

The Parish of Prestatyn

Parish Profile 2015

Christ Church
Church of the Holy Spirit



Diocese of St Asaph



Prestatyn

Mission Area / Deanery

Prestatyn is one of 7 benefices in the Deanery and Archdeaconry of St. Asaph. The Deanery includes the Cathedral of St. Asaph and in May 2015 there are 8 stipendiary clergy and 1 house-for-duty cleric serving in the 12 parishes of the Deanery.

The Deanery is currently working on the future development of a “mission area” or “mission areas”. The Area Dean has begun a conversation with Canon Pam Powell, the Diocesan Transition Minister, with a view to a Transition Mentor, funded by the Church in Wales, to assist the Deanery to develop its Mission Area/Areas. The Transition Mentor will be present in the Deanery for about 6 months and so it is essential that the future incumbent of Prestatyn has a willingness and commitment to work with the Transition Mentor, chapter clergy and lay people in the development of our Mission Area / Areas.



Prestatyn is a seaside town on the North Wales coast 30 miles from Chester, and 7 miles from the Cathedral City of St Asaph.



In the 19th Century Prestatyn grew with the arrival of the railway and this led to the creation of the Parish of Prestatyn from part of the older Parish of Meliden in 1861. Prestatyn grew as a venue for holiday-makers and today there are a number of caravan and holiday sites in the parish.



There is some light industry in the trading estates in Prestatyn and recently the retail park “Parc Prestatyn” was opened and has attracted some major national stores such as Tesco, Boots, and M&S. Because of this development many people from adjoining communities come into Prestatyn for their shopping. The Parish is predominantly English speaking with a very small percentage of Welsh speakers.

Christ Church



Christ Church was built in 1862 as the Parish Church in the newly created parish of Prestatyn. The church was built by public subscription and consecrated by the Bishop of St Asaph in 1863.

In 1905 the church was extended and further enlarged in 1926 to give a seating capacity of about 300. The church has a spire, a belfry of 6 bells and a new clock with programmable, digital chimes.

In 2008 the west end of the church was re-ordered to provide a multi use space. It is hoped to further develop this area providing toilets, a kitchen and a storage area. Most recently the clergy vestry has been completely refurbished.

The Prestatyn War Memorial was unveiled in 1920 by Colonel Parry DSO MP on October 22nd 1920. It has recently undergone considerable refurbishment and restoration and was rededicated by the Bishop of St Asaph in April 2015.

The fabric is in good condition and recently a quinquennial survey has been carried out. The interior décor of the church is in reasonable order.

This year a new set of Eucharistic vestments in all 4 liturgical colours has been provided. The church also has a 'state of the art' three-manual Wyvern digital organ which was installed in 2011.



The Parish Church is open daily from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. for visitors who wish to use the church for reflection or prayer. Visitors may light candles, use the pebble-pool or use the prayer-book to write down petitions. The prayer requests written in this prayer-book are included in the Thursday communion.

Currently the ages of the congregation range from 45 to 95 years and are predominantly over 60. There are also around 4-5 children. The numbers attending Church weekly are between 70 to 100.



The Church of the Holy Spirit



In 1968 to meet the needs of a rapidly growing residential area of town the Church of the Holy Spirit was built on Victoria Road (near to the Ffrith Beach). The Church is of a pre fabricated design, providing a church and hall separated by a movable screen. The church seats approximately 60 people which increases to 110 when the screens are opened.

A clock tower has been provided, complete with digital bells. There is a Rogers manual two digital organ. Over the past few years all facilities have been updated to a high standard with kitchen and toilets. More recently the church has been provided with audio visual facilities and an electric screen.



The congregation numbers about 20, most of whom are retired, and who value the ability to worship in a friendly atmosphere of a small and warm church.

Many community groups use the church hall and so help financially to enable the Church of the Holy Spirit to be a presence in this part of the parish.

Services at Christ Church

Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. The Early Birds (during school term time)
9.30 a.m. Y Cymun Bendigaid (Yr Ail Sul - every 2nd Sunday)
10.45 a.m. Holy Communion*
12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. Holy Baptism (by appointment with the Vicar)

Thursday

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion*

Saints Days and Other Festivals

as announced

Services at the Church of the Holy Spirit

Sunday

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion*
6:00 pm Sunday at 6 Service (every 3rd Sunday)*

Wednesday

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (on the last week of the month)*

*Tea, coffee and biscuits (and occasionally cake) are shared after these services.

Messy Church

This takes place on a regular basis either in the Church of the Holy Spirit or the Parish Church. A summer service is held on the beach. It is open to all children who must be accompanied by an adult. Lots of activities take place, including stories, prayers, songs and crafts, followed by tea.

Welcomers

In both the Churches of the Parish Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit there are bands of very willing sidesmen and sideswomen who do a good job.

Church Halls



Adjacent to Christ Church is the Parish Community Hall which was built in 1973. It comprises of a large hall with 3 side rooms, 3 storage rooms, kitchen and a newly refurbished toilet facilities. This hall, which is in good adequate condition is used regularly by church organisations and local groups.

Close to the Community Hall is a smaller upper hall which was acquired by the Church in 2009. In September 2014 this was closed. Alongside both the Halls is a free car park owned by the Church in Wales and until 2014 was rented by the local town council. All this area is likely to become a redevelopment area sometime in the future.

Vicarage



Three years ago the Church acquired a 5-bedroom property for its Vicarage: 16 Bryntirion Drive, Prestatyn. This modernised Vicarage is in a very pleasant and quiet residential area of Prestatyn.

Parish Organisation and Activities

Early Birds

This is a children's breakfast club which meets every Sunday morning in term time between 9.15 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. enjoying various activities relating to worship. Occasionally they participate in the 10:45 service.

Choir

A small but faithful group of people who meet every Wednesday at 7.15p.m. to practise. New members are always welcome.

Bellringers

Consist of a band of 12 bellringers who meet every Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. The band often ring at weddings by request.

Organists

Christ Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit each have an experienced organist who plays for all the main services.

Bible Study Groups

There are two Groups who meet each Wednesday, one in the morning and one in the evening in different venues.

Alpha Courses

The Parish has hosted 6 Alpha Courses, the three most recent of which have been co-ordinated by Canon Brian & Branwen Harding. These have been very successful and greatly appreciated by all who have taken part.

Ladies Fellowship

This is a large and successful group who meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Community Hall. Each month they have a visiting speaker and each year they organise various outings and also have a Banquet and Dinner. They also fundraise for local charities.

Indoor Bowls

This is a new venture which was set up earlier this year and takes place in the Parish Community Hall during the winter months.

The Friends

The Friends is a social and fundraising committee organising lots of events throughout the year. The largest is the Christmas Tree Festival which has become a community event.

Bible Society

Several members of Christ Church are active members in the local Bible Society Action Group which works with all the churches in Prestatyn, holds various events during the year and raises funds for the Society.

The '100' Club

This is a fundraising effort solely to raise money for the Church activities. The individuals who contribute towards this Club also benefit once a month when there is a draw.

Tuesday Craft Group

This Group meet every week in the Parish Community Hall to enjoy good fellowship and craft activities which are sold at coffee mornings, and the Christmas Tree Festival. This is a lovely way of getting together and encouraging people in the community to join this Group.

Church Members' Community Activities

Many members are actively involved in the community supporting many organisations which include St Kentigern's Hospice, the Talking Newspaper, Shelter, NSPCC, British Heart Foundation, Central Surgery League of Friends, Hospital League of Friends. Church members also support St Ronnie's School in Shanzu, Mombasa.

The Ministry Team

There is a Reader and a Reader Emeritus, two Worship Leaders, and Pastoral Assistants who take the Holy Communion to the elderly and housebound. The Parish is also fortunate in having the ministry of a number of retired clergy.

Youth Club

An open youth club is run weekly for children between the ages of 8 and 15, run by church members.

Parish Web-page and Facebook page

The Parish has an Archivist who is putting together the history of the Parish and also archiving documents .

The Parish has a website which is kept up to date on a weekly basis. The site address is

<http://www.parishofprestatyn.org.uk>

The Facebook page is called Prestatyn Parish Church

Occasional Offices

A Vicar's Surgery is currently held in the Vestry of the Parish Church between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month for the arranging of Baptisms and Weddings.

Holy Baptism

The recent policy has been to conduct services of Holy Baptism for each individual family by appointment, immediately after the Morning Service on a Sunday at the Parish Church. Two appointments are made available at 12.30 p.m. and 1 p.m.

Weddings

Prestatyn Parish Church is a very popular venue for weddings and there are a number of weddings booked.

Funerals

There were approximately 60 funerals in 2014, some of which have their services in church while others go directly to the Crematorium at Colwyn Bay. The churchyard at Christ Church is full and so is now closed to new graves whilst a small area has been reserved for the burial of cremated remains. The County Council provide a large Council Cemetery at Coed Bell, Prestatyn.

Finances

Churchyard Appeal Fund

An annual churchyard appeal takes place every year to raise funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard. This appeal is usually supported by families and enables the churchyard to be maintained to a high standard.

Accounts

An audited set of accounts for 2014 are attached hereto.

After a period of great financial difficulty, members of the congregation have risen to the challenge of meeting the needs of the parish through their planned giving and offerings. The new formula for determining the Parish Share has worked to the parish's favour and there is now a significant turn around in the finances.

Statistics

Number of Civil Electors in the Parish	10474
Number of Baptisms in 2014	50
Number of Confirmations in 2014	Nil
Number of Weddings	14
Number of Funerals	60
Number of Easter Communicants	135
Number on Parish Electoral roll	150

Local Area

Schools

Within the Parish are 4 Primary Schools and one High School namely Penmorfa Primary School, Ysgol Clawdd Offa, Ysgol y Llys (Welsh medium), Bodnant Community School, and Prestatyn High School.

These schools use the Parish Church on various occasions for their special services, and are also involved in the annual Christmas Tree Festival. A number of classes visit the church to have guided tours and talks about the life of the Church.

Nursing and Residential Homes

Pastoral assistants take Holy Communion to residents in 8 establishments within the area. They also visit some sheltered accommodation as well.

Hospitals

The nearest hospital to Prestatyn is Ysbyty Glan Clwyd at Bodelwyddan which is about 7 miles away. This also has an A&E Dept.

There is a hospital at Rhyl which functions as an out-patient venue and is being developed by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Working with other Churches

Prestatyn has several churches and chapels of others denominations and there is a local Cytun which meets throughout the year, and which is also responsible for arranging school visits by the clergy. The congregations include:

Trinity Methodist Church	Rev. John Anderson
St John's Methodist	Rev. John Anderson
St Peters and St Francis RC Church	Father Terry Carr
Rehoboth Welsh Presbyterian	Rev. Brian Jones
Nant Hall Rd Presbyterian Church	Rev. Mike Smith
Deva Chapel (Christian Brethen)	
Bethel Welsh Methodist Church	
Calvary Pentecostal Church	Rev . John Marsden

Conclusion

An independent review of the parish with an independent chairman in 2013/14 made recommendations which were adopted by the Parochial Church Council who created working parties to look at the following 4 specific areas:-

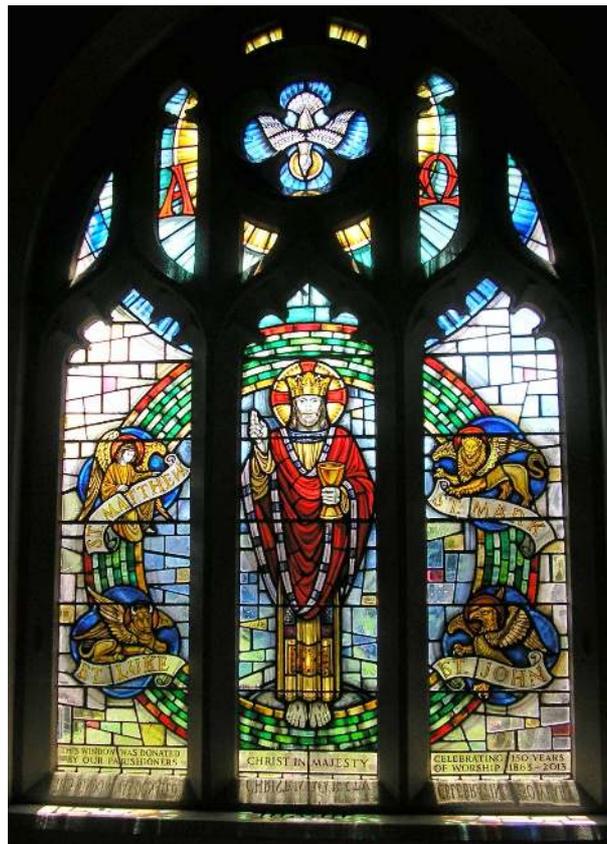
- Mission and Outreach
- Worship
- Finance
- Buildings

Research is ongoing and meetings will be held to implement the findings in due course.

Being conscious of “2020 Vision”, we believe that the Parish needs an incumbent with energy, enthusiasm and dedication to take us forward into the future – a strong leader capable of working alongside a team of lay people, guiding, encouraging and directing them in the work of the church, whilst being able to make and implement difficult decisions effectively and sensitively.

We are keen to encourage new members, especially young people, whilst valuing and retaining existing members, and further extending our activities into the wider community.

We are therefore looking for a candidate who will commit themselves joyfully with enthusiasm, and be willing to encourage personal faith in Jesus Christ with a desire to pass on positive Christian values within the community.



Christ in Majesty – Dedicated April 2015

May 2015