



**The Parish Profile
of
St. John the Divine Church, Willenhall.**

The church at the heart of Willenhall with Willenhall at heart

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Bishop's introduction

Thank you for taking time to read and pray through this profile and discern if God might be prompting you to apply for this post.

St John the Divine, Willenhall is a wonderful 'good news' story of the transforming power of God's love lived out by a local church faithfully serving their community where many find life extremely challenging.

Over the last 8 years the church has developed from a small, struggling congregation where 'the Vicar does everything', into a church family where enabling leadership has helped others recognise their gifts, be encouraged to grow towards a vision of 'every member' ministry, develop a culture of welcome and anticipation, and experience growth. Recovering from the pandemic presented additional challenges, but also opportunities and so there is much for which to give thanks to God. Under the faithful leadership of Pam Howell, the previous Vicar, St. John the Divine is in now in good heart, and embodies something very special that is representative of the abundant life that Jesus offers.

The parish church is at the heart of Willenhall with the people of Willenhall engraved on their heart. The many projects developed though St John's seek to meet real need, are creative, generous and have resulted in a relationship of trust between community and the church.

This new season will require a gifted colleague who will seek to build on recent developments, grow a culture of serving and witness, nurture new disciples, build teams, and develop the confidence of both lay leaders and the congregation in a community with many broken families, high levels of deprivation, and associated issues including poor mental health and anxieties.

A new colleague can be confident of finding a deanery with supportive clergy, and a diocese that is working towards restored health, new growth from within the life of our churches and renewed relationships.

I warmly commend this post for your prayerful consideration.

+ Christopher

Bishop Christopher Cocksworth

Bishop of Coventry



Area Dean information

Coventry East is an exciting and varied place with a very multi-cultural mix of people living in the deanery and worshipping in our churches. We have the fastest growing population of any deanery in the diocese and we are the most densely populated and most deprived deanery in the diocese. This brings its own set of challenges but also opportunities as can be seen in the varied way each church is seeking to build the kingdom in their parish.

There are 10 single parishes, a local ecumenical project and the diocesan resource church, St Mark's, who are revitalising their local parish church as well as supporting 2 new church planting initiatives across 3 other parishes. We have also just appointed a deanery administrator to work across the parishes in our deanery that need admin support, which we hope will release clergy and churches to focus more on mission and growth. This comes as a result of our deanery plan in which we seek new ways to work together in order to grow God's kingdom in our deanery.

University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire is a very prominent employer and resource within the deanery. With the rapid expansion of Coventry University (voted best Modern University in the Midlands) many students are living in Coventry East in halls of residence and rented housing, providing an energy and excitement as students come here from all over the world to study. Coventry is a city of sanctuary and has resettled more refugees than any local authority, many of whom live in our deanery.

Coming to Coventry East, means joining a really friendly and supportive chapter and synod. Within our chapter we have a Hospital chaplain, the Coventry university chaplain as well as several curates. Because Coventry East deanery is only 16sq miles our chapters are well attended and colleagues are close by which is great if you need help or want to collaborate on projects.

We look forward to welcoming the new vicar of St John the Divine to Coventry East.

The Rev Barney Pimentel
Acting Area Dean

Meet the Churchwardens

My name is Rose, and I have lived in Willenhall for 45 years and have been Churchwarden at St John the Divine Church for 8 years. It is a privilege to serve our Lord through this role and to be able to welcome old friends and new friends to our services and into the life of the church.



My name is Carol, and I am fairly new to the office of Churchwarden. It is an honour to be able to support both the clergy and the congregation through this role and to welcome people to our church. Meeting with new people brings joy to my heart and as we worship God together, so we grow in love and faith and become more the community that God intended us to be.

We look forward to welcoming a new Vicar who will walk our journey with us and be fully engaged in both church and community life. A Vicar who will help us to welcome more families, children, and young people into our worshipping community.

Our Vision for St. John the Divine Community

The Church at the Heart of Willenhall - With Willenhall at Heart.

Worshipping God.

To grow in faith as we come to know and love God more.

To enable others to use their God given gifts.

To explore new ways of worshipping whilst valuing our traditions.

To continue to grow and enjoy our life together.

Making new Disciples.

Invite others to come on our journey with us. Come and see!!

Be bold in sharing our faith stories and tell of our journeys.

Demonstrate our multi-cultural and family ethos.

Continue to build on ways in which we extend friendship within the community.

Transforming Communities.

Make known who we are and what we seek to do.

Be open, welcoming and accepting of all in the community.

Remain focussed on reaching out to all ages and genders.

Continue to be open to the needs of the people in the area.

Engage in meaningful ways with ecumenical links, the deanery and the diocese.



Introduction to the Parish

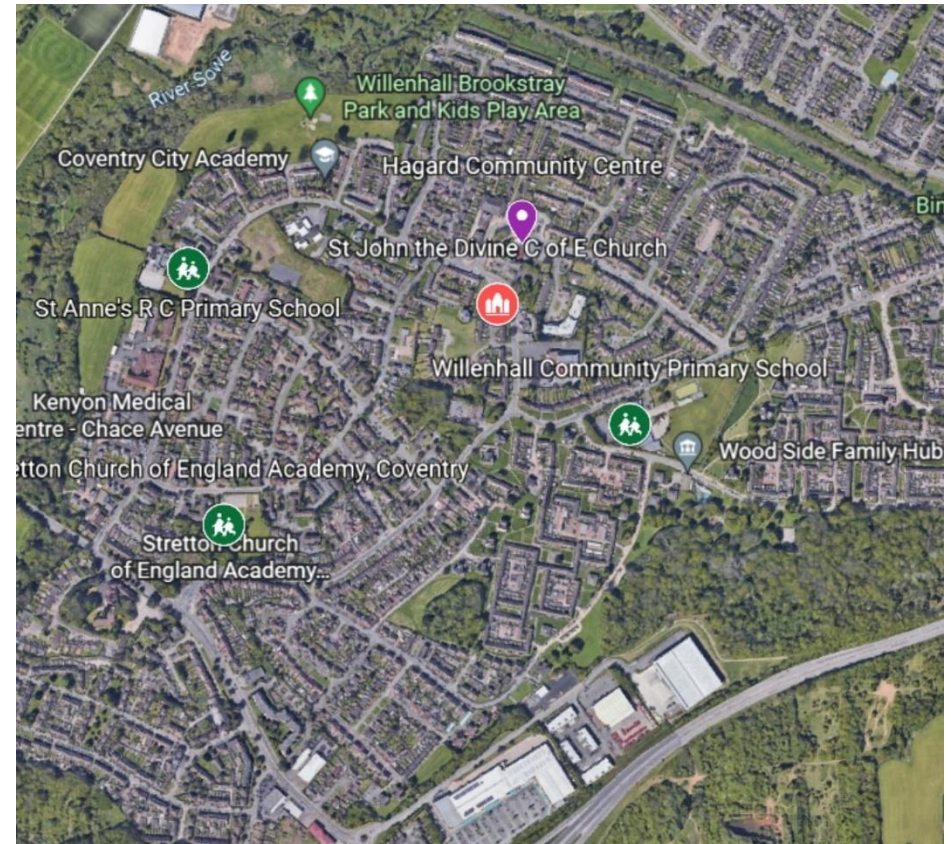
Willenhall is situated in the south-eastern part of the city and has a population of about 10,000 and ranks in the top 2% most deprived areas in the country. After the war the estate became established with the building of many council houses. Since 2020, 2 new estates have been built adding 177 new homes to the parish.

Within the parish boundary there are three primary schools; Stretton Church of England Academy, Willenhall Community School and St Annes Roman Catholic School. Each school provides nursery places. Adding to these nursery places is The Eureka Nursery which is housed in the Willenhall Community Forum building, known locally as Weetec. During opening hours this building hosts the nursery, educational courses run by the council, social events and offers help and support for those in need.

The parish is served by 2 GP practices, 2 Pharmacies, and a Dental practice. There is a good mix of shops within a small shopping area and a library giving access to computers so affording opportunities to learn new skills.

A key meeting place within the parish is the Hagard Centre which serves the community in different ways daily. It services the weekly food bank, with help provided by volunteers from the church and others and oversees a food hub which enables people to choose a variety of foods to the value of £20 without incurring costs. On a Tuesday and Thursday stalls are erected for the selling of different types of goods, all reasonably priced and of good quality.

The hub also provides advice on finance, debt management and job seeking. Also well used is the Betty Ennis shop which sells secondhand goods and is a non-profitmaking organization with proceeds going back into the supporting the community.



Are you our next Vicar?

We seek someone who will live among us and help us to grow as a church and as individuals. Someone who is prepared to meet people where they are and encourage them to come to know the love of Christ in their lives.

We would welcome applications from a priest who will:

- Have a strong visible Christian faith rooted in prayer and be a passionate sharer of The Gospel.
- Be a good communicator with the ability to engage all age groups. A gifted listener who will love without prejudice and lead inclusively.
- Be collaborative and enable, empower and encourage others on their faith journey.
- Provide pastoral care in different settings in our local care homes, community hubs and with those who come seeking care and compassion as they encounter problems in daily life.
- Be an enabler of mission and teach discipleship that can be applied to the life of the church through small group teaching, lay leadership and outreach to the wider community.
- Be committed to working with local schools, food bank, local businesses and other churches close to us.
- Be organised – it is a busy parish with lots of occasional offices and involvement in community functions.
- Be someone who has a sense of humour, a love for people and who eats cake.



What would you like your new vicar to be?

In return we offer:

A mature and supportive church family with a heart for the community, ready to greet with warmth and welcome any who cross the threshold. A paid Administrator, a paid 'Growing Faith' Family worker and willing volunteers with a desire to serve. Church buildings that are in good repair and a fully paid Parish Share. A detached vicarage next to the church.



Are we your next church?

St John the Divine Church is full of life and a love for the wider community. Looking forward we are conscious that since Covid things have changed, and we now need to look afresh at where our mission lies, in particular:

- How we engage anew with the community and how our mission can be expressed among the people we serve.
- There are some new builds on the outer edge of the parish, with residents that we would want to make contact with, to let them know that we are a welcoming church.
- We are a church that is passionate about developing spiritually and need help to turn our weaknesses into strengths particularly regarding our 8 Essential Qualities survey results. (Full survey results available on request).
- We are committed to breaking new ground and seek new ways to bridge the gap between those who already know of God's love and those who are yet to come to know Him.
- Within the church fellowship we want to encourage even greater involvement with the worship, leading, intercession, strengthening the music and use of technology.
- Whilst much of this church's day to day life is community focused, we need to seek ways and be open to opportunities that will enable us to introduce some form of Christian witness from our base there.
- In the future we would like to show shoots of growth in faith and discipleship, grow numerically as others come, and in caring for God's world.

Mission in our community

Dagmar Dias, our Growing Faith Families Worker writes:

My role is to work with families in the community, help them build friendships, skills, and share the word of God with them. During the week, I run groups to help facilitate this.

Stay and Play is for families with little ones. During this time, I chat with parents/guardians about their daily lives and build a relationship with them. I also read a bible story to the children, sing songs, and we say the Lord's Prayer at the end.

During our small group, we share the highs and lows of our week, have breakfast, and do some Bible reading, group study, and pray for each other.



Community Outreach



WOW (Women of Willenhall) is a group which empowers women to use their skills and learn new ones. Most women that attend this group are single mums and often feel hopeless. Through this group, I have a real opportunity to encourage, motivate and empower our young mums to continue pursuing their lost passions.

Friday brunch club is for all families. Through this I help facilitate the growth of friendships within the community in a safe environment. The session ends with Prayer.

I also help grow our Young People's ministry – Connect - with the help of Thrive Youth Ministries. In addition to this, I help plan, organise, and run our outdoor half term and holiday feeding programmes, I go into schools for assemblies and Bible Clubs and help the YMCA with the youth group on a rota basis.

The 8 Essential Qualities of a Health Church

Our congregation has taken part in the Natural Church Development survey on a number occasions the last being June 2022. The survey is a key tool in the Diocese to help churches develop and grow by becoming as healthy as possible. Our NCD Survey results have been excellent and we are very proud of what we have achieved, being in the top 3% of churches that undertake those surveys. A link to the full survey results can be found at the end of this profile.



Need Oriented Evangelism

We run Messy Church Outdoors Feeding and Crafts programmes in the school holidays, including Outdoor Live Animal Nativity (with camel, donkey and sheep), Pancake and Pancake races, HAF Summer and Easter holiday Brunch Club, to reach out to families. There are planning groups for these events, which are financed by restricted grants. Many hundreds of people attend these events each year and we have the opportunity to pray with people.

We have been running the Willenhall Foodbank at the Hagard since 21 January 2011 and we are the second busiest foodbank in Coventry. We run Youth Alpha for young families.

We have Foundation Governors at Stretton CofE Academy and a Community Governor for Willenhall Community School. We give monthly assemblies at Stretton Academy, and seasonal assemblies at Willenhall Community School. Our Families Worker runs a weekly lunchtime “Divine Club” at Stretton Academy.

We provide monthly Holy Communion services for residential homes at Knightlow Lodge, Poppy Court, and Maple Leaf House, and have carol services at each of these.

Gift Based Ministry and Empowering Leadership

We are blessed that many people are involved in the running of services, groups and events, using their gifts. Some are very new to the church and others have been coming for longer. We encourage everyone to use their gifts for God and provide on the job training for roles people fulfil. We are often on the lookout as 'talent scouts' to spot skills in the Body of Christ here for different roles.

We have a weekly 'Connect' (Sunday School) during our 10am church service for 3 to 10 year olds, run by a dedicated group of leaders and helpers. We would like to expand this pool of people to run this well-attended group. We are starting a parent-led Creche in the church hall to run concurrently with Connect for parents with 0-3year olds.

On Sunday evenings we have a weekly term-time church Youth Group run in collaboration with YMCA funded by a Diocesan restricted grant.

Loving Relationships

This is a very loving church, and we foster relationships with our many socials and small group meetings, and a Facebook page. Our Families Worker runs weekly Stay & Play on Mondays, Tuesday morning group including Alpha/Bible Study, 'WOW' Women of Willenhall with a varied programme and Friday Brunch drop-in for parents. Each of these activities is tailored for the families who attend for a healthy breakfast. We also have a weekly Tuesday evening small group Bible Study with puddings, and run a "Good neighbours" Community Choir on Thursdays for retired people and also families join. A 'Bible Explorers' group runs fortnightly on Thursday afternoons as a home group for retired people. All of these groups are very loving and they end with people sharing and praying for each other.

Our social events are extremely varied, from Harvest Supper, to Band Night, 'Beer & Carols' in a local pub or the Willenhall Social Club, Quiz nights, Talent Nights, MacMillan Coffee morning, monthly Breakfast & Bargains, seasonal bazaars at Christmas, Easter and Summer.



Effective Structures

Our services, events and groups are run with planning and rotas. Our PCC works hard to ensure that our Grade II listed church and hall building is in good repair, and to ensure the proper running of our church, meeting every 6 to 8 weeks. We employ and part-time (25 hours a week) Growing Faith Families Worker financed by restricted grant funding from the Diocese. We also employ a part-time (10 hours a week) Parish Administrator to help with day to day running of church. We have a volunteer Treasurer who keeps our accounts using 'Xero' software. We have sub-committees of the PCC, a Standing Committee which meet when necessary, a hard-working Social and Outreach Committee organizing our many social events, and a Pastoral and Worship Committee, currently meeting two or three times a year, that considers the worshipping life of the church and pastoral support for many members.

Inspiring Worship Services

We have a regular 10am Sunday and 9.30am Wednesday Holy Communion Service, which are well attended. We 'Zoomed' our services from the outset of the Pandemic and online attendance and engagement was high. There is a cohort of people who used to attend regularly who now find it easier to continue on Zoom, owing to life circumstances, illness or infirmity. All of our services continue to be in person in church with Zoom.

Our 10am service is run with Connect Sunday School most Sundays and is an All Age service once a month. There is a newly developed All Age service planning group including some of our young people, and we aim to be more creative. We have also started Connect 'bring-a-friend' breakfasts which we hope to offer more regularly. We have a small Music Group, and for services the leader selects a mixture of hymns and songs, from the congregation's 'Top 5 favourites'.

Holistic Small Groups

Since the Pandemic some small groups have regrouped and grown and others have recently restarted. We have a number of small groups, run for different people with different needs. This is an area of the church's life that we would like to grow, to enable more people to engage with the Bible, as group Bible study and prayer is easier for most.

Passionate Spirituality

Many of our congregation find it a challenge to read the Bible alone owing to literacy issues, and for some English is not their first language. We have provided Bibles for all who want them. We encourage some to use a Bible reading app. We encourage all to join our Daily Office for (Monday to Friday) 8.30am Morning Prayer and (Monday to Thursday) 5pm Evening Prayer, in church or on Zoom. We need to work more to encourage growth in faith and engagement with the Bible. Increasing small group attendance will help.

Buildings

Church and Hall

The Church is one of three designed by Sir Basil Spence, who also designed the new part of Coventry Cathedral.

The church, hall, and tower, completed in 1957 are registered as Grade 2 listed building, as the three churches are said to represent all the best characteristics of fifties building. Care has always been taken to ensure that the original concept for the church is maintained.

The church has comfortable seating, an efficient heating system and a useful sound system which is linked through to the hall.

During Covid, services were relayed via Zoom to all in isolation and this facility is still offered to those who are unable to return to church.

2 years ago, the whole lighting system was renewed so that the church is now well lit in all areas.

The adjoining hall is a utilitarian building which is widely used for events, groups and meetings. Housed in this area is a small office which doubles as a vestry and admin office. A new kitchen was fitted recently and a modern heating system has just been installed in this area. This area is in good order and enjoyed by many who meet there.

Although the church, the tower and the hall are well maintained and in good repair, due to its age there is an ongoing need to carry out maintenance and manage repairs in line with the buildings graded status.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage was built at the same time as the church.

It is a typical vicarage of the period having 4 bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs.

Downstairs there is an entrance porch, a cloakroom and study just inside the front door.

There is a good size lounge, dining room and utility area; the kitchen has been extended.

The house is situated within a secluded garden and has a single garage adjacent to the house.

The house is next to the church and consequently it tends to get a fair number of callers.



Church Statistics

Church Electoral Roll -----	111
Usual Sunday Attendance (Adults) -----	55
Usual Sunday Attendance under 16 -----	15
Baptisms -----	12
Weddings -----	1
Funerals in church -----	21
Funerals (at Crematorium) -----	7

Church services.

8.30 am Daily Morning Prayer—Mon – Fri
 5.00 pm Evening Prayer – Mon– Thurs

Sunday

9.00 am Morning Prayer
 10.00 am Holy Communion with Connect group for younger members.

Wednesday

9.30 am Holy Communion

Healing services - quarterly.

Other celebrations and commemorations are marked at various times of the year.

All services are also available on Zoom.

Groups at St John the Divine

<p><i>Sunday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday service & Connect for age 3 - 11 10am Youth group 5:30-6:45pm 	<p><i>Monday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay and Play Parents/Carers with Toddlers 9:30 - 10:45am
<p><i>Tuesday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group Bible study 10am with breakfast 7:30pm with puddings 	<p><i>Wednesday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday Service 9:30am Foodbank at the Hagar 11am-1pm
<p><i>Thursday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WOW (Women of Willenhall) 9:30 - 10:45am Community Choir - 7pm 	<p><i>Friday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday Brunch Club 9:45 - 11am
<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Groups 	<p><i>Where to find us</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St John the Divine, Willenhall CV3 3AY

Financial summery

1. Total Income & Total Expenditure	2019	2020	2021
Income	£72,350	£105,841	£127,877
Expenditure	£69,175	£113,819	£35,236
2. Giving & Gift aid recovered	2019	2020	2021
Planned giving	£14,106	£18,756	£17,421
Collections at services	£2,382	£0	£4,813
All other giving	£6,846	£0	£2,192
Gift aid recovered	£9,830	£5,297	£3,528
3. Planned giving & Planned givers	2019	2020	2021
Weekly average planned giving per Planned giver	£6.62	£7.67	£7.44
Number of Planned givers	41	47	45
4. Income Analysis	2019	2020	2021
Total giving	£23,334	£18,756	£24,426
Fundraising	£5,024	£635	£2,216
Trading	£574	£120	£165
Gift aid recovered	£9,830	£5,297	£3,528
PCC Fees	£1,656	£1,636	£5,292
Other income	£959	£5,448	-£288

5. Expenditure Analysis	2019	2020	2021
Mission giving & donations	£2,004	£1,520	£5,077
Parish share paid	£25,000	£12,000	£12,000
Salaries & expenses	£9,866	£10,240	£6,035
Church running expenses & utilities	£6,499	£9,377	£12,124
Other expenditure	£17,610	£45,973	£0
6. Legacies, Grants and Capital expenditure	2019	2020	2021
Legacies	£0	£0	£0
Grants	£30,973	£73,949	£92,538
Capital expenditure	£8,196	£34,709	£0
7. Unrestricted & restricted Reserves	2019	2020	2021
Unrestricted	£97,539	£229,856	£156,786
Restricted	£32,293	£9,639	£19,135

Notes on Grants 2021

- "29th May Charitable Trust" £30,000 towards Growing Faith family worker and feeding programmes.
- "National Lottery Community Fund" £10,000 towards Messy Church and feeding programmes
- "Coventry City Council" £24,000 towards HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme)
- "Coventry Diocese" £11,066 towards sweaty Church and youth group

Further Information

Church website

[Welcome - St. John the Divine Church, Willenhall, Coventry](https://www.stjohnthedivinewillenhallcoventry.org.uk)
([stjohnthedivinewillenhallcoventry.org.uk](https://www.stjohnthedivinewillenhallcoventry.org.uk))

<https://www.stjohnthedivinewillenhallcoventry.org.uk>

Facebook Page

[St John the Divine, Willenhall, Coventry | Coventry | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StJtDWillenhall)

<https://www.facebook.com/StJtDWillenhall>

Pride of Willenhall Page

[The Pride of Willenhall Coventry | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theprideofwillenhall)

<https://www.facebook.com/theprideofwillenhall>

The image shows two screenshots of Facebook pages. The top screenshot is for 'St. John the Divine Church, Willenhall, Coventry'. The page header includes a navigation menu with items like 'Welcome', 'Covid 19 Updates', 'About Us', 'What's On', 'Messy Church', 'Services', 'Baptism and Confirmation', 'Weddings', and 'Funerals'. Below the menu is a colorful abstract banner with the word 'Welcome'. The main text reads: 'We are a family friendly Church of England church' and 'Our church building is open for services and groups (our services also continue to run on Zoom)'. The bottom screenshot is for 'The Pride of Willenhall Coventry'. The profile picture shows a street sign for 'Willenhall' with a circular sticker that says 'Pride of Willenhall'. The page name is 'The Pride of Willenhall Coventry' with 11K likes and 12K followers.

For further details and an application form please contact:
Debbie Niblett, Assistant to the Mission and Discipleship Team
Debbie.Niblett@Coventry.Anglican.org

For informal conversations, please contact:
The Archdeacon Missioner Barry Dugmore on 07487 578311 barry.dugmore@coventry.anglican.org

Or Acting Area Dean, Rev'd Barney Pimentel on 02476 265949 vicar@stalbanscoventry.com

An application form and full NCD survey results can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website:
<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/about/vacancies/current-vacancies.php>

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.