Church building) Church Hall built 1970's
- c. Approximate seating capacity: 250
- d. When was the last Quinquennial inspection done? 14/05/2015
- i. What are the top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect?
  - a.) Carry out localized re-pointing and stonework repairs;
  - b.) Investigate possibility of reducing ground level externally with the intention of reducing damage associated with rising damp;
  - c.) Repaint perimeter railings
- ii. How much did the architect estimate they might cost?

Up to around £40,000.00
- iii. What progress has been made thus far by the parish?

Items a and c have been completed. Item b has not been undertaken.
- e. Christ Church has disabled access through the main side door. Unfortunately, the Lady Chapel, Choir Stalls and Sanctuary are not wheelchair accessible.
- f. Our Church Hall is attached to the church building by a short corridor (also wheelchair accessible) and includes a disabled toilet.
- g. The Deanery Plan is for Christ Church and St Crispin's Church Fallowfield (our neighbouring Society Parish) to share a Priest.

2.13 Details of any publicity/literature that the parish produces e.g. newsletter, magazine: Nil at present; previous weekly pew sheet prior to Covid-19.

2.14 Address of website and/or other social media or remote service offering:

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There is a page regarding Christ Church on the “A Church Near You” website as well as a Facebook Page. We are looking to create a website for Christ Church.

2.15 Names of Churchwardens:

Philip Geldard and Carmen Faye Wedderburn

2.16 Names of any representatives appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 section 11 (1), or otherwise:

Philip Geldard and Valrie Tait Saunders

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

a) Previous resolutions A, B & C were passed and not rescinded

b) House of Bishops Declaration (2014) was adopted by the PCC and reaffirmed in October 2022.





#### 4. LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Moss Side lies approximately one mile south of Manchester city centre, along an arterial road running from the centre to the South Manchester suburbs and the airport. It is bordered to the east by the university district with two large higher education institutions, a science park and major teaching hospitals. It is within easy reach of the city centre and has good transport links to the airport.
- Christ Church is also not far from the City Centre and Oxford Road is nearby, which has the heart of theatre land contained in it and lots of restaurants and bars as well as museums. The Royal Northern College of Music is also nearby where we would like to establish links and investigate the possibility of music collaboration between them and Christ Church.
- Private sector employers in the area include a brewery and a large superstore, both of which have a commitment to employing local labour. Despite this, Moss Side remains an area of high unemployment with significant deprivation, and one of the major challenges for the local authority and its partners is to ensure that local people can benefit from the new employment opportunities being created in the city.
- A high number of refugees have settled in the area, with much new-build social housing going to refugees (who predominate in homeless families' accommodation).
- A very small amount of social housing in Moss Side (17 of the 1,000 council-owned homes) is reserved for asylum-seeker accommodation provided through the National Asylum Support Service (NASS).
- Population
  - 2011 8,547
  - 2018 11,258
  - 2021 Awaiting census figures

NB: Need the 2011 census (last accurate numbers)

The above figures are not representative of our congregation

#### Age breakdown

0-17	21.8%
18-29	43.3%
30-64	28.7%
65+	6.1%

#### Ethnicity

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White	36.3%
Asian	22.4%
Black	27.9%
Mixed ethnicity	6.3%
Other	7.1%

NB: The above figures are not representative of our congregation.

Main Religions in the Parish

Christian	33.5%
Muslim	31.9%

IMD Score

560 of 12,338 parishes (quite a deprived area falling in the bottom 5%)

Housing Stock

Mainly terraced and social housing.

Engagement with Local Community

Future Shapers (wrap-around childcare) use hall 5 days a week (am and pm)

Sikh Foundation- 'Feed My City' minibus is kept in the car park and available for our use.

Church hall hired out to local groups:

Jazz Band  
Universities Fencing Club  
Mr. D's Youth club and resilience Group  
Gospel Singing Group  
Music producer - ad hoc usage

Local Councillors: Labour

Erinma Bell  
Emily Rowles  
Mahadi Hussein Sharif Mahmood

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Local MP: Manchester Central Labour

Lucy Powell

## 5. Schools and Voluntary Groups

There are no Church of England schools in the Parish. There are, however, several primary schools, one secondary school and several adult education institutes in the area. A problem for the schools is the transience of the population; one local primary school cited a 40 per cent turnover (that is, pupils who have not been in school throughout all the primary years).

Our previous incumbent engaged with Webster Primary, the school just across the road from Church, with pupils coming to church to enjoy learning about our beliefs and the symbols that express this in our church building as part of RE curriculum. This opportunity was also extended to the local EBSD school.

Our previous incumbent was also a school governor at a local Secondary Academy.

Mr. D's Youth Group and Resilience group are based in our church hall. The Leaders regularly attend church, and their children attend Sunday School.



## **6. WORSHIP & WORSHIPPERS**

The present pattern of Sunday and weekday worship is as follows:

(All our services are in English).

Sunday - Sung Mass 11am (approximately 1hr 15 mins)

Tuesday - Said Mass 12pm (approximately 30 mins)

Pre Covid-19: Weekday Said Mass x 2 - Wednesday in the Lady Chapel 7.30pm and 9am on Friday. We would look to return to having further services throughout the week e.g. daily Mass.

We currently use Common Worship (Modern Language) and the New English Hymnal. We would like to look at updating our choice of hymns (e.g. Modern Catholic Hymns).

The normal vesture: -

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Alb, Stole and Chasuble are worn at all Eucharistic Services.

The congregation has a good gender and ethnic mix:

Gender

Female/Male approximately 60/40

Ethnicity

Black/white approximately 70/30

Age

< 16 years roughly 10%

16-59 years roughly 20%

60+ years roughly 70%

Congregation

A number of members of the congregation travel into the Parish from other areas e.g. Macclesfield, Prestwich, Gorton, Denton and other areas neighbouring Moss Side.

*Church Tradition*

We are a traditional Anglo-Catholic congregation welcoming to baptism children and adults whose families are not members of the church.

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

Post Covid-19 our Mothers Union has become dormant. We have recently considered joining groups that are still active within the Deanery of Manchester South and Stretford.

The social life of our congregation - Tea and coffee in the church hall following each Sunday Mass.

Our Social and Fundraising Committee organise events throughout the year, which are normally well attended by the congregation and friends of Christ Church. We currently have events planned throughout 2024.

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

St. James' Moss Side (with St Edmund's Whalley Range)

St. Crispin's Fallowfield /Withington (Local Traditional Catholic Parish).

The Diocesan future plan will be for St Crispin's and Christ Church in due course to have one incumbent across the two benefices. To support this trajectory the two Incumbents of these respective parishes will be cross-licenced in order to support the future direction of ministry.

Our Mission Community held its first service and meeting at Christ Church in 2023 and members joined the recent Mission Community prayer walk.

## **9. ECUMENISM**

Moss Side is well served by Churches of other Christian traditions in the benefice / parish.

These include:

Our Lady's RC Church

Church of God of Prophecy (Pentecostal)

Church of Divine Mercy RC (Polish Language)

Baptist Church

URC Church

All the above churches are members of 'Churches Together' representing the area of Hulme, Moss Side and Whalley Range. Christ Church has one representative at 'Churches Together'. It is an active ecumenical group with an annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday. This includes prayer and singing in the local shopping area followed by refreshments at one of the churches (during Covid-19 activities and meetings were conducted via Zoom).

Churches Together also organise prayer meetings during Christian Aid Week.

Since The Coptic Orthodox Church of St Mary and St Mina (above the church hall) relocated in 1992 no Christian Churches of other traditions have been held at Christ Church.

## 10. MINISTRY

There are no ministers licensed to the Parish; during our Interregnum we have enjoyed the ministry of both retired Clergy and those in Chaplaincy roles in the Manchester Diocese.

There are no licensed or emeritus Readers who minister at Christ Church.

Currently there are no ALMs active at Christ Church; however, during our interregnum members of the congregation have been encouraged to look at Lay Ministry courses in the Manchester Diocese.

Members of the congregation serve at the altar, lead intercessions, and read the lessons. Four congregation members are licensed to assist in administering Holy Communion. Sides Persons and members are encouraged to participate as fully as possible during worship.

## 11. MISSION

We have a very positive and regular funeral ministry at Christ Church, which has brought some of our members to be regular attenders and on our Electoral Roll.

As a church we seek to encourage outreach from Christ Church into the local community and we acknowledge the various opportunities available around us e.g. two Universities, Student Halls, Local Schools, The West Indian Sports and Social Club.

We do not have a Mission Statement at present; however, we look forward to formulating one once an incumbent is appointed.

Our M.A.P. was formulated before Covid-19 and will require reviewing and updating soon.

During and post Covid-19 we have had an increase in the number of men attending church regularly. Although we sadly lost several members during that time, we have had some new people come to Christ Church.

There is a great sense of pastoral awareness amongst members of the congregation who are encouraging and supportive of those who are unwell or experiencing difficult situations in the wider community.

We endeavour to ensure that those requiring home or hospital visitation receive communion if requested.

Our previous incumbent visited sick members and others at their homes, in hospitals or in residential settings.



## 12. FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

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

### Stewardship

We have not recently held an actual stewardship campaign, however, members of the congregation have been asked to, and regularly volunteer for various roles - giving of



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their time and talents e.g. floral display, updating remembrance book, Tea and coffee Rota.

PCC members have allocated roles that are separate from PCC officer roles e.g. Electoral Roll officer, Sunday School facilitators, funeral contact with undertakers, hall hire, sacristan and organising baptisms.

A team of volunteers, including children, clean the church and hall.

Financial giving remains steady, but our income from hiring the church hall increased over the past year.

Christ Church is committed to full payment of the Parish Share and has paid it in full throughout the tenure of our previous incumbent and in 2023. We do not envisage any problems in the short term.

Our previous incumbent's expenses for petrol, mobile phone and stationery (January to November 2022) were paid in full.

We also paid Rectory Upkeep: - water rates, landline and internet, Council Tax and Rectory security (e.g. CCTV). The amount for the periods 2021 and 2022 was roughly £3,000 yearly.

The incumbent is responsible for the energy costs of the Rectory. With no current incumbent the PCC pays these bills and claims the refund from the diocese.

## Charitable Giving

Christ Church has supported the work of the following:

ACS, Water Aid, Farm Africa through Lenten Boxes. We have regularly supported emergency appeals e.g. Ukraine, as well as food and monetary gifts at Harvest.

All parish officer posts, and PCC places are filled (including two Deputy Churchwardens) and are representative of our church family. We are constantly encouraging members to join the PCC and take on other roles.



### 13. THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST

We are seeking a Priest who is

- a member of “The Society”
- grounded in the daily offices
- can communicate and interpret the Bible to the congregation
- a man of prayer and sacrifice willing to lead us in daily Mass, thereby giving missional opportunities
- able to lead us in increasing our musical tradition, honouring God through music and worship
- passionate about the ongoing pastoral care of our congregation and Parish

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- willing to lead members of the laity to become part of a pastoral team
- willing to lead us through a period of time to ensure stability and help us to work with members from St Crispin's with a view to sharing a priest (as per the Deanery Plan) - this is an exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with them and the new priest must be able to have a vision for them also. (At the moment they have their own priest but he will retire in the next few years)
- a good communicator and listener with people from different traditions, backgrounds, and education and able to work with people as part of a strong team
- able to encourage lay involvement in all parts of parish life and to partake in succession planning for church officer roles
- able to identify and lead us in opportunities for mission and evangelism within the local university student and school populations (particularly at the Royal Northern College for Music).
- willing to work openly and collaboratively with other Diocesan Clergy members, playing a full part in the life of the mission community, deanery and diocese and also with other priests of "The Society".
- willing to adhere to "The Five Guiding Principles"
- willing to engage and interact with the wider Diocese and their Mission Aims
- able to teach and uphold, with conviction, the traditional Catholic faith as lived out in the Church of England in its fullness as expressed in the church's historic formularies
- willing to work collaboratively with the Churchwardens and PCC in the furthering of God's Kingdom in the Parish
- able to develop awareness of Christ Church in the area, using social media and internet presence

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- *Revised June 2023 DS/KS*