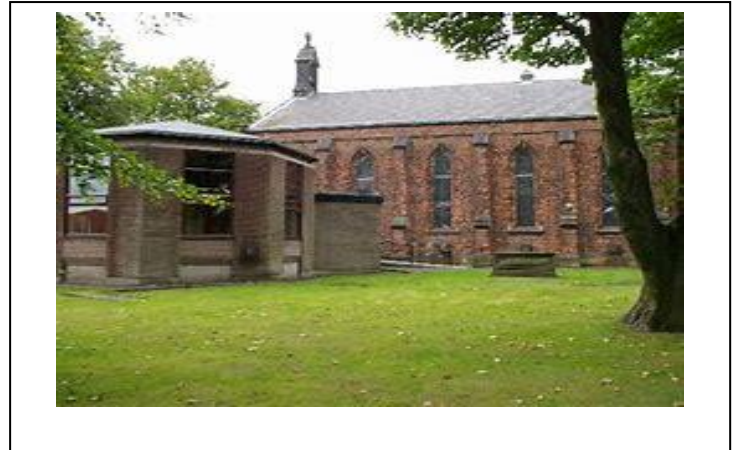


The Diocese of Manchester

PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

The benefice or parish of:

HILLOCK AND UNSWORTH



Making the love of the Lord Jesus known

As we:

Worship Him

Seeking to glorify God and draw close to Him

Share our faith in Him;

In response to our calling to make disciples

And welcome all;

Who may want to explore a life of faith in Jesus

Nurturing – We would like our new priest to possess good pastoral skills, be able to support those providing pastoral care. Have the skills and enthusiasm to nurture new Christians and help existing church members to deepen their faith.

Serving – Having gained our bronze ECO award, we are committed to caring for God's planet in the parish and beyond and we hope that our new priest would be encouraging of measures to develop this ministry and work towards our silver award.

We asked our congregation to tell us what they would like a prospective vicar to know about our parish and the people, and these were the words they chose to describe our church family and what we can offer to a new vicar and their family.



We can also offer a strong Leadership team who will offer practical and prayerful support and share in the responsibilities of a busy parish. We will be supportive and encouraging of our vicar following the Diocese guidelines for Clergy, and their family, wellbeing.

2. INTRODUCTION

The parish of Hillock and Unsworth is made up of two churches St Andrew Hillock and St George Unsworth. We have a wealth of tradition across the parish, St Andrew's is rooted in the evangelical tradition, whilst St George's would describe it's tradition as liberal catholic.

Whilst both churches meet for worship individually, they come together for many services and celebrations throughout the year.

Lay leadership, prayer and the exercise of spiritual gifts are strongly encouraged and exercised throughout the church family.

We are a Spirit led, Jesus centred, Bible teaching community, sacramental worship being at the centre of our weekly services. We aim to live out whole life discipleship, reaching out to our communities to be welcoming to all people. We are active in missional outreach and seek to bring people to a personal relationship with Christ in a caring church family.

Hillock and Unsworth are both situated in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury and are approximately 4 miles from the centre of Bury. Bury is, of course, well known for its 'famous market', as well as a whole range of major stores, independent shops, financial institutions, restaurants, gyms and leisure facilities.

3. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

3.1. Full name of benefice or parish(es):
Parish of Hillock and Unsworth

3.2. Title of the post that is vacant:
Vicar

3.3. Name and address of patron:
Bishop of Manchester

3.4. Archdeaconry, Deanery and Mission Community; and name of Area Dean and Mission Community Leader:

Archdeaconry of Bolton

Archdeacon – The Venerable Dr Rachel Mann,
rachelmann@manchester.anglican.org Tel: 07834 403195

Area Dean of Bury and Rossendale – Rev Canon Donna Williams
DonnaWilliams@manchester.anglican.org Tel: 07484 030757
Mission Community Leader – situation vacant at present

Official clergy housing: address and brief description:



St George's Vicarage, Hollins Lane, Unsworth, Bury BL9 8LJ, immediately opposite St George's church.

1980's built 4-bedroom vicarage, comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, study and ground floor cloakroom / wc. 4 bedrooms and family bathroom on the first floor. Garage and well stocked gardens, private parking for 3/4 cars.

- 3.5. Official population:
14,524
- 3.6. Number on electoral roll:
112.
- 3.7. Average weekly attendance year on year, over the last 3 years:
2021 55
2022 64
2023 62
- 3.8. Average Weekly Attendance of children and young people under 16:
4
- 3.9. In the last twelve months, numbers (if applicable) of: -
 - a. those baptized: 6
 - b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation: 0
 - c. those confirmed: 0
 - d. marriages: 0
 - e. funerals: 18
 - f. Christmas communicants (all services): 43
 - g. Easter communicants (all services): 77
 - h. last October survey:

3.10 Anglican churches and licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here: -

- a. Name of principal church:
St Andrew Hillock
St George Unsworth
- b. Approximate key dates for the building?
Built St A 1960's and St G 1843 on the site of a 1703 chapel.
- c. Approximate seating capacity:
Approximately 150 in each church
- d. When was the last Quinquennial inspection done?
Although both inspections took place in June 2022 the reports were not received until mid-2023.

St Andrew's Church - June 2022

What are the top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect?

- Cutting back/removal overgrown vegetation – done
- Clear out gulley's etc.
- Repair and redecoration of red notice board.

How much did the architect estimate they might cost?

These plus other items which need attention within 12 months total £226,700 which does include replacement of the roof.

What progress has been made thus far by the parish?

The work 3 priority tasks have been commenced and will be completed shortly. Interim repairs have been undertaken to the roof which seem to have been successful at present.

St George's Church - June 2022

What are the top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect?

- Temporary repairs to areas of slates damaged in recent storms to Nave.
- Unblock hoppers where vegetation is noted and clean out high level.
- gutters to all areas.
- Remove vegetation from walls and roof areas and make good as required to all areas.

How much did the architect estimate they might cost?

These repairs along with other works to be done within 12 months are estimated at £10250.

What progress has been made thus far by the parish?

The slate replacement work has been completed.

Gutters and rain pipes are due to be cleaned professionally this year.

The Fabric committee is considering the other items identified and is working through a list of repairs by volunteers.

Works on the Chapter House are under discussion.

e. How accessible are the parish buildings?

Both buildings are fully accessible with disabled parking, ramps to the building, disabled toilets and loop system.

f. Name of any attached or nearby hall or other similar facility

St Andrew's is one building with an integral meeting room and fully equipped kitchen.

St George's has a Chapter House that was built in the 1970's, includes a meeting room and fully equipped kitchen.

g. Details of Anglican churches or licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here with whom you will share an incumbent undergoing pastoral reorganisation, or likely to in the near future:

N/A

3.11 Details of any publicity/literature that the parish produces e.g. newsletter, magazine:

St George's produce a professionally printed magazine monthly, financed by local business advertising and subscriptions. The magazine is delivered by parishioners.

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

Both churches have a 'church near you page' and both have Facebook pages.

St George's has a X formerly twitter page.

3.13 Names of churchwardens:

Mr Jeff Winstanley

Mrs Jillian Winstanley

Mrs Frances Lawson

Mrs Diane Mayne

- 3.14 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.

The Representatives appointed by the PCC at the section 11 meeting on 16th June 2024 are:

Mrs Frances Lawson
22 Marston Close,
Whitefield,
Manchester.
M45 8JS

Tel: 07799 303275
Email: fran_lawson@sky.com

Canon Phillip Blinkhorn
1 Blundell Close
Bury
BL9 8LH

Tel: 0161 766 6301 / 07770 683532
Email: blinkhorn@talk21.com

4. 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.

St Andrew's did vote against the Priests measure in the early 90's, but it was rescinded later in the 90's.

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Parish dashboard is attached to the profile:

- The parish has a mix of private housing, private rented and housing association properties, initially Hillock estate was council owned housing but is now managed by Onward Housing. Some 75% of the housing is

owned/mortgaged. It is an area ranging from affluence to some living in poverty. The parish ranks 3,414 out of 12,239 on the deprivation index where 1 is the most deprived. The population has grown a little due to new social and private housing being built. The parish includes part of the Northern Gateway area as designated in the "Places for People" GM plan. Most of the housing will be in a neighbouring parish, but some 600 homes and a major industrial park are to be built in the parish.

- Main Issues facing the people in our Parish include cost of living crisis, health service provision, lack of community facilities across the board and lack of youth facilities.



- The Cornerstone Coffee Shop which operates from St George's church is a community café offering hot food and snacks two days per week, it is run by volunteers from the church and community. There is a long-standing connection with Elms Bank School and College, a school for students with special needs.

- The vicarage at St Andrew's church has been converted into a community hub, there is a food pantry which is open on Wednesdays, which is well used. Food is purchased from FareShare and support comes from other churches and community organisations in the area. There is also a good as new clothing and household shop where goods are sold at low cost. There is a book swap facility available too since the local library closed. We have a partnership with Onward Housing who hold a job club in our building. The Social Prescriber holds a regular drop in for local people. PCSO's also hold regular drop-in sessions.



- We hold a breakfast club during the summer school holidays when we serve children and their parents with a healthy breakfast and a warm friendly welcome.



- Within our parish we have the Pilsworth Business area which houses several large businesses including the world HQ of JD Sports, a FTSE 100 company. A number of small businesses operate on small estates in the parish. A retail park in the parish includes ASDA, Home Bargains and Greggs and Food Warehouse, McDonalds, Travelodge, Costa.
- There are four shopping areas with local shops, takeaways, hairdressers, betting shops, newsagents, pharmacies, post office, bars and restaurants in the parish.
- Local buses are easily accessible throughout the parish and the Metrolink is within walking distance.
- There are two GP surgeries and a dentist in the parish.
- There are six Labour councillors in the area:
Cllr Noel Bayley, Cllr Lucy Smith and Cllr Miriam Rahimov
Cllr Joan Grimshaw, Cllr Jodie Kathleen Hook and Cllr Tahir Rafiq
The MP for Hillock and Unsworth is Christian Wakeford, the member for Bury South.

SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

- There are no church schools in the parish, a number of children from our Parish have gained places at Bury Church of England High School.
- There is one high school Unsworth Academy, a member of the Shaw Trust. On the same site there is also a SEND school recently opened for 80 secondary school age children. There is a possibility of future connections but at present the only connection is for the Remembrance Service at the war memorial and they are regular contributors to the food pantry at St Andrew's.
- Elms Bank School is a member of the Oak Learning Partnership, it is a school for students with Special Educational Needs aged 11-19. The students have undertaken work experience in the Cornerstone Café at St George's, and they have a choir who perform at the church from time to time.
- There are five council primary schools, one Jewish primary school and one Roman Catholic primary school in the parish. Three of the schools have regular contact with our clergy and church members, assemblies have been taken in school and the children have visited the churches for services and experience Christmas and Easter. There would be more potential if we had extra resources.

- Onward housing run a job club, and the Social Prescribers hold a drop in at St Andrew's church every week, using the church building for the use of community residents.
- The NHS use the church building for ad-hoc meetings and drop ins from time to time.
- A toddler group which lost use of a community building meets at St George's church each week. There have been enquiries about a community toddler group starting at St Andrew's. Previously there was a 'See and Know' group and so all of the toys and equipment is still held in storage.
- There is a knit and natter group which meets weekly in the church building run by church members.
- Hollins Community Centre is in the parish, and they have a regular programme of events at the centre, they also hold beavers, cubs and scouts in the building. St George's church are trustees of the centre and therefore meet regularly with the management committee. They make donations to the food pantry.

- **WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS**

- Present pattern of Sunday worship is:
 - 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday at St George 10:00 Holy Communion
 - 2nd Sunday at St George All Age worship
 - Midweek Holy Communion once per month.
 - 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday at St Andrew 11:00 Holy Communion
 - 3rd Sunday at St Andrew All Age worship
 - After school church on Monday from 3:30 until 4:30.
- This works when we have more than one Priest available, there is the possibility that this pattern may need to be flexible if clergy are not available. The congregations are aware of this and are willing to change the pattern if needed.
- Common Worship is used, both churches use PowerPoint on screens for liturgy and song/hymn words or hymn books. Music is traditional organ at St George and a mix of traditional and more modern music on CD at St Andrew.
- There is a service book in Farsi for one member of the congregation.
- Normal vesture at St George is Alb and Chasuble, St Andrew is Cassock, Surplice and Stole.
- There are 112 people on the Electoral Roll, 20 live outside the Parish.

- We are blessed to have a wide breadth of church tradition across the parish, St Andrew's could be described as in the evangelical tradition, whilst St George's would describe its tradition as liberal catholic.
- Of particular note are the Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight service at St George's which attracted 130 last year; and the Parish Carol Service held at St Andrew's with Besse's Boys' Band where the attendance was in excess of 100 people.
- The Remembrance Day service at Unsworth War Memorial is attended by 350+.
- Lay people regularly provide home communions for those who are unable to attend weekly services.

- **CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS**

- ATM (All Things Male) is a men's group which meet regularly for breakfast and social events, they support each other through this group. They meet in one of the churches or in a local social club. There are 16 members at present. The group organise a parish BBQ every year in August.
- JAM (Jesus and Me) is a group for children which meets monthly on the 3rd Sunday of the month after church. Numbers are between 2 and 6.
- Social events take place throughout the year, we enjoyed a parish harvest supper with a ceilidh. An annual MacMillan coffee morning is held. A highly successful Christmas Fair is organised each year. St George's has had a plant fair in the spring for the last 30 years.
- This year will include the second edition of "The Teddy Bears Picnic", an event designed to reach out to young families in the area. We also have held quiz nights and other social evenings. When we have any events, everyone helps with organising, food etc.



- **NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES**

- Along with All Saints Stand we were delighted to launch Anna Chaplaincy in January 2022, after about 18 months of planning. Bishop Mark Davies commissioned three Anna Chaplains and seven Anna friends, we have added another two Anna Friends since then. Our Chaplains and Friends



visit people across Whitefield and Unsworth in their homes and in local care homes. There is a drop in at St Andrew's every Tuesday which attracts approximately 20-25 over 50's each week. They come for coffee, cake and chat, indoor bowling, quizzes and lots of other activities. There is an opportunity but not a requirement for people to pray together if they wish.

- Our Mission Community meets together in various ways, the Prayer and Spirituality group meet once a month to pray together and plan for Mission Community prayers. So far there has been 10-minute zoom prayer at 6pm each evening for Lent, Advent and Thy Kingdom Come, where each church takes a turn to lead prayers for 10 minutes. Attendance has been really good across the whole Mission Community.
- Our Mission Community was one of the first to identify Focal Leaders, who were commissioned in October 2023. They hold regular zoom 'get togethers' in order to support one another in their roles.
- Mission Community focus groups meet regularly to work together on Growing, Serving and Nurturing and how we can achieve this as a Mission Community as well as individual parishes. The plan is to continue to focus on these areas together.

- **ECUMENISM**

- There is a Roman Catholic church in our parish and two synagogues.

- We have a friendly relationship with the Methodist church in Whitefield.
- The Whitefield Council of Churches collapsed in the mid-2000's.

- **MINISTRY**

Ordained Ministers:

Rev Michele Ryan - SSM Associate Priest

ALM's

Canon Phillip Blinkhorn - Worship

Frances Lawson - Prayer & Spirituality

Dawn Schofield - Youth and Children's work

Focal Leaders

Rev Michele Ryan - St Andrew's

Robina Jones - St George's

We have a team of lay members who assist with Holy Communion, read the lessons and lead intercessions each week.

- Vocations are explored and discerned prayerfully, with discussion in parish and with Diocesan vocations team. Both our retired NSM and Associate Priest came from within the Parish.
- Regular preaching on whole life discipleship takes place, encouraging the whole congregation to live a Jesus Shaped life everyday wherever they are. Vocation Sunday is acknowledged, and people are encouraged to consider their own vocation. Recently the Saints Alive course was undertaken, approximately 25 people completed the course.

- **MISSION**

- We are a mission focussed, outward looking parish, we consider our Cornerstone Coffee Shop and Community Hub and food pantry to be our regular weekly outreach to our communities, showing Jesus' love in action.
- Other missional events we have held have been BBQ's, Teddy Bears picnic, Ceilidh, Breakfast club (summer holiday).
- Experience Christmas and Easter have built up links with local primary schools.

- Our most recent mission outreach has been to begin an after-school church which has a regular attendance of 20+ parents and children, we hope to build on this and visit other schools to promote it in the next few months.



- We have observed Back to Church every three years, we have recently discussed this as we are due to do something this year. We have agreed that we need to establish a more effective Baptism follow up and so we are considering how we can combine the two this year.
- Mission Action Plan attached.

Hillock and Unsworth - MAP 2024 – 2030
to be reviewed and updated every 6 months and discussed at each PCC

MAP Areas	Actions
Growing Actions to support the growth in people attending worship	For each parish to plant a new congregation aimed at growing younger First contact with Baptism Families developing better relationships/preparation Stepping stones in each church (to replace sermon to involve whole congregations in the discussions) Sharing good practice/ ideas to make the most of the church seasons Back to Church Sunday every 3 years – starting 2024
Nurturing Actions to support developing Discipleship	Ongoing – Each church to run their own Basics course – Start or Saints Alive although there are other courses available on own or separately held jointly after each major festival Exploring Prayer course monthly – as well as regular zoom prayers/prayer walks Better follow up with occasional offices focus this year : Baptism families Advent and Lent courses or teaching/prayer/prayer/quiet day
Serving Actions to improve environmental impact and serve local community	Focus on our churches attaining Bronze Eco Awards – possibly a team of people to work on this Exploring Anna Chaplaincy throughout the Mission Community and developing further in the parish Supporting existing projects e.g. PORCH – St Andrew’s Food Pantry, breakfast clubs and CAP

- **FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- The parish is committed to paying its full parish share, it has always been paid in full.
- The parish pays the vicar's expenses in full using diocesan mileage rates. The last full year's expenses were £1,340.
- The parish does offer financial support to mission and charity both at home and overseas, details are on the attached annual accounts.
- All parish officer posts are filled following the APCM held in May 2024.