

## Parish Profile: St. John's Houghton with St. Peter's Kingmoor (Carlisle)

For the Appointment of an Associate Vicar from September 2020

[www.hkchurch.org.uk](http://www.hkchurch.org.uk)

The long-held conviction of this church is that ministry involves the teaching of Christ from the scriptures (Col 1:28-29), rooted in prayer, so that people come to faith and grow in faith. Alongside this we know that all Christians are ministers, and each of us is needed in the body of Christ (Eph 4).

Patronage is held by CPAS and 4 trustees. The church is of conservative evangelical tradition, with a Bishop's Letter in place, alongside which we continue to value the ministry of women in many forms. Across the congregations, and at every level of our church life (pulpit, small groups, 1-to-1s, PCC, team and planning meetings) emphasis is put on faithful Bible teaching and dependent prayer.

We have over 200 ministers on the electoral roll, as well as a good number of contacts on the fringes through the various outreach groups, uniformed organisations, schools, and other networks.

Alongside extensive lay involvement, we have 2 administrators (Jane & Caroline, totalling 35 hours per week in term-time) and a number of lay preachers, including some serving, retired or trainee Readers and others who have completed the North West Gospel Partnership course. We are developing teams across every area of our ministry, and have enjoyed hosting apprentices over the years.

This paper is designed to be read after our Vision and Values document, giving concrete details in relation to those clear convictions and priorities. We operate in Mission Community with the Parish of St John's London Road, governed by our Gospel Partnership agreement, committed to mutual sharing of prayers, pounds and people for Jesus' sake, when it is good for the gospel.

### Outreach

Community Lunch club (monthly c.80)

Men Regular Men's Curry Nights, occasional Breakfasts and other contact events

Women Wide variety of groups/events for different age groups including regular outreach Craft Evenings, which are very popular and well trusted.

Children Assemblies (2 primary schools) & Quest clubs (after school Bible clubs at both)  
Mums & Toddlers group Tuesday mornings at St Peter's  
Holiday Club (last week of summer holidays)  
Impact (KS3 & KS4) and contact with uniformed organisations

Crosslink Newsletter 3x pa sent to all parish

Guest services 4 or 5x pa at eg Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Father's Day and occasional 'guest services' (though we aim that every service is accessible to the guests we have most weeks). Many of these special services are bolstered by the uniformed organisations, and we have a good fringe generated by the above events over the years. We have recently developed extra guest services which are not all-age, which are trusted and well received.

Quiz Nights, Afternoon Teas and a Pea & Pie Supper, as well as various other events, have been developed in the past few years, which are trusted and well attended (c. 70-90 at each, with about 50/50 split guests / church members).

In all our Outreach we focus carefully on levels 0, 1, 2, 3 (see our Vision and Values document).

Christianity Explored is occasionally run centrally, but increasingly in congregation members' homes.

## Nurture

- Home groups Around 2/3 of our members are in groups, meeting every other week during 'term' time  
Leaders meet with the incumbent every month for Bible study  
Sometimes the groups follow the sermon series, for deeper application
- Preachers Meet occasionally for training, encouragement, mutual sharpening and prayer. Intention is to meet at least termly under new patterns.
- Training Various lay leadership training options are encouraged  
Occasional central training eg Intercessions team, Youth & Children's teams, 1-to-1s

## Prayer

- Partnership Monthly central prayer meeting (approx 30-40, so there's room for improvement)  
Termly with our Mission Community partners, St John's London Rd

Prayer information is provided each week and a full diary of events for each month, alongside the term card. Various informal prayer groups meet throughout the month.

## Sundays

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|---------|--|
| 9.15am  | Service of the word (HC monthly) St. Peter's (80+) |
| 11.00am | Service of the word (HC monthly) St. John's (50+)  |
| 4LIFE   | Informal St. Peter's (50+)                         |

A variety of music is used, from piano / organ to guitar / band, and we long to grow our team of musicians, learning the best new songs to be sung alongside the great hymns of the past.

For morning services, leaders and preachers generally wear jacket plus clerical collar or tie; 4LIFE is deliberately informal: open necked shirt or similar.

## Occasional Offices

- Funerals Approx 10 per year (though many more during 2020)
- Baptism Approx 5 per year, including a growing number of thanksgivings
- Weddings Variable (0-3 per year)

## Church Council

The PCC meets six times each year (May, July, Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar) with the standing committee scheduled in the gaps between these. There is also a missions team and fabric and safety team. We are developing teams across various areas of ministry, with the aim that everything is owned (run or led) by more than one person.

## **Type of Parish**

Mainly residential, with a small rural area to the north of the M6. There are significant building works for domestic housing ongoing and planned in the area, and we may see new schools in the coming years. There are already 2 Primary schools and 1 special needs school, alongside a residential care home and thriving industrial park (including McDonalds, Subway, Next, ASDA, M&S, Argos, Eddie Stobart, many car dealerships and so on). There is an independent pre-school attached to St Peter's, owned and run by a member of our congregation.

Houghton      Village / commuter village within 2 miles of the city centre

Kingmoor      Northern outskirts of city; the parish boundary runs to within a mile of the city centre.

### *Buildings and Facilities*

St. John's      Main church building with hall, lobby, kitchen, meeting rooms, loos etc.

St. Peter's      Main church building, refurbished in early 2020, with two kitchens, lobby, church offices, hall, meeting rooms, loos.

## **Responsibilities of Associate Minister**

Personal Godliness rooted in prayer and Bible reading

- Preaching and teaching
  - Regular preaching and service leading
  - Assisting with planning of series, services etc
- Home Group
  - Expected to run a home group and assist with HGLs training
- Discipleship and nurture
  - Expected to have at least a couple of regular 1-to-1s
- Outreach
  - In every area, especially Houghton (where the house will be)
  - Assistance with Christianity Explored
- General pastoral work
  - School assemblies
  - Weddings and funerals
  - Visiting and general pastoral work

The possible areas of responsibility are many and varied. It is intended that the incoming Associate Minister lead not only in the Houghton 11am, FORUM Group and intended church plant, but across the parish in a small number of specific areas, to be agreed with the Vicar.

The Associate Vicar will be encouraged to attend preaching conferences and/or other learning/reflecting opportunities as part of his ongoing training. The parish will also give an annual book grant on top of paying for all necessary ministry books.

It would also be hoped that he play a part in Diocesan life, and in the many shapes and flavours of cooperative evangelical missions within Carlisle (not least through existing partnerships such as HOPE Carlisle, the North West Gospel Partnership and Living Word Convention).

We are a Conservative Evangelical parish, and it is expected that Pastors here hold all their views with grace and Christ-likeness, seeking to discern brothers and sisters in Jesus wherever we find them, treating them as such, and distinguishing between primary issues of salvation and those secondary or even tertiary.

## **Accommodation**

An appropriate house will be rented for you, ideally in Houghton village. The precise details of this will depend on your needs and family status. If you were keen to get onto the property ladder, we would be open to supporting you in the purchase of a house along similar lines of responsibility to your living in Diocesan accommodation.

