

Christ's
Church
Harwood

PARISH PROFILE

2026





TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Introduction

02

Worship & Ministry

03

Mission & Outreach

04

Buildings

05

The Vicarage

06

Time & Talents

07

Children & Youth

08

Community & Groups

09

Finance

10

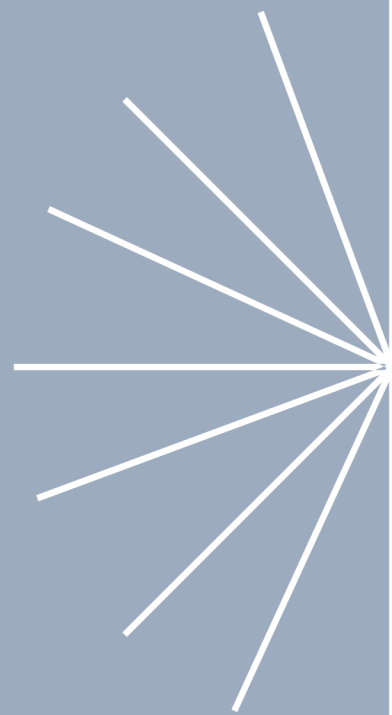
Strengths & Challenges

11

People

12

Online Presence





INTRODUCTION

The last four years have been a challenging time for the members and congregation of Christ's Church, Harwood. Leading up to and throughout the pandemic, our Vicar struggled with long term ill health eventually leading to her retirement. Since that time, throughout the long vacancy, our OLMs, ALMs and retired PTOs have stepped up to provide us with unbroken service, a testament to their dedication and love for our church and its people. The church, however, now needs an incumbent to take us into the future to provide us with leadership and strength. Prior to the pandemic our congregation was in a reasonably healthy state although numbers had fallen as the congregation aged. Since restrictions lifted and services resumed we have started to build a new congregation finding new members to swell our numbers again.

We can have optimism for the future. We have successfully refurbished our church tower and spire, as well as the interior of the church, owing to wonderful donations from our parishioners. Our various church groups (outlined later) have continued to meet. Ecumenical links to the other churches in Harwood, as shown by the Palm Sunday Walk of Witness this year, are continuing. The Lounge Café goes from strength to strength. There are many more examples.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few". Our stalwart volunteers have worked tirelessly in service to the church and its community but we are in need of more, another challenge for the coming years.

God's faithfulness and generosity over this time has been incredible. Yet amidst these challenges we know that there is huge, untapped potential for Christ's Church as we enter a new chapter in our church life.

Christ's Church will need a Vicar who can challenge us as well as nurture and empower us; who can push us out of our comfort zone while building on the strong foundations that have already been laid.

As you read through this profile, we hope that you might prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to take on this key role in the next chapter of Christ's Church's long history. The role is a challenging one, but we know that, for the right person, it has the potential to be deeply rewarding. We are certainly excited about what God might have in store.

David Horrocks and David Smith
Churchwardens

WORSHIP & MINISTRY

Ministry Team

Our ministry staff team currently includes:

Associate Priest:

Rev Adrienne Morgan

Retired Priests with PTO:

Rev Heather Molloy

Rev Mike Frost

Rev Dave Thomson

Authorised Lay Ministers:

Gail Spence (Prayer Ministry)

Martin Morgan (Community)

Rebecca Webster (Worship & Liturgy)

Esther Mather (Parish Administration, Finance & Governance)

Services

Our pattern of services is as follows:

1st Sunday:	10.30am (Common Worship) Holy Communion *
2nd Sunday:	10.30am Family Communion on screen
3rd Sunday:	10.30am CW Holy Communion with Wholeness and Healing with laying on of hands
4th Sunday:	10.30am CW Morning Prayer *
5th Sunday:	Morning Prayer or Holy Communion
Wednesday:	There is a mid-week Holy Communion on Wednesday morning at 9.15am

* Sunday School are in for the first 15 minutes with a short talk aimed at them.

In addition, there are various other services throughout the year including:

Longest Night Service	7.30pm on the first or second week before Christmas (for those who find Christmas difficult)
Carol Service	6.30pm on a Sunday close to Christmas
Christmas Eve	4.00pm Nativity, 11.30 pm Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10.30am Family Communion
Ash Wednesday	7.30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Palm Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion
	2pm Ecumenical Walk of Witness starts with a short service at Christ's Church, calls at St Brendan's RC for hymns, prayers, and Bible readings, finishing at Harwood Methodist Church with refreshments.



Maundy Thursday	7.30pm service with the stripping of the church.
Good Friday	10.30am A Service around the Cross
Easter Sunday	10.30am Family Communion
Ascension Day	7.30pm Holy Communion
Service of Remembrance and Hope	2.00pm - People bereaved come together to light a candle in memory of their loved one, usually on a Saturday afternoon in June.
Harvest	10.30pm - 2nd Sunday in October. Gifts are shared between local charities and parishioners.
Remembrance Sunday	10.00am - short service is held in church at followed by an Act of Remembrance outside, around the cenotaph. The service is relayed inside for those who aren't able to go outside. This is followed by a short, said Holy Communion for any who wish to stay.
Toy Service	10.30am - 2nd Sunday in December - New toys are donated by the congregation and distributed to local children's charities.

We regularly host services for local schools (assemblies, end of year, Harvest etc)

Our uniformed organisations and their families attend Harvest, Remembrance, Toy Service, and Palm Sunday.

The ministers robe for Holy Communion services but not for Morning Prayer or less formal Services.

We offer a variety of worship ranging from traditional hymns and modern worship to action songs for children. At all our services we use a printed booklet specific to that service whether it be Wholeness & Healing, Morning Prayer or Holy Communion. For Family Communion everything is shown on the projector screen.

Pre vacancy our 8.30am service usually attracted 20-30 people (occasionally more or less) but sadly this had to be dropped due to availability of ministers. Our 10.30am attracts between 60 and 80, depending on the type of service. Our Christmas and Easter services could see 100-120 in the congregation, while Wednesday mornings typically 15-20.

The number of young families attending church decreased post covid, perhaps due to changes in high school catchment areas, but more recently we have seen a rise.

We have 3 primary schools in the parish which brings great opportunities for someone new to engage and build new relationships with local families.

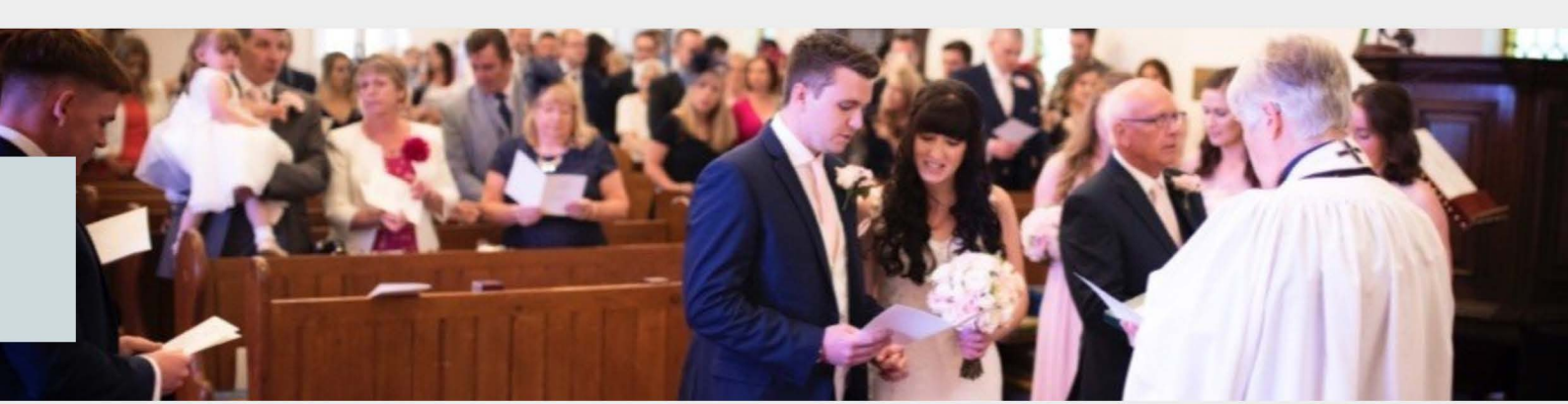
Prayer

Prayer is an important part of our faith and church life. We encourage everyone to explore prayer through fellowship groups, intercessions, prayer meetings, and personal prayer.

Intercessions

We have a small team of intercessors who are responsible for preparing and writing their own prayers for each church service.





Prayer ministry

During and after Sunday's 10.30am Holy Communion Service prayer ministry is usually available in the Lomax Chapel. 2 members of our Prayer Ministry team are there to offer personal, private, and confidential prayer to anyone who asks for it.

Prayer tree

Our 'prayer tree' in the Lomax Chapel holds the names of people with long term illnesses, children who have been baptised, people who have requested prayer, and thank you messages for answered prayer.

Prayer chain

The prayer chain is an important part of our church life; it gives people the opportunity to request special or urgent CONFIDENTIAL prayer for a person, or situation, they are concerned about, in the knowledge that it will only be passed onto the members of the chain. The prayer chain is very busy and over the years we have experienced some amazing, answered prayer. There are currently three chains, with possibly the need to add another one.

Frugal lunch

This is a Lenten devotion held over the 6 weeks of Lent - a simple lunch followed by reflection/meditation, led by a member of the Ministry Team, on the last week of Christ's life.

Alternative prayer course

Two of our Authorised Lay Ministers ran a 4 week course looking at alternative ways of praying. Each week there was an opportunity to explore prayer. The course received a Highly Commended award from the Diocese. The hope is that this course could be repeated.

House Groups

Our 2 house groups feature Bible study, prayer, and fellowship each week. They offer stimulating discussions and a chance to learn more about the Christian faith, ask questions, and deepen one's faith. It is also a time to offer prayer and support for specific needs.

The Alpha Course

The Alpha Course is well known across the world and has been offered for many years to people at Christ's Church. Many people in our congregation, and some who have moved away, have come to, or strengthened, their faith as a result of attending an Alpha course.

MISSION & OUTREACH

As our Vision Statement says:

“Christ’s Church is inspired by the love of God to seek, serve and transform our community”
and there are many ways in which we try to communicate and engage with the wider community as well as the congregation.

We have improved our website and social media connection, allowing us to reach out and meet the needs of many people. We get a lot of enquiries for weddings, baptisms, and other general information via the website email address, which shows that when people want to get in touch, or know more about us, they are heading to the website for information. As well as the website we use Facebook and Instagram to share information, as well as good old face-to-face conversation.

We produce a bi-monthly church magazine which is hand-delivered by an army of volunteers to homes around the parish. Even during COVID we continued to produce the magazine as we saw it as a vital way of keeping in touch. We include articles written by members of the congregation, reports from various committees to ensure that people are kept aware of what’s going on (PCC, eco-church etc), thought-provoking articles, as well as articles from our Ministry team, funnies, and Bible quotes. In fact, just about everything. Our only cost is the cost of printing.

We support Urban Outreach with the Grub Tub in church and with delivering food parcels. We support several charities on a regular basis as well as some at specific times, eg our Christmas Toy Service provides gifts for children in care and families in need.

We also support Fortalice, a local Refuge for women at risk, and their children. Our Mothers’ Union donate generously to this Refuge. Members of our congregation are always generous when there is a call for help, from whoever, and wherever.

Our Lounge Cafe opened in 2018 with the aim of creating a community and outreach hub every Friday. This has proved very successful, attracting non-church visitors as well as church members, all having the opportunity to meet and chat over a coffee, cake, or toasted snacks. A team of volunteers run the Cafe and there is a team of volunteer bakers. The Cafe income contributes to the church finances, but its main contribution is in reaching out and serving the community and welcoming everyone to our Cafe.

Pastoral visiting is offered to the housebound and to the sick. Sometimes names are given to the clergy by parishioners, or the clergy hear of a need through contacts with friends and family.

Bereavement support and home visits are offered by our Bereavement Visiting Team to all who come to us for a funeral. On the first anniversary of the death a card is sent to the family, and the bereaved are prayed for at all the services on that day. Each year a Service of Remembrance and Hope is held to which all those bereaved in the last 5 years are invited.

We consider both these ministries to be of great importance in order to offer support to those in need and to share the love of God with all. The Pastoral Visiting Team and the Bereavement Visiting Team consist of volunteers who have been trained over a six week period with a member of the clergy. The training is well resourced and the emphasis is on listening skills. We are aware that we are offering care and support and prayer, not professional counselling. The clergy approach those who they discern to be called to one of these two ministries.





A team of people have worked together to develop initiatives to help us to become an Eco church. This is still in its early days but we are all becoming more aware of how we should be thinking differently to protect our world.

It has been difficult to recruit volunteers as many of our older generation are finding it too difficult now, and the pressure is on the few stalwarts we have left. We have many events in the pipeline but we need to keep our focus on including the community, not just our own established church family.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- guided by God's Spirit through worship, prayer and His Word,
- to go out and develop relationships, built on trust and respect,
- welcome and nurture people of all ages, colour, race, gender or sexuality,
- encourage generosity and commitment to actively help others"

Ways in which we communicate and engage with the wider community as well as the congregation:-

- Website and social media connection.
- Lounge Café providing support and company to anyone feeling isolated as well as great coffee and home baked cakes.
- Working towards Eco Church.
- Support Urban Outreach with grub tub and delivering food parcels.
- Alpha/Alpha Online
- Community events including shared lunches, quiz nights, beetle drives, musical concerts, choirs and more

BUILDINGS

Christ's Church, Harwood was built in 1839 of rough gritstone from a local quarry and originally roofed with flags, the plain simplicity of its architecture in keeping with its location in a village of cottages, farms and small-holdings. Its position on the hill meant it was visible from most parts of the parish and even from the centre of Bolton. Originally a district chapelry of the parish of Bolton it became an independent parish in 1857.

The church opened her doors on 18th October 1840 so as of 2026 will have been at the centre of the community for 186 years. As a fitting celebration of the 175th anniversary a new stained glass window was installed in the Lomax Chapel, completely funded by the parishioners.

The building is quite small compared to other churches in the area but it is full of character and warmth. The interior has 24 rows of wooden pews and an open area with chairs to the rear underneath the balcony which also has access to the toilet. The balcony has an area for chairs and access to the tower. There are potentially spaces for 200 worshippers.

The church contains several interesting items of antique oak furniture. The pulpit was made for the Chapel Royal of St James's Palace in 1660 and is said to be from where King Charles II heard his first sermon after his restoration. The lectern, a magnificent carved eagle, is thought to be medieval and brought from a cathedral in the Pyrenees. The communion table is thought to be from a Lutheran church in Nuremberg and bears the

date 1561. The current organ dates from 1895, and although it has been through a few refurbishments there is still a significant part of it from the 19th Century.

The church has a good sound system, with radio microphones, and a large projector and moveable screen which is often used for family services. Remembrance services, conducted outside at the memorial, can be broadcast back into church for parishioners who cannot stand outside. There is also a hearing loop system.

In the churchyard, just behind the church, is the Church Lounge. Originally the vicarage built in 1910-11, in 1977 it was destroyed by a fire and after a rebuilding project the present Church Lounge came into being. Consisting of a large room and small kitchen it now houses the Lounge Café, open every Friday, and provides a place where the church youth groups can meet. It is also used for various other groups such as art and crafts.

The main focus of attention over the last few years has been repairs to the tower and spire and the underpinning of capstones to the east of the church. This was achieved through the wonderful generosity of our congregation and grants applied for which more than covered the £66,000 cost. The kitchen area to the church lounge was refurbished which due to the generosity of individuals both for time and materials was completed with minimal costs to the church. Other minor works carried out during this period included:- cleaning of church gutters and downspouts, new locks and new alarm, minor repairs to church organ and temporary repairs to church lounge roof. Looking forward, apart from routine maintenance, the works that will require substantial financing are the replacement of the flat roof to the church lounge and the creation of the proposed Garden of Remembrance to the west side of the church.





THE VICARAGE

The Vicarage was built in the late 1970s. It's a stone built, five bedroom house with gardens to front and rear. Upstairs is a bathroom with shower and separate W.C. with washbasin and a washbasin in one of the bedrooms.

Downstairs comprises study, large lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry and utility room, and cloakroom with W.C and washbasin.

Since it was built, it has been home to two families, each with several children, and latterly home to our last incumbent and Churchwarden.

The house enjoys open aspects to the rear and side with ample lawns. It is set back from the road and on the Limetree Drive entrance has a driveway and a garage. It is a short 2 minute walk from the Church.

The surrounding area hosts a number of retail outlets including a Spar, 2 local post offices, a Morrisons Supermarket, several restaurants, bars, hairdressers, barbers and estate agents. The Vicarage is conveniently located on a main bus route into Bolton.



TIME & TALENTS



As with all churches it often seems that it's the same people who do everything. This is true to an extent, in that often the same people are willing to help with everything, but we do have a large number of people who work away, often unseen, doing the more mundane jobs. Some of these groups may have been mentioned elsewhere in the Profile.

We have 5 groups of cleaners (10 people) who clean the church every week, throughout the year. There is a small team of people who take turns to 'set up' for Holy Communion each Sunday in the chancel, wash up, and put everything away after the Service.

A group of ladies, each Monday, take the flowers which have decorated church the previous Sunday to someone in the parish who is ill, feeling troubled, or has been bereaved.

A team of people work on a rota basis to help prepare, welcome, and tidy away for baptism services.

A very busy team of people bake cakes for both the

Friday Cafe and for any other event that requires food... Usually all of them!!

Our Churchyard Maintenance Team meet every week to keep on top of the weeds, fallen branches, dead plants, constantly-growing grass, hedges, and to keep our churchyard tidy. The weather has to be dire for them not to turn up. Or is it the coffee and cakes that entices them?!!

We have a very small team of people who work on our sound desk each Sunday, and for other services, to ensure that the service can be heard by everyone. We desperately need more people to come forward to help with this.

All of the above can be seen as ministries, and there are many more people who serve our church and are always willing to give their time and use their talent for that purpose, but we are very aware that there is a lot of talent still untapped. We look forward to even greater things happening.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Where we're at...

We have experience of building children and youth teams. However we currently only run our Fish group (children from 4-10) which runs parallel with the 10.30am service.

Each 1st and 4th Sunday in the month the children come into church for the initial 15 minutes of the service, they then move over to the Church Lounge for their specific Sunday School session. Every second Sunday we hold a Family Service, structured around our families and including children's action songs. Numbers for Fish and our monthly Family Service were encouraging but, post vacancy have reduced. This is an area that we know could be better covered. In the past, at different times, we have invited specialists to focus on families and youth. We created a strong vision for our children and youth ministry but COVID stopped us in our tracks, and we have never fully recovered.

Where we meet - the church lounge is our only community space and is used by Fish on Sundays.

Can you help us...?

We believe in investing in children and young people because they are integral to the church of today, and vital for the church of tomorrow.

- Working alongside our Fish leaders and our uniformed organisations.
- Growing this ministry across all ages.
- Reach out and re-establish links to local schools.

Pre vacancy our church worked in, and alongside, St. Catherine's primary school. We still, however, have all the children in church for special services - Christmas, Easter, and at the end of the school year. Members of our Ministry Team used to take assemblies in school, so when the children came into church they already knew 'the person at the front'. It is always a joy to have our church completely filled with children singing choruses and fully engaging in prayer and worship.

We have Rainbows and Brownies, as well as Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, all with dedicated and committed Leaders. During COVID, Harwood Meadows school, which was the meeting place for all these groups, stopped allowing them to use the premises. So, after Lockdown, the Scouts built an outdoor shelter, the girls' groups found a new meeting place, and the Beavers and Cubs now use the Elderdale Centre alongside the church lounge. We are very proud of our young people and their leaders, who are teaching them important skills for life.

Moving forward

We feel we need to re-engage our young people with church life, as the last few years have caused so much disruption for them. As has happened with some of our older members of the church family, many of our young families have not returned to regular worship. Hopefully, a new incumbent would feel enthused about working with all our young people, and encouraging family worship.



COMMUNITIES & GROUPS

Our PCC and Standing Committee are extremely supportive and encouraging to all the various working groups and committees at Christ's Church, whilst also bearing in mind the many rules and regulations we have to adhere to. Every year any vacancies are filled and all meetings are well attended. Everyone feels able to speak out and everyone is listened to. Many members also serve on the various sub-committees which feed back to PCC meetings.

The Events Committee is always busy organising family, ecumenical, indoor, outdoor, outreach, Christmas, special celebrations; every kind of event imaginable! The Buildings Committee look after the important stuff - gutter cleaning, minor and major repairs to any of the church buildings, servicing of all appliances, etc. Without them we'd be in trouble. Their huge success recently was organising and overseeing the repair and restoration of the church spire and tower. Our Committee worked hard to secure grants and our amazing congregation and friends did the rest.

The Mothers Union with a regular membership, some of whom are members of other churches, meets each month in the Church Lounge and has a mixed diet of interesting speakers, Holy Communion, parties, church services, celebrations, meals out, and great fellowship. They generously support many causes, both practically and financially, locally and worldwide.

Both the Craft Group and Art Group meet every week in the Lounge and, as well as creating masterpieces, have attracted non-churchgoers to their numbers. Before Covid we had a church parent and toddler group which had just become established but has, unfortunately, not re-started.

As well as the above we have various incidental committees which 'pop up' whenever necessary eg. the Flower Festival committee, the Stained Glass Window Committee etc.



FINANCE

Mel Wadd has been Treasurer since 2015. Over the years our church has had many events that were extremely well-attended and raised a large amount of funds for us. Our Lounge Cafe was opened in Jun 2018 and has had and continues to have an impact on funds. We are currently paying 100% of our Parish Share.

Our organ has needed repairs over the last few years, our tower and spire needed repairing, and the internal church needed decoration, all of which has been achieved by grants and the generous donations of our congregation.

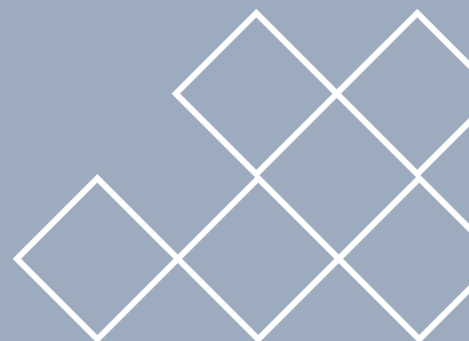
In addition to the Church Café we raise funds through events - the staples being Summer and Christmas fairs, and an annual dinner dance. We're always trying new things such as ladies nights, craft fairs, quiz nights etc. We also earn a small amount from the hiring out of the Church Lounge.

PARISH SHARE

2020	46%	£30,250	2022	47.7%	£33,747	2024	100%	£35,000
2021	65%	£45,084	2023	19.9%	£15,000	2025	100%	£36,050

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Gross Income	£188.21k	£95.36k	£98.61k	£146.24k	£93.90k
Total Expenditure	£195.67k	£91.16k	£75.71k	£154.37k	£ 102.50



STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

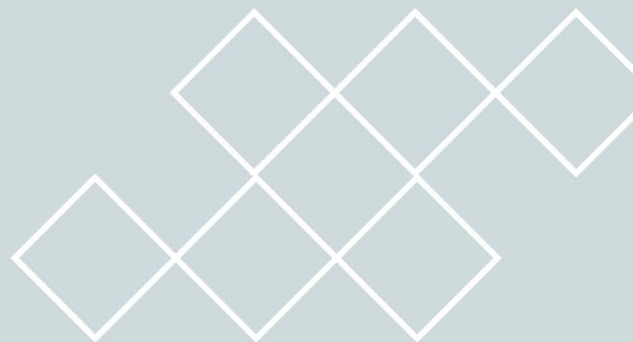
STRENGTHS

- Welcoming
- Cater for all across our services - age groups and traditions, variety of worship styles
- Outreach - vast number of groups
- Online and Social Media presence
- Popular for weddings & baptisms
- Enthusiastic team of supportive and dedicated volunteers
- Experienced and capable ministerial team who will share in liturgical and spiritual leadership and are eager to collaborate with the new vicar
- Supportive and experienced church wardens and PCC
- Sound system with hearing loop, retractable screen, radio mics
- Outdoor space with electricity

CHALLENGES

Where you can make a difference!

- Ageing congregation and depleted young families
- Engagement with uniformed organisations
- Integration between old and young
- Music - no worship band, organist vacancy (but retired minister plays twice a month)
- Premises (lack of indoor space)



MEET THE TEAM



DAVID HORROCKS
Churchwarden



DAVID SMITH
Churchwarden



REV ADRIENNE MORGAN
Associate Priest



REV HEATHER MOLLOY
Retired Priest with PTO



REV MIKE FROST
Retired Priest with PTO



REBECCA WEBSTER
Authorised Lay Minister

MEET THE TEAM



MARTIN MORGAN
Authorised Lay Minister



GAIL SPENCE
Authorised Lay Minister



ESTHER MATHER
Authorised Lay Minister



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
PCC Lay Chair



CINNAMON MORGAN
PCC Secretary



MELANIE WADD
PCC Treasurer

ONLINE PRESENCE



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