

Great Wyrley Parish Churches

Parish Profile 2024



St. Mark's (Great Wyrley)



St. Andrew's (Landywood)

St. Mark's (Great Wyrley) and St. Andrew's (Landywood)

For Great Wyrley, Landywood and Cheslyn Hay

Our Mission Statement:

'A place where all can be changed by the love of Jesus and where faith and real life connect'.

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave

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THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

A word of welcome to the Diocese of Lichfield

Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

We are rightfully grateful for the inheritance we have from our first bishop St Chad that leads us to focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism as we live and serve among the communities of Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country.

By answering God's call to minister in Lichfield Diocese you will benefit from being part of a wide family, mixing with people serving in a variety of contexts - from the grittiest inner- city neighbourhoods of Stoke and the Black Country, to the leafiest rural parishes of Staffordshire and Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

And we embrace the widest spectrum of church traditions - evangelical and catholic, liberal and conservative, choral and charismatic - as we journey together in mission. As a colleague recently put it, it is our goal to be a 'spacious and gracious diocese'.

It is my determination and that of my episcopal colleagues that your calling to minister with us in Lichfield Diocese will be a time of encouragement, fulfilment, challenge and joy. You will not be alone in your ministry; as part of the wider team our colleagues among the diocesan staff keenly bring their various specialisms both spiritual and practical to offer resource and support as you serve our parishes, fresh expressions, schools and chaplaincies.



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Welcome to Rugeley Deanery!

We are a long banana shaped deanery that stretches from rural villages North of the fabulous Cannock Chase through a string of ex-coal mining communities right down to Great Wyrley and Landywood parish. There is a small but committed Deanery Chapter and this year Deanery Synod is meeting three times to further our diocesan inspired “Shaping for Mission” agenda – “Growing a younger church” (See Appendix 3).

The parish is supportive, quietly enthusiastic, and well connected; being adjacent to the M6 and from the local rail-holt via Birmingham to the National Rail network. There is a lot of small/middle sized industry and commercial activity in the area, plus a lot of new housing alongside the traditional long standing community hubs. The successful candidate for this post will need the gift of discernment – there are so many opportunities for mission on offer here!

Great Wyrley has always been a lead benefice in the Deanery. It has elected enthusiastic and supportive members to Synod, who regularly attend, and the parish often hosts synod meetings at either St Mark’s or St Andrew’s.

Great Wyrley has a growing lively ecumenical fellowship scene, for example, during Lent 2024 the parish is providing hospitality in partnership with the Salem church for ecumenical Lent meetings. There is a strong tradition of lay ministry and vocation within the churches, who truly want to grow and thrive – the community is very supportive of mission.

Building on the work of previous incumbents the parish is seeking a priest who can continue to inspire and encourage the congregations that they “can do this” and grow in their vocations and ministries: a pastoral missionary, able to engage with the wider community strengthening the existing good relationships with schools, care homes and community organisations.

We hope to have a colleague who will be willing to engage with the deanery, our Shaping for Mission agenda and be happy to share or cascade any missional skills they have with the wider deanery.

God be with you – and to the successful candidate, we look forward to your fellowship soon!

The Revd Preb. Simon C Davis, BSc, MA, MIET
Rural Dean for Rugeley Deanery

Welcome to the Parish Profile for Great Wyrley Parish Churches


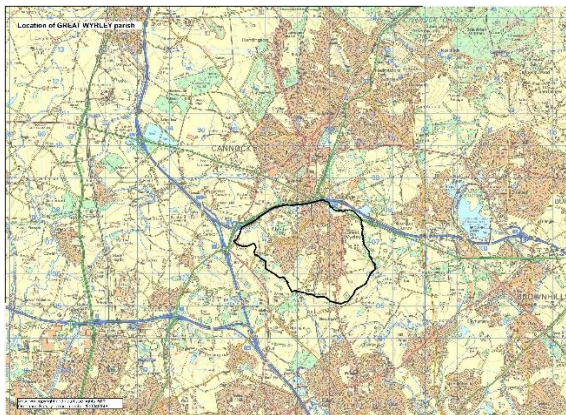
Table of Contents	
1. Our Parish and Churches	4
2. The Role	5
Role Description	5
Person Specification	6
3. Church Leadership	7
4. Overview of the Parish	8
Our Congregations	8
Our Churches: St. Mark's	10-12
Our Churches: St. Andrew's	13-14
5. Parish Activities and Programmes	15
6. Children's and Youth Work	16
7. Communication	17
8. Occasional Services	18
9. Church Finances	19-20
10. The Vicarage	20
11. The Local Area	20-21
Table of Appendices	
Appendix 1: Parochial Church Council Financial Statement for year ending 31 st December 2022	22
Appendix 2: Mission Plan	23
Appendix 3: Rugeley Deanery Shaping for Mission	24
Table of Figures	
Figure 1: Population Profile of the Parish by Age	4
Figure 2: Combined Electoral Roll (2015-2022)	8
Figure 3: Sunday Attendance (2022-2023)	9
Figure 4: Occasional Services (2013-2023)	18

Front cover (top left) photo credit: Paul Fisher. St Mark's Church (2023)
www.paulfisherphoto.com

'A place where all can be changed by the love of Jesus and where faith and real life connect.'

1. Our Parish and Churches

The post is for a full-time vicar of Great Wyrley Parish Churches, comprising St. Mark's (Great Wyrley) and St. Andrew's (Landywood). The parish is situated within the South Staffordshire WS6 postcode and lies within the Diocese of Lichfield. It covers a geographical area of approximately two square miles.

Distance from Great Wyrley to:	
Birmingham	20 miles
Cannock	2 miles
Walsall	5.5 miles
Wolverhampton	8 miles
	
Stepping Stones, Cannock Chase.	Location of Great Wyrley

This suburban parish was formed from the growth of three former coal-mining villages, Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and Landywood. Their combined population is now around 17,600, with a population density of around 9620 per square mile. Accommodation is quite diverse; most housing is private, with many different designs and values, but also includes council, housing association, nursing homes and residential care properties. There are three new housing estates in the parish.

The churches link with three Methodist churches in the parish and are active members of the Churches Together network¹. 60% of the population of the parish declared their religion as Christian in the 2021 Census.

Age	Population
0-17	3143
18-64	10,140
65-79	4329
80+	986

Figure 1: Population profile of the parish, by age (Census, 2021)

¹ Churches Together (<https://cte.org.uk>) is a network of local churches and their leaders that meet with the aim of working collaboratively.

2. The Role

Role Description

We are looking for a full time, prayerful and outgoing vicar with the vision and energy to enliven and rejuvenate our church.

Someone who:

- Can rise to the challenge of making the teachings of Jesus relevant to today's world.
- Has an appreciation of the values and merits of collaborative leadership, while possessing the ability to delegate.
- Has the understanding, compassion, and willingness to practise pastoral care.
- Is willing to engage with our local schools, and grow our children's and youth ministry.
- Will strengthen our parish mission and outreach.

You will be supported by enthusiastic District Church Councils (DCCs) and Parochial Church Council (PCC), as well as a team of lay worship leaders.

Like many churches, we face the challenges of an ageing congregation and a drop in the number of young families and children attending services. Yet we are a busy parish with many baptisms, weddings and funerals. We are looking for someone who:

Discipleship

- Is an engaging, spirit-led, and biblically based preacher who will help us grow in our faith.
- Is collaborative and inclusive, a team player who enables, empowers, and encourages others.
- Is prayerful and open to leading a variety of styles of worship, whilst respecting the tradition, identity, and existing worship in each church.
- Will inspire and lead the growth of pastoral care for the elderly and housebound.
- Will lead collaboratively on a stewardship campaign to identify resources and talents to enable the growth of our parish.
- Will strengthen the parish's Mission vision, identity and action.

Vocation

- Will maintain a prayerful and spiritual life.
- Exercises self-care and development of others by taking a weekly day off and full holiday entitlement.

Evangelism

- Is eager for growth, has a vision and ideas for mission and ministry to help revitalise the church and develop its social outreach.
- Can relate well to young people and to families, and who will encourage and support the growth of children and youth work within the parish.
- Will develop relationships with the community and external organisations/partners such as Churches Together to develop a community-wide approach to ministry.

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We asked our congregations to tell us what was important to them about the future of our churches:



Person Specification

‘Someone with a heart for God’

Essential Qualities

- A person of prayer and teacher of scripture.
- Identify, nurture, and inspire others to use their gifts to serve God in the church and community.
- Demonstrate the drive and enthusiasm to develop existing links with the local schools and expand the ministry to young people and their families.
- Excellent listening and communication skills, including familiarity with IT and social media.
- Strong organisational skills and the ability to delegate.
- A collaborative approach to ministry.
- Experienced in advising and managing the DCCs and PCC, aiming for excellence in governance.
- Committed to pastoral care, encouraging the congregations to be more aware of each other’s needs and feelings.

Desirable Qualities

- Experience of encouraging the community to come to the church, via baptisms, weddings and funerals, and follow-up.
- Experience and skills in bringing churches together.

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- Experience and skills in reconciliation, resolution and the ability to hold difficult conversations.
- Counselling skills.

We asked our congregations to tell us what qualities they would like their new vicar to have:



3. Church Leadership

The new incumbent will have sole responsibility for both churches. Currently in place is a team of talented and enthusiastic lay people who lead all non-communion services and prayers. Lay participation is integral in both our churches, and includes communion assistants at the Eucharist, Bible readers, intercessors and leaders of children's work.

There is a Parochial Church Council (PCC) in addition to each church's separate District Church Council (DCC). Each council has four meetings a year.

St. Andrew's has an emeritus non-stipendiary Ordained Licensed Minister who may offer occasional support for services.

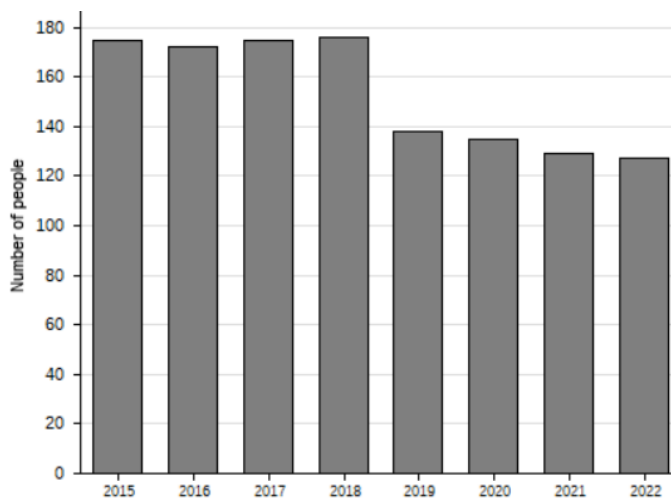
Both churches participate actively in the Churches Together initiative. Projects such as the Lent Course have in recent years been created and delivered collaboratively with Ministers from the three local Methodist churches.



4. Overview of the Parish

Our Congregations

There were 127 people on the combined 2022 electoral roll of the two churches. The congregations are open to change and are keen to see their much-loved churches grow. We have a heart for God.



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Electoral Roll	175	172	175	176	138	135	129	127

N.B. Electoral roll renewal: 2007, 2013

Figure 2: *Combined electoral roll (2015-2022)*

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Average Sunday Attendance

2022	St Marks	63 adults	5 children
	St Andrews	26 adults	1 child
2023	St Marks	45 adults	5 children
	St Andrews	26 adults	2 children

Figure 3: Sunday attendance (2022-23)

We asked our congregations to tell us what they like about our churches:



Our Churches: St. Mark's, Station Road, Great Wyrley, WS6 6LJ



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Pattern of services at St. Mark's

Day	Time	Current	Desired
1st Sunday	10am	Holy Communion with worship band, choir & prayer ministry	As current
2nd Sunday	10am	Morning worship Service of the Word with organ and choir	As current
3rd Sunday	10am	Morning worship Service of the Word with organ and choir	As current
4th Sunday	10am	Morning worship Service of the Word with band and choir	As current
4th Sunday	6:30pm	"Celebrate" service ² with band and music group	As current
5th Sunday	10am	Holy Communion with organ & choir	As current
Each Wednesday	10am	Service of the Word (said)	Holy Communion (said)

Prior to the Covid pandemic, St. Mark's held an 8am BCP Holy Communion each Sunday, which was faithfully attended. St. Mark's also had a thriving Sunday School and a popular monthly informal GLU (God Loves Us) service, a family worship prepared and led by lay people, to which our baptism families were invited. From 2019, like many churches, we saw a decline in attendance by young families, but now our youth attendance is increasing once more, and we welcome and encourage young people to be an active part of our worship.

Music

St. Mark's is fortunate to have a beautiful, traditional church organ which was recently restored, and an organist who plays on the second and third Sundays of the month. We have an enthusiastic choir which welcomes and encourages children to join. Also, a group of talented musicians forms our worship band that provides live music at morning worship services. The band is also the lifeblood of Celebrate family services.

The hymns are planned in advance by a small group of lay people who then circulate a programme well in advance of services to allow practice, checking and planning.

² Celebrate is a monthly evening service of more contemporary worship, teaching and prayer. The service is well supported by members of the Anglican and Methodist churches in Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and Upper Landywood.



The Church Buildings and Churchyard

St. Mark's is a Victorian church built in 1845 to provide pastoral care for the growing villages of Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay. The church is known for having had the first South Asian vicar of any Church of England parish, Shapurji Edalji, and for its association with Edalji's son George, who was wrongly convicted on a charge of injuring a pony, and cleared after the intervention of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The church sits at the centre of the Great Wyrley community, and is set back from Station Road amongst picturesque grounds and the churchyard. The churchyard is now closed to burials, but continues to inter ashes when requested.

There is also a church hall with kitchen and toilet facilities, but this has been closed for the last three years for health and safety reasons and is the subject of a land registry review. Adjacent to the church hall is a small car park, and a former school house which is occupied by a tenant who pays a monthly rent.

In recent years the church has undergone refurbishment to its heating system, lighting, projectors and screens. It has a children's and music group area.

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Our Churches: St. Andrew's, Hilton Lane, Landywood, WS6 6ED



*“So, what can I say about the wonderful congregation of St. Andrew’s?
They have opened their arms, hearts and spirit to me so graciously in my hour of need.
They have offered unconditional love, love to a complete stranger whom they did not know.
Now I have lifelong friends through God’s grace.
I never really understood the power of prayer, but where there was darkness,
through prayer there is now light.
Through prayer, praise and song my dampened faith has been rewarded and strengthened.’*

St. Andrew’s congregation member, November 2023

Pattern of services at St. Andrew’s

Day	Time	Current	Desired
1st Sunday	10am	Holy Communion*	Holy communion*
2nd Sunday	10am	Service of the Word, with recorded music	As current
3rd Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	As current
4th Sunday	10am	Service of the Word, with recorded music	As current
5th Sunday	10am	Holy Communion*	As current*

*Holy Communion at St Andrew’s only is offered on first and fifth Sundays by Licensed Ordained Minister with Permission to Officiate.

On Good Friday, St. Andrew’s is the meeting point where we join with the congregations of St. Mark’s and our local Methodist churches for an outdoor service at the Quinton shopping centre, followed by fellowship in the church lounge.

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Music

Although St. Andrew's has an electric organ, sadly at present there is no live music played at our usual worship services. Recorded hymns are held on an iPod and played back via the sound system.

The Church Building

St. Andrew's church was built in 1966, by a process of 'church planting' from St. Mark's in order to serve the expanding population of Cheslyn Hay, Landywood and Great Wyrley. It was funded via a community 'buy a brick' campaign, and is a modern multi-use building.

The church is situated next to the Quinton shopping centre, a community centre and a GP's practice, and is close to the Landywood railway station. The building has been refurbished recently, and is used on a regular basis by a variety of community groups. There is a worship area, a lounge, a small kitchen and toilet facilities. The lounge is used for church meetings and social events hosted by the parish, and also serves as a flexible space which can be hired as a venue by community groups.

St. Andrew's does not have a churchyard, though there is a car park with capacity for around 30 vehicles.



Processing out and the lounge at St Andrew's

5. Parish Activities and Programmes

Outside of regular worship, we maintain many links to our community as part of our outreach. These activities include:

- **Stay and Play:** weekly fun sessions for pre-school children and their carers.
- **Bereavement Friendship Group:** a weekly drop in for the bereaved hosted by trained leaders who have themselves been bereaved. Meeting at St Andrew's on a Thursday afternoon, for friendship tea coffee and a chat.
- **Knit 'n' Natter / Baby Bear project:** a social gathering for companionship and the creation of baby starter packs sent for new mothers in Durban, South Africa.
- **Summer and Christmas Fairs:** these are well supported by the local community, and offer a warm welcome and family fun. They are an important source of fund raising for the parish.
- **'Warm Space'.** During the winter of 2022-23, St. Andrew's was part of the local Warm Spaces scheme, offering friendship, hot food, drinks, warmth and comfort.
- **Regular social evenings:** we have traditionally held lots of fun get-togethers throughout the year. Since the Covid pandemic we are gradually rebuilding this part of parish life.
- **Confirmation:** The parish has a strong tradition of supporting candidates through to Confirmation.
- **Churches Together:** Representatives from both churches are active within this network.
- **Monthly coffee mornings and mini-market:** free refreshments offered to all who attend.
- **Weekly prayer group:** an informal gathering each week for prayer and reflection.



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6. Children's and Youth Work

At both churches, our aim is to provide a safe, loving and fun environment for children to learn about Jesus and to know that He loves them, and to share that love with others. Each Sunday at St. Mark's, children can enjoy a child-friendly version of the gospel and take part in a relevant craft activity, allowing parents time to enjoy the service.

At Easter and Harvest Festival we hold a simple, family-friendly Saturday afternoon children's service with fun activities. At Christmas, we have our Christingle service.

St. Mark's and St. Andrew's are fully committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults from harm. In addition to meeting the government's Statutory Safeguarding Guidance, we follow the House of Bishops' guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). The Diocese of Lichfield's online safeguarding pages contain vital links and information, including contact details for the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor who advises our PSO.

Work with Schools

We have an enthusiastic group of eight volunteers who are keen to complete the Bible Society's 'Open the Book' training. So far in 2024 we have been invited by three primary schools to take this storytelling programme into their school assemblies.

Local schools are invited to Harvest and Christmas Carol Services, and we have also held mock weddings for primary school children. These are greatly enjoyed by both the children and staff.

We would like to explore an evening social group for secondary school children and also a children's club during school holidays.



St Andrews



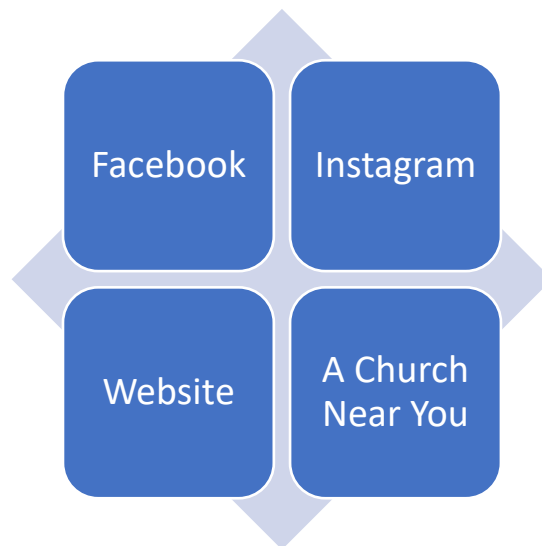
St Marks

7. Communication

We recognise the importance of effective communication within the parish and how we engage with the community. Like most benefices, during the Covid pandemic our social media presence was a lifeline to many as the church doors closed. Now we see social media as a window to connect to our community, invite people into our churches, share our faith, and showcase our services and events. It is an important tool to reach out to a diverse audience and bring them to God.

Considering this, we have recently reviewed our Communication Strategy. A small team has been examining how we use social media, email, and the more traditional methods such as posters and announcements, with the aim of exploring how we can be more inclusive. Our website is under development. Currently we send out a weekly email newsletter to around 120 recipients containing scripture readings, prayers, reflections and news of upcoming services and events. This newsletter is how we communicate with new attendees, and people on the electoral roll who are not regular attendees.

Our social media platforms sit under the umbrella title of Great Wyrley Parish Churches, and we have a presence on the following platforms:

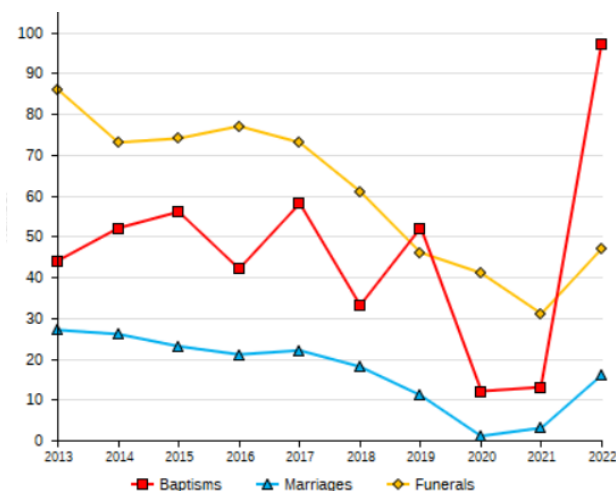


We use social media to advertise and promote events such as seasonal fairs, special services, and social events. These channels are increasingly used as points of contact between the public and the churches. We regularly post our 'Link' newsletter, details of Saints Days, Church of England daily prayers, and prayers on special occasions such as exam results days.

Our vision for the future is to explore live streaming of our services, and to launch a series entitled 'What's inside your local church' where we post photos from our churches, with the aim of demystifying what lies behind the front door.

8. Occasional Services: Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Due to the traditional style of its building, St. Mark’s is the predominant venue for these services, although St. Andrew’s is also available.



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptisms	44	52	56	42	58	33	52	12	13	97	16
Marriages	27	26	23	21	22	18	11	1	3	16	8
Funerals	86	73	74	77	73	61	46	41	71	47	31

Figure 4: Occasional services (2013-2023)

- *Baptisms: all baptisms and thanksgivings.*
- *Marriages: marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages.*
- *Funerals: those held in church and at crematoria / cemeteries.*

Baptisms

St. Mark’s is a popular baptism venue for families, as demonstrated by the 97 baptisms that took place in 2022. We operate an open policy, offering baptism to children and adults who live in the parish. We carry out baptisms for children who are out of area with the permission of the individual’s parish.



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Families expressing an interest in having their child baptised are invited to a baptism preparation meeting led by the incumbent and supported by laity, where the importance of baptism is explained. A service booking is then agreed if families wish to proceed. Baptism services are held on Sunday afternoons, accommodating around four families.

Weddings

St. Mark's has held up to 27 weddings per year since 2013, and so far we have 11 bookings for 2024. This includes services of prayers and dedication for couples acknowledging the commitment made between husband and wife during a civil ceremony. We welcome second marriages at the incumbent's discretion and within the Bishops' Guidelines.

Funerals

We operate a funeral policy in line with Church of England doctrine. We have good links with local funeral directors. We have offered bereavement support and signposting to the weekly "Bereavement Friendship Group" at St. Andrew's church.

9. Church Finances

St. Mark's and St. Andrew's manage their own finances and each have a Treasurer. A PCC Treasurer has oversight of both accounts as well as the separate PCC accounts. A summary of the combined 2022 financial statements for St. Mark's, St. Andrew's and the PCC is provided in Appendix 1.

Regular givers use our envelope scheme, or pay by standing order. Our Gift Aid Secretary claims tax rebates on our regular giving, and also on our loose plate collections through the Small Cash Donations Gift Aid Scheme. To raise additional funds, both churches organise fund-raising events throughout the year, such as social evenings and joint summer and Christmas fairs.

Our contribution to the Common Fund for 2022 was £52,012. This was paid in full and on time. In 2023, the Common Fund increased to £54,613. We maintained our payments up to June 2023, but a combination of two large bills, an increase in utilities bills and a reduction in regular giving left us with insufficient income to cover the monthly instalments in full. Following discussions with the Diocese, it was agreed to reduce the Common Fund to £45,000 for 2023 and 2024. This has been paid in full for 2023, and we are confident we can pay the full amount for 2024 also.

Going forward, the challenge is to find ways to increase our income in order to address the shortfall in regular giving. One option under consideration is a Stewardship Campaign, which is an important Mission action point.

10. The Vicarage

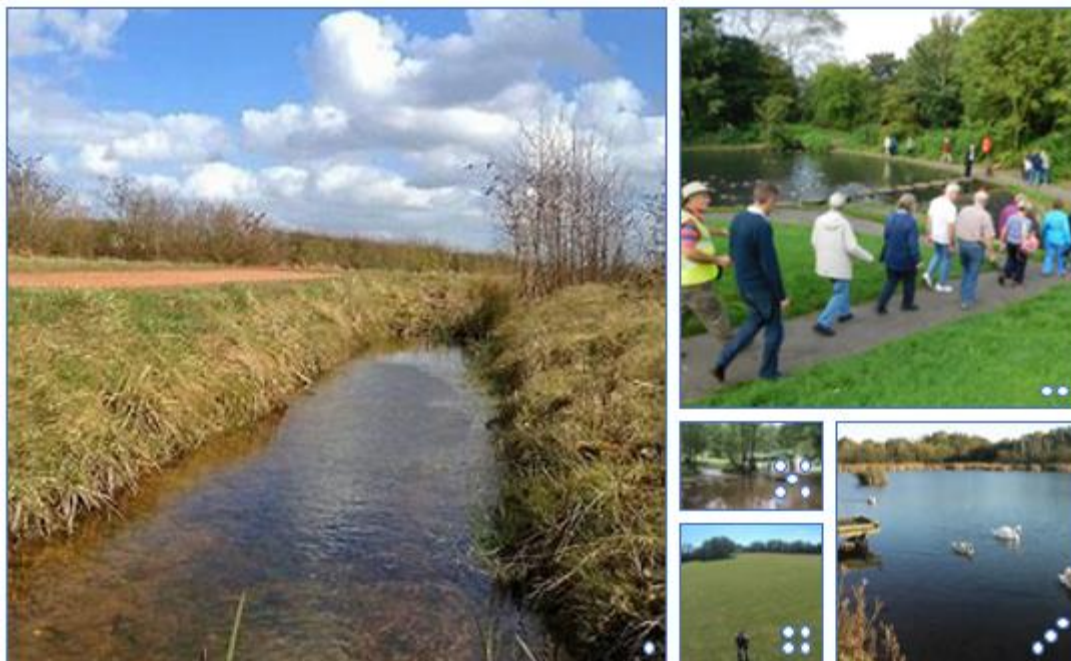
The Vicarage at 1 Cleves Crescent, Cheslyn Hay, Walsall, WS6 7LR is a purpose built, four-bedroom house with separate study which includes the church office. It is situated on a modern housing estate located just over a mile from each of the churches and close to local shops, schools, amenities and train station. There is a nature reserve and pub within walking distance.



11. The Local Area

The parish is well provided to serve most needs. We have five primary schools, two comprehensive schools, two health centres and other doctors and dental practices, a shopping precinct, three small supermarkets (one with a post office), chemists, butchers, tea rooms, garden centres, and many other shopping outlets in and around the two villages, including the new McArthur Glen retail outlet. There are several pubs, working men's clubs, restaurants and takeaways in the villages. There is a leisure centre in Cheslyn Hay with a gym and swimming pool.

We are within easy reach of a variety of interesting places to visit. Cannock Chase is less than three miles away, and is not only an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but also a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Chasewater reservoir is located 3.5 miles from Great Wyrley, and is a popular local amenity offering nature walks, water sports and a steam railway. We are surrounded by delightful scenery!



Nature reserve, local parks and areas of natural beauty.

Connectivity by road is very good: the parish lies near Junction 11 of the M6 (2 miles), the M6 Toll (1 mile) and Junction 1 of the M54 (3.5 miles). To the north are Stafford and Stoke, which are easily accessible. South takes you to Birmingham (via Walsall and Wolverhampton) for retail therapy, and excellent music and cultural venues. To the east lies Lichfield, and to the west the M54 takes you to Telford, Shrewsbury and the Welsh Borders. The railway station at Landywood has twice-hourly services into Birmingham New Street and Birmingham International. Local buses provide services to Cannock, Walsall, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham.

The nearest hospitals are Cannock Hospital, New Cross (Wolverhampton), County Hospital (Stafford) and The Manor (Walsall), with A&E departments at New Cross and The Manor.

Thank you for reading this profile right to the end. We know how challenging it is when looking for a new post, and so we are praying for all those who read this profile. In turn, we hope that you will pray for us, that both reader and parish might see the Lord's will done.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

The Parochial Church Council of Great Wyrley Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	60,207	—	4,679	—	64,886	64,878
Income from charitable activities	10,184	—	—	—	10,184	2,791
Other trading activities	4,896	—	—	—	4,896	583
Investments	4,725	—	7	—	4,731	4,421
Other income	1,281	—	—	—	1,281	2,996
Total receipts	81,292	—	4,686	—	85,977	75,668
Payments						
Raising funds	164	—	—	—	164	40
Expenditure on charitable activities	73,649	—	14,374	—	88,023	65,973
Total payments	73,813	—	14,374	—	88,187	66,013
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	7,479	—	(9,689)	—	(2,210)	9,656
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	900	—	1	—	901	1
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,001)	(900)	2,000	—	(901)	(1)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	6,378	(900)	(7,688)	—	(2,210)	9,656
Net movement in funds	6,378	(900)	(7,688)	—	(2,210)	9,656
All assets at 01 January 2022	22,013	4,784	16,528	—	43,325	33,670
All assets at 31 December 2022	28,391	3,884	8,840	—	41,115	43,325
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General Fund	28,391	—	—	—	28,391	22,013
Designated						
Magazine Designated - PCC	—	2,680	—	—	2,680	2,680
Mission Designated - PCC	—	1,204	—	—	1,204	1,204
Wedding Deposits - PCC	—	—	—	—	—	900
Restricted						
Charities - St M	—	—	2,363	—	2,363	2,356
Choir - St M	—	—	1,488	—	1,488	2,162
Edalji Trust - St M	—	—	922	—	922	922
Hall Boiler - St M	—	—	456	—	456	456
Hall Repairs - St M	—	—	2,384	—	2,384	2,384
Interior Decorating Scheme - PCC	—	—	1,808	—	1,808	1,808
Music Group - St M	—	—	268	—	268	268
Non-Specific - St M	—	—	1,584	—	1,584	1,434
Outlook - St M	—	—	140	—	140	140
Roof Repairs - St M	—	—	(4,151)	—	(4,151)	2,370
St Mark's Building Fund	—	—	1,580	—	1,580	2,230
	28,391	3,884	8,840	—	41,115	43,325

Appendix 2: Our Mission

We believe that God is calling us to be a blessing for the community. Although it is easier to look inwards and feel safe that way, we want to find ways in which we can make God's name known in our communities.

We are called to serve. Although not an exhaustive list, here are some of our aims and desires. We know that we have not got all of it right, but we are ready to consider ways of developing and improving what we offer.



Discipleship

We try to encourage our worshipping communities to deepen their relationship with God through:

- Encounters with God in worship.
- Biblical teaching through sermons and other resources.
- Greater lay participation both in worship and teaching.
- Pastoral support and encouragement in supporting each other.
- Encouraging people met through occasional services to explore possible next steps.

Evangelism

We are always seeking new ways (and improving old ways) in which we can help people of all ages to find their way into the Kingdom of God through:

- The encouragement and development of the prayer-life in the parish.
- Better outreach to children and families.
- Putting stepping stones in place to enable people to move towards God's kingdom through fresh expressions of church
- The use of the 'Open the Book' programme in local school assemblies.

Vocation

We try to serve our communities and begin to transform them through:

- Visiting retirement, care and nursing homes.
- Encouragement and involvement in food banks.
- The use of church premises by groups run by or for the community.
- Encouragement to attend appropriate training courses.
- The practicing of discernment and calling out to those with particular gifts and talents.

In May 2023 we met to update our Mission Plan to include the following:

Potential Activities

- Coffee mornings or soup-and-a-roll sessions.
- Sharing in social activities.
- Running a support group, nurturing new worshippers and enquiries through Bible study and social gatherings. (We are asking if a local care home will give us the use of a room to hold a carers coffee morning / afternoon)

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Appendix 3: Rugeley Deanery Shaping for Mission

Rugeley Deanery Shaping for Mission Submission

Our Vision is to grow a younger church.

We propose to invigorate the volunteers and to attract younger new volunteers to engage with the local communities in a way that is understandable, acceptable to them and makes faith real to them.

We commend this deanery vision as a framework for shaping and informing local mission action plans.

1. Young People

We want our Deanery goal to be to grow a younger Church. There does not appear to be anywhere in the Deanery where Youth work exists in any meaningful way. Some of our churches have connections with families and families in the congregation, but some are reluctant to return after Covid. We recognise that there are a lot of young people out there. Most of our Parishes are doing some kind of school's work at the KS1 and KS2 level. We recognise that we need to build on these links and think Ecumenically. There are opportunities to pass on skills however there is a lack of lay expertise in this area.

One possible route is to explore creating Ecumenical hubs for resourcing growing a younger church, e.g. with the Cannock Chase Methodist Circuit. (Which covers Penkridge, Rugeley and Cannock areas).

Deanery vision: **to grow a younger church.**

Aim: to explore Employing /funding a school's worker across the Deanery.

To share knowledge and resources which will equip lay volunteers to get more involved with local schools

2. Community engagement

- We all want to engage more with our communities in a way that connects and is relevant to them.
- We recognise that our buildings could be used by the wider community
- We are too accepting of the fact that something is going to take a long time to sort instead of just getting on with it if possible. We often think that everything must be completely right before we start it. We need to encourage those who do have ideas to run with them.
- There are a lot of mission opportunities due to building development in the deanery e.g. many hundreds of houses and a new school going up on the old Power Station site at Rugeley providing opportunities to plant a new congregation.
- We want to explore pairs or groups of parishes and/or ecumenical sharing in mission strategies to new build areas that do not identify with traditional parish centres.

Deanery Vision: to find a way to network good practice across our deanery and connect parishes with the resources that are available (e.g. diocesan officers).

Deanery Vision : encourage "start-ups" in ministry and know those initiating new ministries have readily available access to good quality mentoring, resources and support

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3. Working together

- We are not very knowledgeable about what other churches are doing in the Deanery and maybe do not feel very connected to the Deanery as a whole but it turns out that some of us are already doing things that others want to do e.g.
 - Training volunteers including worship leaders and Lay ministers and readers
 - Places of Welcome and Eco Church Dementia friendly church
 - Running Bible study courses
 - Community engagement projects
 - Free Debt Advice
 - Professional Mental Health Counselling Service
 - Inter denominational church links
 - Grant Fund Raising
 - Schools work
 - Pastoral care

Deanery Vision: To hold regular training/resource events/ information sharing events where parishes can taste and access what is available to help them. and what projects are easily replicated across the Deanery. (Deanery Synod could have an important role in facilitating this if its membership were mindful to take it on.)

Deanery vision: to establish a “school/nursery of ministry” running accessible vocational lay ministry training courses that build up church members confidence in their ability to be ambassadors for Christ in church, the community and in their daily work/home life.

What is holding us back?

1 Generally

- We are all short of volunteers
- Some of us are very weary, the spirit maybe willing but the “flesh” is tired after a prolonged time of mission under rapid and constantly changing parameters.
- Deanery lay structures, e.g. synod, are at a very low ebb.
- Most of us have yet to return to ‘normal’ after Covid.
- Money is lagging behind current needs in many places.
- Some parts of church life have withered away during the pandemic.
- Some congregations are currently healthy and gently growing.
- We recognise that many in our congregation are elderly and while we have a duty of care to them, we need to recognise that the future of the church may well lie elsewhere and these two streams need to work in parallel. Somethings need to stop or happen less often so other things can happen
- The limited world view of many in the congregations means there is often a silo mentality which is unable to think or imagine beyond existing experiences and needs of one church. This risks significantly hampering the participation needed to turn our aims into practical realities
- Aim. Building up the Body of Christ. There would be scope to hold a deanery wide programme to challenge this

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2 Buildings

We want to spend time on mission not maintenance. Some of us are spending a disproportionate amount of time and energy (and money) on sorting out old buildings to the very real detriment of being able to focus on Mission. Many of our fabric needs which are “small fry” to architects and professionals are overwhelming to ordinary church members and clergy. Finding workmen and skilled craftsmen is becoming very difficult. Church members are increasingly burdened with the struggle (time and skills) to access the resources they need to keep their buildings sound and accessible.

We need a much more energised, speedy, efficient and less ‘precious’ process from the Diocese for obtaining Faculties for making improvements and repairs. Things are currently overly complex and decided by committee which is inefficient and lengthens the process. There needs to be a recognition that dealing with this stuff from an incumbent’s perspective can take up way too much head space and the chances of any one in any congregation or the incumbent having the necessary skill is small. The Diocese purported to address some of these issues in the new dedicated web page and ‘Toolkits’. The reality is this is not user friendly, far too wordy and has not been constructed in a way that assists the predictable enquiries of ‘property novices’ who need to find out information about a process. The search links are poor. A few in the Deanery might be able to share skills they have, but we need a Deanery coordinator for this who understands the system and can support PCCs and clergy deanery wide.

Deanery vision: to **have access to a fabric “agent”** who has the day-to-day skills and knowledge to work through the system efficiently and effectively on behalf of parishes in order to relieve clergy and volunteers from expending much time and energy on important tasks which are not people related. This might be a diocesan or more locally resourced service.

We need the Diocese to Advocate with other authorities to put old and listed buildings into public ownership and relieve parish congregations of the sole responsibility for their upkeep.

20 09 2021

The Big Five

This final section asks you five key questions about your vision for sustainable mission in your deanery. It is intended both as a summary of where you have got to and a space for you to reflect on and name the types of support you think will be needed to implement change in your deanery in the coming months and years.

1. What might stop you translating this vision into reality?

- Physical barriers such as: HS2 and Cannock chase.
- Silo thinking:
 - “Not invented here” mentality; or “we don’t do it that way here”.
 - Not wanting another parish representative to work in their area.
 - The feeling that my parish is funding others when we are short of funds.
 - Excessive administration.

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2. What do you most want Bishop's Staff and the wider diocese to understand about your vision for your deanery?

- Reduce administration to the minimum. We need Ministration not administration.
 - Up-to-date administration style using modern technology.
 - Support on-line banking to allow PCCs to manage finances in a modern way that complies with the mandatory governance requirements.
 - Update the Diocese search facilities on the website. We need to get to "How to" not a history of how the current system was derived.
- Recognising self-supporting Ministers contribution (lay and ordained).
 - Ensure that ministers (of whatever type / grade) get a fair and equitable deal on expenses.
 - Acknowledging that self-supporting Ministers are an integral part of the Diocese mission.
 - Diocesan level advocacy is required to engage with the stakeholders in the planning process of new housing developments.

3. What culture changes does your vision require and what support might you need to implement them?

- Focus on Mission not maintenance.
- Stop silo thinking.
- Move from a palliative culture to a nursery culture.

4. What are your absolute priorities for sustainable mission as a deanery? How are these reflected in your ideas about areas of strength, what to stop and what to grow?

- Focus on younger people and attitudes.
- Focus on Mission not maintenance. Buildings to be purposed for Mission.

5. If we were able to implement this vision over the next few years, what would be the five most significant changes in our deanery by 2025?

- A more interconnected Deanery sharing ideas and initiatives.
- A younger church demographic.
- Reduction in the burden of administration and building maintenance
- An embedded pioneer spirit. An openness to take risks and learn from disappointing results.
- The Church embedded in the life of the community. The hub of local life.