PARISH
INFORMATION AND PROFILE
St John the Baptist Little Hulton

The Diocese of Manchester
PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

The benefice or parish of: St John the Baptist Little Hulton, within the Benefice of St Paul, Walkden Moor with St John the Baptist Little Hulton, with St Paul Peel, Walkden & Little Hulton Team.

Please provide copies of this document when complete, together with any other requested papers, to the following parties:

1. The Right Reverend Lord Bishop of Manchester, Bishopscourt, Bury New Road, Manchester, M7 4LE (pa@bishopscourt.manchester.anglican.org) – main copy

2. Your patron (if not the Bishop of Manchester) – one copy

3. Suffragan Bishop – one copy

4. Area Dean – one copy

5. Parish Representatives – one copy for each representative
   (There are two representatives for each parish in a Team, Group or Mission Partnership)

6. The Ven David Sharples, Archdeacon of Salford, 2 Walled Gardens, Ewhurst Avenue, Swinton, Manchester, M27 0FR
   – at least six copies for potential candidates

1. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

1.1 Full name of benefice or parish(es)

   St John the Baptist (Little Hulton)

   Benefice of St Paul Walkden Moor, with St John the Baptist Little Hulton, with St Paul Peel.

1.2 Name and address of patron (if the Bishop of Manchester, write “Bishop”)

   Bishop Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton
   Bishop’s Lodge, Walkden Road, Worsley, M28 2WH

1.3 Archdeaconry, Deanery, and name of Area Dean
Salford Archdeaconry - Archdeacon David Sharple
Eccles Deanery – Area Dean Rev Karen Hopwood-Owen

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

a. Name of principal church
   St John the Baptist Little Hulton
   St Paul’s Walkden Moor
   St Paul’s Peel

b. Approximate key dates for the building

   Construction completed in 1876, first service October 1876.

c. Approximate seating capacity

   250 including Lady Chapel.

d. Name of any attached or nearby hall or other comparable facility

   St John’s Ellesmere Community Centre, Algernon Road, Walkden.

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

   St Paul's Walkden Moor
   St Paul's Peel

1.5 Official clergy housing: address and brief description

St John’s Vicarage, Algernon Road, Walkden, M28 3RD

Fairly large detached property with 5 bedrooms, downstairs cloakroom, large front driveway with detached garage. Centrally heated. Large rear walled garden, lawned area, patio area and mature trees shrubs and borders. The Vicarage is adjacent to the church building and was upgraded in April/May 2012.

The last Team Rector resided at St John’s vicarage from July 2012 until his departure in September 2017.

1.6 Official population

At the last census the Parish Population was 7,300; 4,850 (66%) claim to be Christian.
1.7 **Number on electoral roll**

68 revised December 2017

1.8 **Average number of Sunday communicants**

47(37 over 16) (10 under 16)
The total attendees are 37 adults & 10 children.

1.9 **In the last twelve months, numbers (if applicable) of:**


b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation 1 (At Easter)

c. those confirmed 2016 – 6 and 2017 1

d. marriages 2016 – 3 and 2017 - 2

e. funerals 2017 - 6

f. Christmas communicants (all services) 42

g. Easter communicants (all services) 52

**Total attendees:**
105 (53 Christmas & 52 Easter) Adults 18 (Under 16s) Total 123

1.10 **Circulation of parish magazine (if applicable)**

55/65

1.11 **Name, address, and telephone number of churchwardens**

Mr Brian Hancox         Mrs H. Carole Gallagher
6 Lakeside Avenue       22 Seedley Avenue
Walkden Worsley         Little Hulton Salford.
M28 3FH                 M38 9LZ
0161 790 7816           0161 799 2797

1.12 **Name, address, and telephone number of any representatives (usually two where applicable, but in certain notified cases more) appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 section 11 (1)**

*Note: please do not enter names here until the relevant formal PCC meeting (if applicable) has been held and the representatives duly appointed. Consult the Area Bishop’s office for clarification if necessary.*
2 PRIESTS (ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE 1993

In the Church of England women have been able to be ordained as deacon since 1987 and as priest since 1994. At the PCC meeting held within four weeks of the date on which notice of a vacancy is sent to the PCC Secretary (Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 section 11 (1)), the PCC must consider whether to pass a resolution that it will not accept a woman as the minister who presides at or celebrates Holy Communion or pronounces the Absolution in the parish (Resolution A) or a resolution that it will not accept a woman as incumbent, priest-in-charge, or team vicar (resolution B), or a resolution rescinding an earlier resolution which was to the same effect.

If any such resolutions have been put and formally voted on at that meeting, please record details below.

In 2003 the church voted to accept the ordination of women priest’s and we had the privilege of having a female vicar for several years prior to the last Team Rector arriving.

We also have a female Associate Team Rector at present.

3 PETITION FOR EXTENDED EPISCOPAL OVERSIGHT

Please give the date of any petition from the parish for extended Episcopal oversight

None

4 LOCAL COMMUNITY

What is the social character of the area? Is the population stationary, rising, or falling, and what is its age profile? What is the housing stock? Are there residents of varied ethnic or national groups? What else should be recorded?

The social character of the area around the church and within the parish is a varied one and it changes on a regular basis.
The population is rising with many new developments being constructed in close proximity to St John’s and the housing stock continues to be a mixture of local authority houses, private owner-occupied dwellings and some privately rented properties.

Deprivation and Key Issues

Our Parish is within 10% of the most deprived parishes nationally. Deprivation indicators take into account areas such as finance, health, social factors and education, including qualifications. 34% of children under 16 live in poverty. These are children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits due to reported income being less than 60% median income. 43% of households with children are single parents, which is seen as being a factor of a higher risk of children living in poverty. 34% of households are social rented properties. ‘Vulnerable groups are often concentrated in the social housing sector, with low rates of employment and low-income levels.’ (Statistics and comments are taken from the Parish Spotlight – Deprivation and Keys Issues affecting Parishioners). We are seeing and experiencing changes to these statistics especially more diversity of cultures in our Parish and our church.

There are a larger number of varied ethnic and national groups in the area and this has increased over the last few years and these people are usually housed in either local authority housing or privately rented accommodation, the people are either asylum seekers, residents of the EU, and in many cases, they are awaiting decisions from the government agencies into their status. We currently have members of the congregation who come from EU and non EU countries.

Whilst situated in Walkden, a large portion of the parish is situated in Little Hulton, which can make it difficult for the less mobile who live at the opposite edge of the boundary to attend. Some within the community claim they were not aware that St John’s existed or was their Parish Church. St John’s has recognised this and over the years has held occasional services in a local youth club building on a large housing estate in the centre of the parish. St John’s has recently seen the benefit of leafleting parts of the parish when advertising events and services.

The largest Demographic Age of the population of the area is 15 to 29, which is the least represented age group on the Electoral Roll at St John’s. We are most likely to see this age group at Baptisms.

5 SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS, VOLUNTARY GROUPS

What schools are there within the benefice / parish boundary (church schools or other)? What links are maintained or desirable? What other significant institutions, including shops, offices, and commercial premises, are there? Which voluntary groups (other than church-based groups) have a presence
either on church premises or elsewhere in the benefice / parish? What else should be recorded?

We continue to have good links with the two schools that are closest to St John’s. Over the past year we have put into action an “Experience Events Program” which covers years 1 – 6. The various year groups come into church to enjoy, learning about our faith and carrying out activities. Both schools below have signed up to this program for 2017/2018 academic year.

North Walkden County Primary School.
Bridgewater County Primary School.

Both schools come into church to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter. At these services parents are also encouraged to come along and join in with the services.

In our Community Centre we have several groups who are not church based such as:

Keep Fit Class which meets on a Wednesday evening each week.

Starstruck Studios have been meeting in the centre since 2009 and continue to meet twice a week. Providing tuition in singing and several types of dancing.

Cubs and Beavers meet on a Wednesday evening – for all the groups are no longer affiliated to the church, we have good links and the children visit church twice a year – once to have a tour of the church and learn a little about our faith for their ‘Faith Badge’ and once for the Annual Cub Scout Carol Service which is held in St. John’s Church.

The centre is used as a polling station at local and parliamentary elections on a regular basis.

We also have the following groups who use the centre on a weekly basis

Rainbows and Brownies

Rainbows meet on a Monday evening and is led by St. John’s A.L.M. in children’s work and the assistant leader is also a member of the church family, which gives the opportunity to build good links

Brownies meet on Thursday evening during term time.

We have a local Performing Arts Group (Farnworth Performing Arts) who use the centre on a regular basis when preparing for forthcoming productions, in return they put on a show on behalf of the centre and church free of charge yearly.
Baby Ballet meets twice a week- Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. This is a new group in 2017.

Jigsaw Tots is a Mums/Carers and Toddler Group which is run by a member of our church. Currently meeting three times a week on Monday afternoon, Thursday and Friday mornings. Since this group was taken over and made into a business for our church member it now meets during term time and has gone from strength to strength.

6 WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS

What is the present pattern of Sunday and weekday worship? Which books and rites are in use, and what is the normal vesture for ministers? In the congregation(s), what is the mix of age, gender, and social groups? How many worshippers live outside the parish boundary? In the spectrum of church tradition how would you describe the worship – “evangelical”, “central”, “catholic”, or some variation, or in other terms? What else should be recorded?

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

First & Third Sundays Holy Communion

We have a small team who offer Pastoral Prayer in the Lady Chapel after these services.

Second Sunday – All Age Worship

Fourth Sunday – Morning Prayer

The Sunday Squad members commence their Sunday with their leaders in the Community Centre and always return to Church after the intercessions. They remain in Church and are encouraged to participate in All Age Worship.

There is always a “children’s spot” immediately after our notices.

The Sunday Squad leaders and some young members participate in some services by doing some readings etc at selective services.

A small group meet and pray together for fifteen minutes before the start of each service on Sunday Morning.

First Wednesday of each month Holy Communion at 10.00am

Each Tuesday Morning Prayer 8.00am

First Friday Prayers This is a Team initiative meetings rota the three churches in the team.
The need and importance of Prayer, personal and corporate, has been a continued development in the Spiritual life at St John’s, especially over recent months.

We have a successful Messy Church currently running at St Johns.

Pemberton Fold Elderly Persons Residential Home

There is a long-standing link and relationship built up over many years with a local Older People’s home. A team from St John’s visit monthly to provide a communion service for residents, staff and visitors. Staff will occasionally call on the minister to pray with those nearing death or have just died and to take funerals for the residents. The minister also takes a yearly remembrance service in the home for residents who have passed away. These services have been well represented and received by families, friends and staff.

Spectrum of Church Tradition

We are in the central position although we are prepared and keen to experience other types of service and worship whenever the time arises.

The congregation.

The Electoral Roll at St John’s is made up predominantly of age 51 and over. However, for the size of the congregation there are a good number of families, age 31 – 50 and their children. Some of these are not yet on the Electoral Roll.

The majority of the congregation are female however, in the past couple of years we are seeing more males attending St John’s.
There are 20 worshippers on the Electoral Roll who live outside the parish.

**The books and rites in use**

All services are Common Worship with the mid week Holy Communion service using traditional language.

We have our own service books that we have put together for the main services for Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, Baptism’s etc.

**What is the normal vesture of the ministers.**

Generally, the clergy wear cassock and surplice with stole or a scarf.

The church owns a full set of vestments, which the previous vicar wore occasionally on special Sundays.

As a church we are fairly relaxed about clergy apparel but the tradition has been that robes are worn.

7 **CHURCH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS**

What church-based organizations and groups exist? Where do they meet and how often? What numbers are involved and what links are maintained or desirable? How would you describe the social life of the church? What else should be recorded?

Mothers Union – A small group of about 7 who meet every fortnight, occasionally they invite guest speakers, therefore opening these meetings to anyone who wishes to attend. The Mothers’ Union also run a Coffee Morning on the first Saturday of the month.
Prayer-Groups & Study-Groups. Dates and times vary, but usually three/four times per year. 12/15 normally but more if it is a team event.

Walkers and Talkers – This is a small group of ladies who meet each Monday for a walk and talk, depending on the weather.

The social life of the church takes different forms in that many church people socialize with each other on a regular basis and have done so for many years. Each year we have a couple of Fairs at which everyone gets involved. Every January we have a ‘Ladies Meal’ in the Community Centre which raises a small amount towards church funds. We have recently held a St George’s Day party, Brass Band concerts, Gospel choir and Operatic Society events. We also have Bring and Share lunches which are very popular. A small, core group of the congregation are especially instrumental and supportive in arranging, contributing to and attending fund raising and other events.

Food Hygiene Courses have been taken and passed by several people.

We have a Stitch and Mix Group who meets together each Monday morning in the Community Centre. This was originally formed a number of years ago, and continues to be run, by a lady from church. There was a recognition that some in the community, especially asylum seekers, would welcome coming together with the opportunity to learn how to do needle craft, card crafts and various other craft activities. Whilst the original vision has shifted, Stitch and Mix has grown into a strong and well established social group of mainly older ladies from the community. They work together on craft activities; go on outings and some even on holidays together. This has been and continues to be a great success and form of outreach.

All these groups have strong links to the church and apart from the Walkers & Talkers they all meet in either the Church or Community Centre and the Walkers & Talkers set off from church.

Various members of our congregation who are involved and support different charities such as Meningitis Trust, British Heart Foundation, the Royal British Legion and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

We have church members who are involved in the sports scene including Salford Rugby League club, Walkden Cricket Club, various Football clubs and Swimming clubs where some outreach takes place in a quiet but effective way.

We have church members who attend Little Hulton & Walkden Outreach and Engagement meetings. There are links with Friends of Walkden Station and Friends of St. Mary’s Park, along with members who support community events organised by Walkden Community. There are also links with the local food bank and a local organisation, the Mustard Tree, who work towards helping to fight poverty in the area. This link gives an
awareness of the ever-increasing diversity of cultures in our community and their needs. St John’s has been and continues to be sensitive and welcoming to the multi cultures who are integrating into the area and look for their place in the worshipping community.

St. John’s has an active Facebook Page which is kept updated and used by church members, we also have a Facebook Page for Messy Church, the Community Centre and we are slowly building a following of ‘Friends of St. John’s’. We are also registered with the website, ‘A Church Near You’ which again, is updated regularly with services and events taking place.

8 NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES

With which neighbouring or other Anglican churches and parishes do you work collaboratively? Is the cooperation on a formal, semi-formal, or informal basis? What activities or projects do you undertake or plan jointly? What else should be recorded?

Within our team we have St John’s, St Paul’s Walkden Moor and St Paul’s Peel.

We have team services at alternating churches following a regular pattern, for example team confirmation services

9 ECUMENISM

Are there churches of other Christian traditions in the benefice / parish or significant in the wider area? What links are maintained or desirable, formal or informal? Have ministers met regularly? Is there an active Churches Together organization in the area? What else should be recorded?

We have three representatives on the Walkden & District Churches Together. This is an active, group with Prayer Breakfast shared around local churches on the first Saturday of the month. There are several services which take place at key times throughout the year. During 2017 we worked together on open air events taking place in Walkden and Little Hulton.

St John’s have very close links with Worsley Road North Methodist Church and we have joint services around four times each year, twice at St John’s and twice at the Methodist Church, and the Methodist Church is
very supportive of any events that St John’s organise including services and band concerts or choral concert.

We feel that these links are invaluable to all parties and as one person pointed out recently “It is like having a large extended family”.

The links are desirable, and can be both formal and informal.

10 MINISTRY

Apart from the parish priest, what other ordained ministers, if any, are licensed to, or regularly officiating with the bishop’s permission in, the benefice / parish? Please name assistant curates, NSMs, OLMs, and retired clergy. Are there licensed or emeritus Readers who minister? Is vocation to various forms of authorized or accredited ministry explored and fostered? How is the ministry of the whole congregation understood and exercised? What else should be recorded?

Team Rector - Vacant Post

Rev. Gill Page Team Vicar

St John’s:
OLM – Deacon - July 2017
Reader
ALM Prayer and Spirituality
ALM Children’s Work

We have six lay assistants who are authorised to give communion with another person having just been accepted by the PCC to be put forward to become a lay assistant.

St Paul’s Walkden:

Reader Emeritus
ALM – Pastoral.
ALM – Children’s Work

St Paul’s Peel:

Church ArmyCanon Evangelist
Reader
ALM Children’s Work
ALM – Pastoral
MISSION –

What are the benefice / parish’s aims and objectives in mission? Is there a mission statement or document? When was there a specific discussion in your PCC about mission? What are the mission priorities for, say, the next two years? What else should be recorded?

Further to discussions at PCC St John’s formed a Mission Action Planning Team in 2016, where we recognised our core values to include:

Teamwork; Welcoming, valuing and listening to everyone whatever their age, helping them to find their voice and their ministry. There is a great sense of Pastoral awareness amongst members of the congregation who are encouraging and supportive of those unwell or in the midst of everyday difficult situations.

We aim to be more aware of and effective in outreach mission and to be a focal point for community in this neighbourhood.

We aim to proclaim the gospel, wherever we are and whenever we can.

From these thoughts we formed our Mission Statement.

‘Our Mission is to help every person belong to God’s family and follow Jesus.’

Areas of Growing, Nurturing and Serving are recognised from Our Mission Action Plan.

As a church, we need:

To continue to pray in order to mobilise;

To encourage growth in Christian life and spiritually by recognising and developing areas of listening to God, to each other and to the local community. This can be achieved by continuing to offer and grow new Bible study/fellowship groups. This will inspire Godly conversation and give more confidence in sharing our own stories;

To grow numerically by being inclusive and welcoming amidst the changes within our church and parish. Especially to those from diverse and varied backgrounds and abilities;

To continue to recognise and encourage gifts and vocations. We have a high number of those seeking and achieving vocations in recent years. One recently ordained OLM; two ALM’s, one Reader in training; one beginning ALM training in Administration and two people beginning the Foundations course;
To build stronger links, work together and support the churches in our team and Churches Together in our area;

To regularly review and update priorities; assess what is working and what isn’t. For all at St John’s to feel heard, involved and informed;

To take small, firm steps and not to be afraid of taking risks and stepping out in faith even if it means getting it wrong sometimes.

We have kept Our Key Priorities small and manageable and they include:

Growing churches: We recognised the need for more young families to be welcomed and involved by way of a Fresh Expression of Church. We aim to continue to support and build up Messy Church to be a strong congregation meeting regularly and growing spiritually. This is ongoing and we are organising a pilot coffee morning to raise awareness of Messy Church, to get more people involved and to raise funds.

Serving the Community: We are open to recognising and meeting other needs within our community as part of continuing priorities and how we can fill a gap, no matter how small. We recognised the need for increased pastoral care of older people in the community and of aging members of the congregation. One of the ways we are exploring presently is to further ways of offering fellowship to the community and congregation by changing the time of the monthly mid-week Holy Communion Service. This is to introduce a simple lunch in Church for those who have attended and to invite and welcome those from the surrounding community.

We recognise the need for the church doors to be open more and the building accessible, available and relevant to others. Our long-term planning priority is to reorder the church to become a multi-purpose community centre and worship space.

The financial priority for the next twelve months was to:

Improve financial giving.

Pay the share in full and have money spare for more mission/charity work.

Encourage the use of weekly giving envelopes.

Try to get the congregation to re-assess their level of giving and possibly increase the amount given.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Please attach copies of annual accounts for the last three years
Is stewardship practised, and when was the last campaign or renewal? Is the benefice / parish committed to full payment of the parish share (quota), and if it has failed to pay it recently what are the reasons? Were the parish priest’s expenses of office met in full last year, and what was the total sum reimbursed? To what extent does the benefice / parish offer financial support to home and overseas mission work, including projects, appeals, and charities? What else should be recorded?

Stewardship is practised and we hope to our best ability. We had a ‘Jigsaw Stewardship Campaign’ in 2013, which, we felt was successful but we also understand this is a work in progress.

We have paid our parish share in full for several years i.e. 15+ and all expenses. We recognise and address maintenance and repair issues of the building and have attracted grants to contribute towards these. In 2017 we have been awarded Diocese Grants (secured through working with the Team Vicar) to enable work on our church.

We have a Community Centre which is fully operational and generates groups from those on the fringes of church as well as income.

We continue to look for new ways to encourage Stewardship – through mini-sermon series and fund-raising events.

The vicar’s expenses are shared among the team and for year to date St. John’s share is £443.37 (January to September 2017)

The vicarage council tax and Water rates were also paid in full.

The parish has a monthly standing order to TearFund and we regularly give to various charities (this ties with the various charities mentioned above) such as the Children’s Society, Royal British Legion, Meningitis Trust, Christian Aid and the many other appeals that are made on a regular basis.

Our PCC Secretary has recently retired after 30 years of service. Other than this vacancy our PCC officer posts are all filled.

13 THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST should be Team Rector

In the light of and with reference to all of the above, and in particular your mission priorities (see 10), what are the gifts and skills you would hope to see in the next parish priest?

Our next Team Rector should be a bible believing Christian who understands the bible to be the word of God.
They will use the bible as the basis for all their teaching and preaching whilst relating the message to the present day.

They will assist to maintain and build on the links with the schools with a view to increasing the numbers of young people and the parents/families coming to church.

The new priest should be a good communicator as well as a good listener; they should be willing to build up the pastoral outreach to the local community to a level whereby people feel loved, welcomed and feel part of the church family just as we do.

Willing to recognise and encourage vocations.

Being part of a three church team, we feel a good, prayerful team player, who is able to encourage collaborative working i.e. encouraging the well being through prayer, scripture and encouragement is required; who will not only improve but also strengthen our team.

We feel the next Team Rector should have the grace to encourage and help maintain the strong links we have with the other denominations in our area.

October 2017