

St John's Lindow

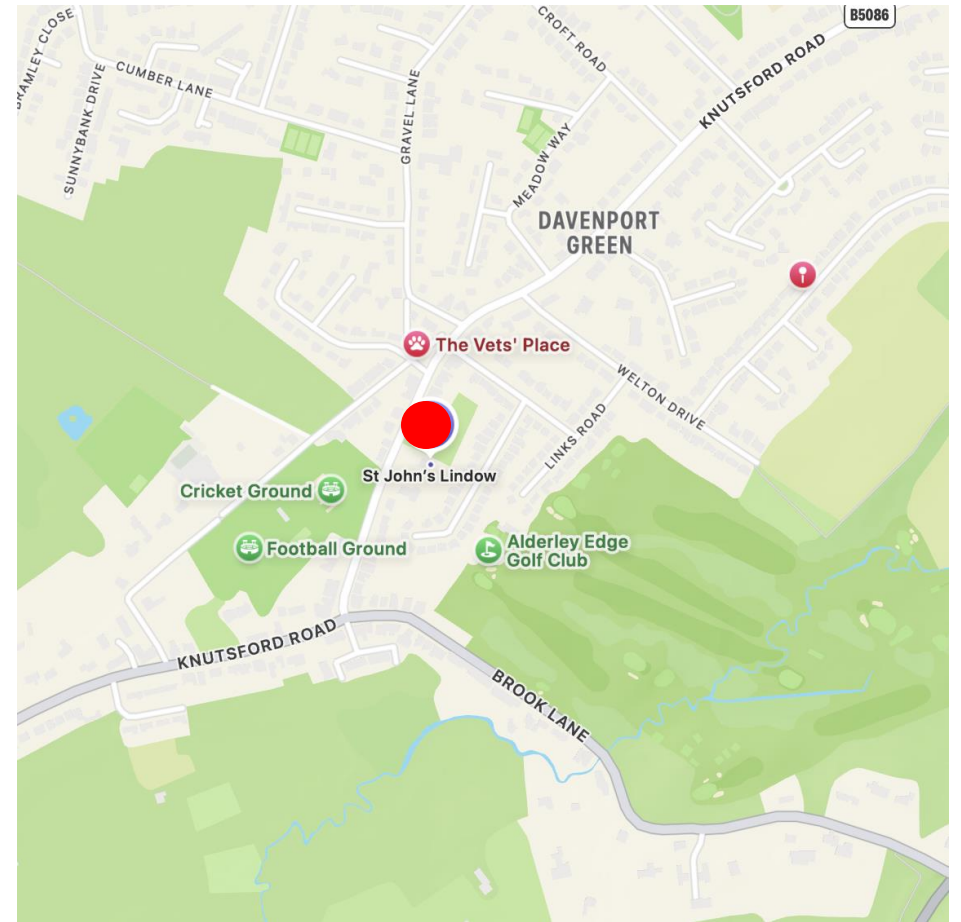
Parish Profile



Our Parish

The parish of St John's Lindow lies to the southwest of the town of Wilmslow in the county of Cheshire and is in the Diocese of Chester.

The parish is mainly residential with a few local shops and other facilities near to the church building. The population of the parish is approximately 4,000 and the Electoral Roll is 98 (APCM 21 April 2025).



Our Hopes and Prayers for the Future

With God's help we want to..

Maintain

- The full range of expository Biblical teaching, at every opportunity
We delight to see the persistent, faithful teaching of God's Word as the heartbeat of our church family

Improve

- Our corporate prayer life
We believe in the power and necessity of intercessory prayer but our practice sometimes suggests we don't
- Our confidence in God's Word
We know that God's Word is powerful and life-changing but struggle to show that in making disciples of Jesus
- Our connections within the church family becoming more integrated and united
We rejoice in our rich cultural diversity but long to see deeper relationships across all ages and backgrounds

Develop

- Stronger relationships with those living in the parish and our communities
We are committed to personal evangelism but many of us find it difficult to have fruitful friendships with those around us
- The gifts that God has blessed us with
We long to see a flourishing of our congregation as we minister to one another and our community

Our Next Vicar

We are seeking and praying for an ordained man, secure in the conservative evangelical tradition, who(se)

Love for God and sacrificial devotion to Christ's service, is evident in his character, leadership and conduct

Is approachable and engaging, able to command the respect of those within the Church and in the Community

Models prayerful dependence upon God and encourages the same within the church family

Faithfully and diligently preaches God's word whilst engaging with and challenging society's cultural norms

Mobilises the Church family by equipping us to use our gifts to disciple one another and to witness where God has placed us

Our Next Vicar (cont'd)

and who(se)

Helps us engage with our Community in ways which are relevant, winsome and biblically faithful

Possesses a breadth of Pastoral experience, connecting and uniting people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds

Courageously develops new areas of ministry, building on St John's strong biblical heritage

Will live out their commitment to fostering a strong and effective safeguarding culture within the parish



Our Church Today

Our Beliefs - I

St John's is a conservative evangelical church, seeking in all we do to be under the authority of the Word of God.

Our ministry is Gospel-centred, with an emphasis on expository Bible preaching and teaching. We believe that the Bible is God's inerrant Word and the final authority in matters of faith and doctrine, and we uphold the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England.

In all things, we seek God's guidance through the centrality of His word, prayer and the divine inspiration and power of His Holy Spirit.



Where we stand

PCC has over the years been glad to endorse statements such as Resolution 1.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference and the GAFCON Jerusalem Declaration of 2008; we also passed a Letter of Request for alternative episcopal arrangements in March 2015. This resulted in episcopal ministry being provided by the then Bishop of Birkenhead, the Right Reverend Keith Sinclair and subsequently we have welcomed the ministry of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Right Reverend Rob Munro.

In recent years, we have been greatly disturbed by the introduction of Prayers of Love and Faith. Our firm belief is that sexual intimacy is God's good gift which is to be enjoyed exclusively within lifelong heterosexual marriage. As a direct consequence of this, we have taken advantage of the Church of England Evangelical Council's Alternative Spiritual Oversight and have joined the diocesan Complementary Parish Share Scheme.

Our family

The church family has grown in recent years and become more diverse as families from both Hong Kong and Ukraine have moved to the Wilmslow area and joined St John's. Today, around 30% of our congregation comes from a Hong Kong background, and we have a shared passion to progressively integrate and become a more unified fellowship.

As well as regular home groups, we also have a 'Simpler English' bible study for Cantonese speakers, and the vicar leads a weekly bible study for Ukrainians.



Our Team

A **Leadership Team** currently supports the vicar in the leadership of the church with accountability to the PCC, which now meets four times each year. The LT comprises the staff team (Vicar, Lay Youth, Children and Families' Minister and Lay Pastor) and four others, a total of seven people of which currently two are women.

The **Staff Team** comprises the vicar, Lay YCF minister and Lay Pastor. The team meets every week, usually followed by lunch in the vicarage.





Our Ministries

We aim to be welcoming and accessible to all and are delighted to regularly welcome newcomers

||| Sundays - I

Our **Sunday morning** services at 10.00am begin with all ages together (around 100 people), followed by age related groups for children and younger teens (around 20). Older teens are encouraged to remain in the main service. Our Sunday worship is a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary modern songs and is led by a small group of musicians and singers. Services are available online using Zoom.

We celebrate communion once each month. All age parade services with our uniformed groups take place six times a year.



||| Sundays - II

Our **Sunday evening** gatherings, which start at 6.30pm, are informal; we meet around tables towards the front of the church building, with between 15 and 20 people attending. The teaching is primarily for those who are already Christians. We share the Lord's Supper monthly, usually on the first Sunday of the month.

We hold a Book of Common Prayer spoken communion at 8.00am during major festivals.



Mid-Week

Prayer meetings are held weekly on a Tuesday morning and monthly either on Saturday morning or Thursday evening; prayer is also an important part of our small group, PCC and Leadership Team meetings. We would love to see our prayer meetings better attended; currently it tends to be a committed core.

Several Home Groups meet weekly and provide a vital way to support each other in our fellowship with God.



Home groups' social evenings

Youth and Children - I

We run age-related groups on a Sunday morning for 3 to 15-year-olds.

During the week, our YCF minister, Lay Pastor and other volunteers, run evening meetings for teens (Kairos) and primary school age children (Kids' Club).

Our YCF minister takes regular assemblies in our local primary school (one of two in the parish) and we run a weekly lunchtime Christian Union in the local high school, assisted in the past by St Chad's Handforth.

A weekly Toddlers' group and a monthly 'Who Let the Dads Out?' are run by volunteers from the church family, seeking to share God's word and build relationships with our local community.

■ ■ ■ Youth and Children - II

We encourage our young people to attend summer camps (mainly run by Sound Holidays - NWGP), with others attending as leaders and cooks.

Families are encouraged to join our annual church weekend (a weekend away alternating with a weekend at home), with a guest speaker invited to lead the teaching.

The annual Holiday Bible Club attracts a good number of primary school children.

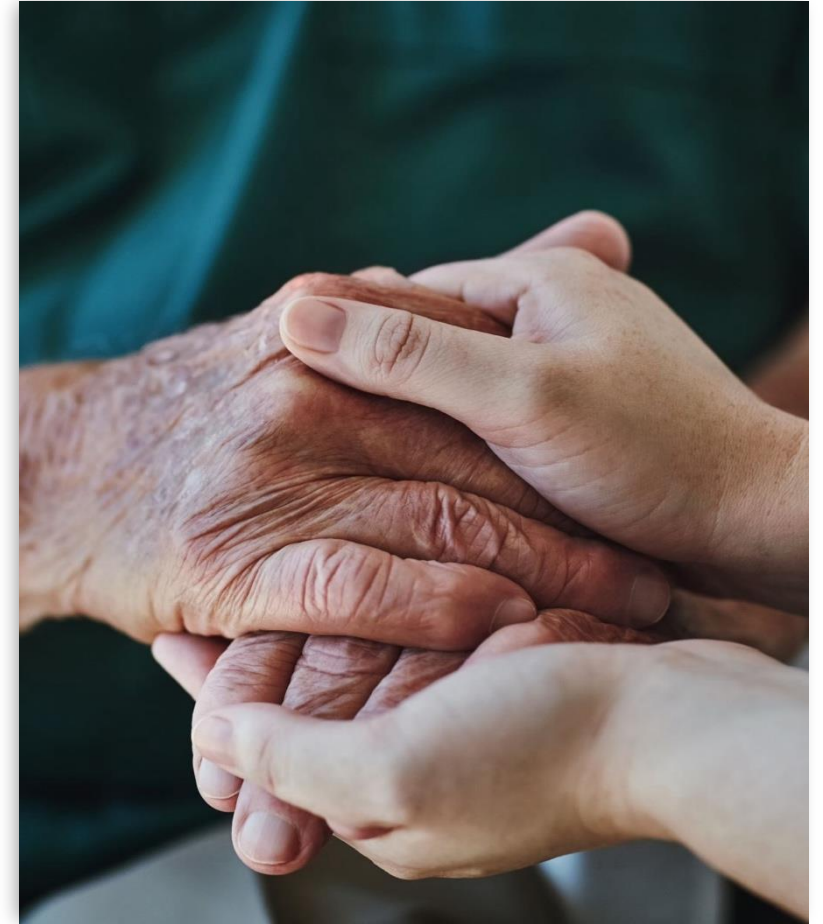


Pastoral care

Pastoral care is embedded in all that we do at St John's and is a priority in our Church Life.

We have a lead person who ensures that people in our church and those known to us are cared for pastorally.

Prayers and practical support from other members of our church family are always available.



Our Safeguarding Culture

We are committed to ensuring the well-being and safety of everyone at St John's and to providing clear and effective means of disclosing abuse.

The PCC have adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy statement, and we review our policy every year. The policy falls under the Diocese of Chester policy. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer oversees our Safeguarding arrangements and reports at all PCC meetings.

We require all our members of the PCC, children's work volunteers, and those working with vulnerable adults to have undergone the required safeguarding training provided by the Diocese of Chester, and to have valid DBS certificates.

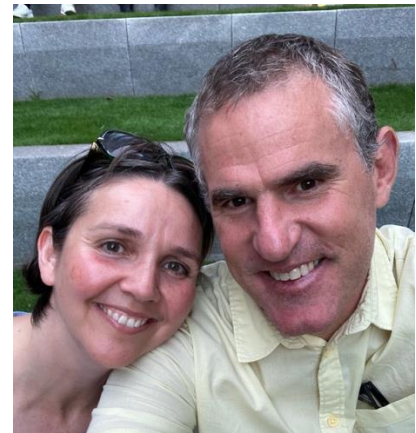


Our Affiliations

- Northwest Gospel Partnership (NWGP): St John's has greatly benefited from participation in the Ministry Training Course, youth, children and families' teaching and the annual conference.
- Church Society
- ReNew network of churches
- Church of England Evangelical Council

Our Mission Partners

- UFM: Johnny and Ann McClean, local church leadership in Bangkok, Thailand. Johnny also works for Langham Preaching.
- UFM: Michael and Steph Baldwin and Silas, outreach work in Eurasia.
- OMF: Paul and Grace Robinson, based in the UK; Paul heads up the Mission and Mobilisation Team in the UK.
- When funds have allowed, we have also supported other organisations: Barnabas Fund; Christians in Schools (Stockport); Christian Institute; CPAS; Friends International; Manchester City Mission; Message Trust (Manchester); SAMS (Alejandro Mesco and family in Arequipa, Peru); True Freedom Trust; UCCF.



Outreach and evangelism in our community - I

We encourage a disciple making ministry across our whole church family, with various teaching opportunities to equip church members to share the gospel and encourage others.

This is supported by evangelistic events such as men's and ladies' breakfasts, curry nights, Christmas wreath making and guest services. We have also held evangelistic weekends and missions with a guest speaker in conjunction with the national Passion for Life initiative.

Regular 'Evergreens' Sunday lunches, for those in the parish living on their own, are attended by 30-50 people and include a short 'thought for the day'. A weekly Evergreens' Bible Study is run during term time.

Outreach and evangelism in our community - II



In recent years we have sought to build relationships with our local community through a 'Warm Welcome' in the Church Rooms, English Conversation Classes, alongside the regular Toddlers and 'Who Let the Dads Out?' (see slide 15)

CHRISTIANITY
EXPLORED

The Christianity Explored course is regularly offered through the year and has been the main way that we have seen people come to faith.



January 2025 was the 150th anniversary of the first service to be held at St John's Lindow. Hope 150 was organised during the year with a series of events which attracted many people to visit St John's for the first time.

Our Buildings

The church building was reordered in 2022, with chairs, kitchenette and audiovisuals. The heating systems in both the church building and Church Rooms were also renewed, and the Church Rooms were refurbished and redecorated. This work was partly funded by a substantial legacy.

The most recent Quinquennial inspection was in 2025, and there are no major outstanding items from this report.



Our Finances

General Funds (unrestricted)

£'000s	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Income	155	155	189	170	168
Expenditure	(156)	(175)	(190)	(175)	(169)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1)	(20)	(1)	(5)	(1)
Bank balance	48	39	22	51	50

Restricted Funds

£'000s	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Income	11	37	6	15	-
Expenditure	(11)	(152)	(18)	(15)	(9)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(-)	(115)	(12)	(-)	(9)
Bank balance	167	52	40	40	31

The majority of income is derived from planned giving and donations. Over recent years, Parish Share has been maintained at 2019 levels. A plan to pay the full Parish Share has been agreed with the Diocese.

Restricted funds are (broadly) for “Special Projects” such as Church weekends away, evangelistic efforts etc. Previously the church received a substantial legacy which was used to refurbish the church and Church Rooms

* Budget

St John's Lindow

<https://saint-johns.org.uk/>

