



St George's



St Martin's

POYNTON PARISH PROFILE

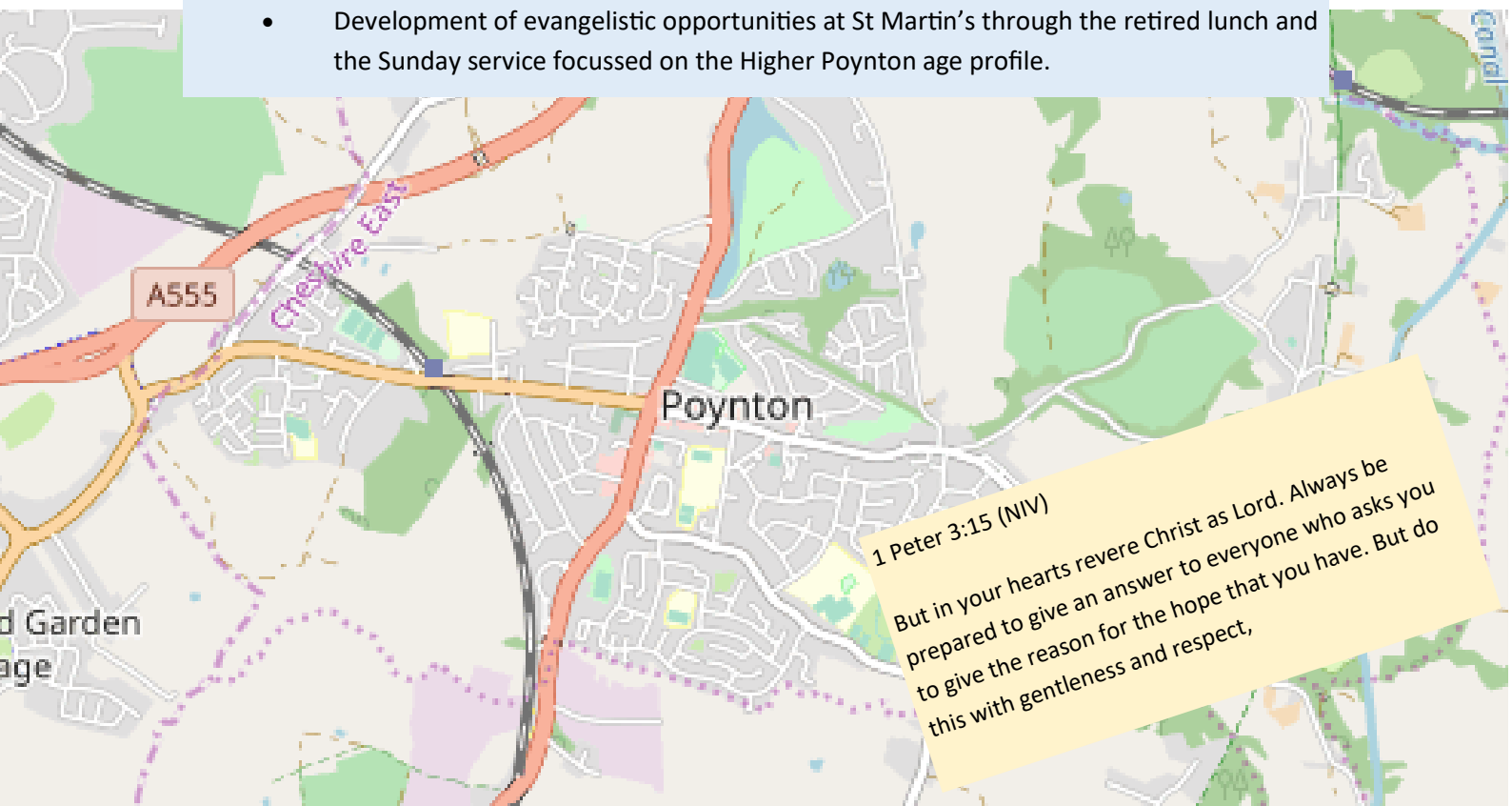
November 2019

Poynton Parish Church

Introduction:

If you join us at Poynton Parish as our new Vicar this is what you will find:

- ◆ 2 churches, St George's and St Martin's, both with well used "community" halls serving the church and local community, 4 congregations with a biblical focus and a strong tradition of expository preaching .
- ◆ A large ministry team; a curate, 5 enthusiastic Readers and 5 much loved Self Supporting/ PTO ministers faithfully serving our Parish.
- ◆ Impressive buildings and facilities that have been enhanced over the past 20 years.
- ◆ A successful children's and youth ministry at St George's.
- ◆ Two successful monthly retired lunches, one at St George's and one at St Martin's.
- ◆ 15 home groups meeting regularly in term time for bible study, prayer and pastoral support.
- ◆ A Parish that seeks to reach out and partner with other Christians around the world.
- ◆ Opportunities to grow and develop the work of the Parish:
 - Further grow, develop and support the work of our Youth and Schools Worker.
 - Further reach out into the community to improve and enhance the work we are doing with the elderly.
 - To establish more effective outreach through our contact with people who come for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
 - To encourage and enable more people to identify and use their gifts.
 - To be a praying community with prayer at the heart of what we do!
 - Continue to play an important role in Churches Together in Poynton (CTiP).
 - Development of evangelistic opportunities at St Martin's through the retired lunch and the Sunday service focussed on the Higher Poynton age profile.



1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Our new Vicar:

Poynton Parish has at its heart the Word of God in which God has fully revealed Himself to mankind in Christ. Within its pages we hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, hope for all people.

The person we are looking to be our new Vicar should:

~ Be an expository Bible preacher and teacher with the proven ability to handle the Word of God effectively. The person should see their primary calling being the ministry of the Word, with the cross of Christ central to their theology. We are seeking an effective communicator who will inspire, encourage and disciple people at all stages of their walk with Christ.

~ Have a warm generous view of others and be a servant-hearted leader who lives out the Gospel in their life. The successful candidate should lead by example, being faithful in personal prayer, Bible reading and godliness; someone with pastoral warmth, wisdom and sensitivity, able to engage, understand and support others.

~ Be fully supportive and encouraging of both men and women, lay and ordained, across the whole range of ministries within Poynton Parish.

~ Be unfazed by the challenges the Parish presents; 14,000 inhabitants, 2 churches, 2 church halls, 4 weekly congregations, a wide age range, large staff team and strong civic links

~ Ideally have a proven track record in another parish or evidence of strong people management skills. We require someone with the ability and aptitude to manage and lead a large staff team. A person with vision and leadership skills alongside the ability to mobilise and enable others to serve Christ as they use their gifts.

~ Be unafraid to proclaim Christ and boldly hold to His truth as relevant for those in church and those outside, even in the face of societal pressure to the contrary. The person should have a heart for outreach and evangelism.

~ Be capable of maintaining and fostering the excellent links we have with our civic leaders and uniformed organisations, particularly at our important Christian festivals, the Civic Service in July and the Remembrance Service.

~ Have the ability to continue and further develop Poynton Parish as a training Parish for lay and ordained leaders.

~ Be sensitive to the needs of our older members as we seek to develop this area of ministry.

~ Have a heart for Youth and Children's work, in order that we may continue to nurture our existing and successful programmes.

Expository Bible
Preacher

Effective
Communicator

A Heart for Outreach
& Evangelism

Strong People
Management Skills

Servant-hearted
Leader

Understand & Support
Others

Poynton Parish Church

Poynton Parish:

A Summary

St George's church, built in 1859, stands at the centre of the village. A two-storey hall, built in 2001, with car parking stands adjacent to the church. **St Martin's** church, built in 1965, with it's connecting hall built in 1989, a large well maintained field and car parking is situated in Higher Poynton close to the Macclesfield canal and Middlewood Way.

The PCC owns 2 three-bedroom houses; one houses the curate, the other the Youth & Schools Worker.

Staff:

Curate (we have a history of being a training parish)

2 part-time Self Supporting Ministers (SSM)

3 active retired clergy (PTO)

5 licensed Readers

1 licensed Pastoral Worker

A full-time Youth & Schools Worker, paid by the PCC

A part-time Groundsman/Verger, paid by the PCC

A part-time Office Manager, paid by the PCC

A part-time Operations Manager, paid by the PCC

A part-time Families Worker, paid by the PCC

Average Attendance at Regular Services:

At St George's:

Sunday 9:30 am ~ 100 mainly adults

Sunday 11:00 am ~ 100 adults and
~ 45 Children

Thursday 10:30 am ~ 35 adults

At St Martin's:

Sunday 10:00 am ~ 25 mainly adults

Electoral Roll:

286 (2019 was the 6-year renewal)

Occasional Services (2018):

20 baptisms

9 weddings

15 funerals in church,

31 funerals at crematoria



St George's
The Church at the Crossroads



St Martin's
Church & Hall



Poynton Parish Church

Services & Worship:

There are three weekly services at **St George's Church**.

The **Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion** is a quiet, more traditional service with a range of worship styles from organ and choir to small music group and attracts around 100 people. We have a variety of leaders and preachers, lay and clergy. Third Sunday is Service of the Word.

The **Sunday 11am Service** has a more lively contemporary feel, with a modern multi-media approach and music is provided using a pool of talented musicians.

A thriving children's work takes place during this service under the coordination of our full time Youth and Schools Worker.

There is a variety of leadership and preaching from both clergy and lay members. Numbers average around 100 adults and 45 children. All Age Services and Holy Communion occur monthly.

The **Thursday 10:30am Holy Communion** is a short, quiet and peaceful service of Holy Communion with a monthly BCP. Music is provided on CD with clergy leading and preaching. This service attracts around 30-35 people including those who are recently bereaved who find a quieter service helpful.

A Sunday Evening **Quiet Service** is held two or three times per quarter, which maintains a more meditative stream led by lay members in the style of the Northumbria Community.

There is a large **Remembrance Service** tradition at St George's Church with Civic responsibility and uniformed organisation participation. Upwards of 400 people attend the church service with 200 at an additional service in the Church Hall.



Easter and Christmas Services are very well attended and the three Christmas Eve Crib Services attract a total of 900 people.

The **Prayer Ministry Team** offer prayer support for those who would like it at the end of each morning service.

At **St Martin's Church**, Higher Poynton, there is a weekly Sunday 10am Service with Holy Communion twice a month. These services have a very relaxed, friendly and informal feel, with a congregation of around 25. The fellowship has developed into one which is warm and caring and is lay and clergy led.

In addition there are a number of **special services** held throughout the year (e.g Blue Christmas, Service to Remember, "Thy Kingdom Come", Worship Evening, Prayer Evening, Soul Hymns, Poynton Churches joint Service)

Harvest at St Martin's

Soul Hymns

Harvest at St George's with Uniformed Groups



Children's & Youth Work:

Youth and children's ministry, which takes place at St. George's, is a priority and an area of growth in the church.

The overall aim for each group is to see children and young people, along with their families, grow as disciples of Jesus Christ as they are taught God's Word each week and for them to grow up discerning how to live and speak for Jesus in their daily lives.

The Youth and Schools Worker runs and oversees all youth and children's work. He is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers.

In all our youth and children's ministry we aim to equip our young people with an emphasis on faithful, consistent and relevant bible teaching, while also having lots of fun together and developing relationships within the group.

The ministry for children and young people takes place each Sunday during the 11am service for 0-14s and in the evening for 14-18s. There are also a variety of youth and children's groups which take place midweek.

Sunday groups:

A number of groups run each Sunday during the 11 am service. As we strongly believe all people in the church are a part of God's family, each service starts together before the children leave for their groups.

Sunday morning groups:

SAND (0-3s) - The youngest of our groups enjoys a strong and regular attendance of around 8-10 each week.

PEBBLES (3-5s) - For pre-schoolers, also has a regular attendance of 8-10.

ROCKS (5-7s) - For infant school age, with a strong and regular attendance of around 10-12.

BOULDERS (8-11s) - For school years 4-6, weekly average 5-7. This group also hold socials throughout the year, seeking to partner with families and build relationships within the group.

PATHFINDERS (11-14s) - For those in the lower end of Secondary school and has around 8-10 young people on a regular basis.

Sunday evening group:

PULSE (14-18s) - Around 8-10 attend and begin by sharing an evening meal together, giving good opportunities for conversations between the group and the leaders. This is then followed by a bible study or talk which includes small group discussions.



Children's & Youth Work:

Midweek:

Our midweek groups have more of an evangelistic approach and provide young people with opportunities to hear and discuss Christian truths, as they are taught from God's Word. The groups successfully attract children who don't attend on Sundays.

Two groups run on Wednesday evening:

The BASE (7-11s) - meets at 6:00-7:15pm for anyone of primary school age. A regular attendance over the last couple of years of around 8-10. It is a youth club with lots of energetic games and activities, followed by a Bible study and discussion to encourage learning about who God is from the bible and with an opportunity for questions.

The MIX (11-14s) - runs straight after the BASE until 9pm. For school years 7-9 and has increased in number over the last year averaging around 20-24. Run similar to the Base, with lots of games and activities to enjoy, and we have also run the same teaching programme covering John's Gospel and the bible overview but applying it more in-depth and age appropriate.

4B's (14-18s) - Boys, Bacon Butties and Bible held on Tuesdays 4:15-5:30pm. This group is for boys in school years 10-13 providing an environment that allows them to explore their Christian discipleship.

As well as these regular Sunday and midweek groups, we host a variety of **annual events** for the young people which all aim to build relationships within the group. Meeting other Christian young people from local churches is an encouragement to our own children.

In September 2019 we had our first **weekend residential for 11-18's**. We had 30 young people and many helpers head to the Quinta centre, where we spent time enjoying many activities and games, and as well as having 4 sessions learning about who God is as Trinity, and what that means for us. The weekend was very encouraging and gave opportunity for the young people to build relationships with one another and the leaders, as well as ask many questions about Jesus. This is now planned as an annual event.

Here's what the kids from the Mix had to say ...



It's fun, you learn a lot ... Dan

It's very fun and everyone who runs it is really nice!! ... Lizzie

The mix is a really fun way to see your friends after school and learn lessons about life. I'm not a Christian at all but I still enjoy it ... Tallulah

I think it's good. The leaders and the way it runs—it's really good and enjoyable ... Jennifer

Poynton Parish Church

What we do:

A wide range of activities take place at our churches, enabling us to serve the parish and provide ways into church and for fellowship.

As mentioned elsewhere there are a number of church services and groups that take place weekly. Below are some of the **other notable activities ...**

There are currently fifteen **home groups** (typically 6-12 people) which meet regularly - usually weekly in term time - in homes or in the church hall. The main focus being bible study based on the Sunday sermon series, prayer, worship, fellowship and pastoral support.

Holiday at Home was run for the first time in the summer of 2019 and was a great success. It ran over four days and provided the opportunity for relaxation, recreational activities, friendship and food for those in our congregations who would not easily be able to go on holiday. We enjoyed a European wine tour, New Zealand, Thailand and the Western USA state parks. It is intended to extend the scope for 2020.

1st Poynton (St. George's) Brownies organises a range of varied activities for approximately 30 Brownies each week.

1st Poynton Scout Group has grown over the past five years and has over 135+ youth

Higher Poynton Tennis Club is a small, well maintained and thriving tennis club. Their two courts are available to members of St George's and St Martin's and their friends on a Tuesday evening from Spring, throughout the Summer and in to the Autumn.

The **Men's Events** group has a varied programme including breakfasts with testimonies, meals out, sports events and other one-off activities.

Along with other **Women's Events**, 2 successful Women's Breakfasts take place each year on a Saturday morning, one in spring and another in autumn and over 70 women attend to enjoy a continental breakfast and a testimony.

TnT is an active group which aims to provide fellowship, belonging and friendship for people in their twenties and thirties.

Every month on the second Saturday, a group of stalwart and hardy **walkers** from St George's, plus a few well behaved dogs, head out to the hills and valleys of Cheshire and Derbyshire .

A number of our youth, aged 11-18, attend a **CPAS Venture Camp** each year for teaching, fellowship and fun.

A group of approximately 15-20 from our number attend the **Keswick Convention**, with most camping together, but also some staying in local accommodation. As well as attending the convention we also arrange social time together, including a BBQ.

A **Parish Weekend** away for teaching and fellowship is held annually, alternating for the older members (approx. 40-60 people) and for all ages (> 100 people).

Men's Event
Poynton Brewery

Parish Weekend
at Llandudno



Serving the Community:

Bright Stars is a mid-week babies and toddlers group which meets every week during term time in the Church Hall. Tea, coffee, juice and toast are on offer as well as conversation and friendship for the adults. For the little ones there are different play zones to choose from in the hall downstairs and sand/water play and craft activities upstairs. The group is well attended, attracting roughly 40-50 families per week, by a mixture of parents, grandparents and childminders. There is a slot at the end of the session with a Bible story and songs. At Christmas there was also a special event where a Jabberjacks entertainer came to lead a session, followed by Christmas carols and the Christmas story over in the Church.

Who Let the Dads Out is run by our Youth & Schools Worker, with a couple of volunteers on the second Saturday of the month in the Church Hall.



The group is attended by many dads/granddads and their children from church as well as the local area, and has also served well in promoting church men's events.

St. Martin's Bonfire Party is attended by hundreds from our local community and is regarded as a family friendly option, cheaper than other local alternatives and with quieter fireworks. Visitors are treated to a firework display outside and burgers, soup, cakes and sweets inside.

The Pancake Party is organised by our Youth and School's Worker, with a group of volunteers. Families come for games and activities for the children, followed by pancakes for everyone.

The Treat is an event we host as an alternative to Halloween for families of the church and for the wider parish community. It is well attended by mainly primary age children and their families, with many coming because they heard of it through Bright Stars. There are a variety of stalls set up in and around the Church building, ranging from apple bobbing, glow in the dark bowling, glass painting and a candy floss machine. Families go home with buckets of sweets, but also hearing something of Jesus as the light of the world.

Holiday Club is run for four mornings in the last week of the summer holidays for primary aged children from church and the wider community and normally attracts between 30-50. The theme varies each year, but there are dramas, talks, craft activities and age-appropriate Bible-discussions in dens. A BBQ is organised for the Friday evening, to which the families are invited, where they can experience a bit of the activities their children have been doing, the songs they've been learning and an opportunity to hear the message from the week for themselves.



Poynton Parish Church

Serving the Community:

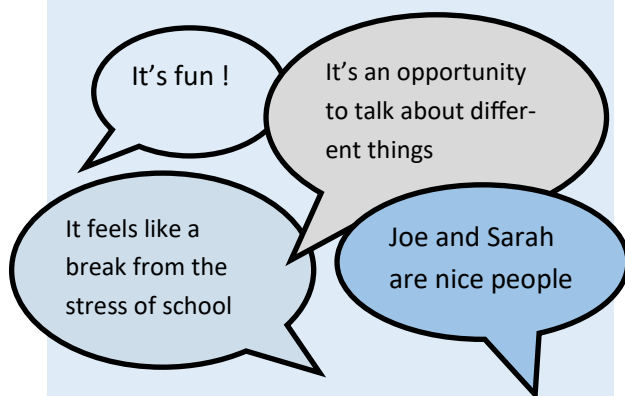
Local Schools ... Two teams comprising volunteers from St. George's and St. Martin's visit local primary schools under the **Open the Book** scheme. They visit and lead assemblies, presenting Bible stories on a fortnightly basis.

The Bible Encounter Trust Easter and Christmas Story Trails have been hosted in St George's church approximately every other year for many years and have been attended by hundreds of children from Poynton's primary schools.



Each week our Youth and School's Worker runs a **lunchtime club** at Poynton High School where they think about who Jesus is from God's word, and to discuss and ask any questions they have on Christianity.

Here's how the children responded when asked *"why do they come to the group?"* ...



Our Youth and School's Worker is also invited on a regular basis into the high school to lead complementary sessions on Christian ethics for Year 9 and sessions for Year 8 students, answering questions about baptism and various other topics on which church denominations differ. Both have been great opportunities to talk with students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to ask questions about Christianity, and to present the good news of Jesus in an engaging way.

Retired Lunches are co-ordinated by 2 dedicated teams of volunteers and take place once a month at St. George's and St. Martin's, for the retired members of our congregation and their friends. These are well attended with roughly 50 and 30 attending St. George's and St. Martin's respectively and enjoying typically soup and a sandwich.

St George's Living Well meets fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon, inviting people living with dementia and their carer to attend. Lots of our own church family are there to serve refreshments and share fellowship.



We start with a sing-along and finish with bingo. We also have gentle exercises, crafts and quizzes.

St. George's Wine Society meets monthly on a Friday evening and attracts around 30-40 people many of whom never or rarely attend church. There is lots of fun and fellowship as we learn about wine and of course do some wine tasting. An annual dinner and BBQ provide alternate styles of wine tasting.



St George's Bereavement Team visit those who have been recently bereaved and live in the Poynton area. The team meet in alternate months to pray and plan the visits. Many families take the team up on their offer of a visit and some attend the Service to Remember in November and the Blue Christmas Service in December.

Poynton Parish Church

Buildings & Staff:

St George's Church was consecrated in 1859. One of the most striking features is the east window depicting the Gospel story of the Nativity, Crucifixion, Resurrection and the Coming of the Holy Spirit. Other notable



windows include the Mother's Union window in the SW corner dating from the 1930's and the Faith, Hope and Charity window in



the Chancel North Wall dating from 1886. Made from Derbyshire alabaster, the reredos above the High Table depicts da Vinci's "The Last Supper".

The church, which is a listed building, comfortably seats 275 and is in a good state of repair. Various improvements have been made over the past 20 years to help create a more welcoming atmosphere and provide flexibility in the use of space; namely installing glass doors to the front of the church, replacing the pews with comfy seating, installing new flooring, lighting and heating systems and an extensive audio visual system with multiple screens and 2 video cameras for live streaming.

The graveyard, maintained by our **Groundsman/Verger** and a few other volunteers, is in effect closed, open only to re-openings, of which there were 6 in 2018. A Wall of Remembrance has recently been made available.

The two storey **Church Hall**, built in 2001, is located across the graveyard from the church and contains the parish office, where the **Parish Office Manager** and **Operations Manager** work. There is a creche and smaller meeting rooms. The large hall, which can be subdivided by a movable screen has an adjacent kitchen. A car park behind the hall provides space for over 20 vehicles, with some additional disabled parking near to the entrance.

St Martin's Church and Hall is located in Higher Poynton near to the canal. The brick built church is based upon a design showing a tent-like building and dedicated in 1965. The north face is mainly glass, providing amazing views over the local countryside and beyond to those preaching God's word. The hall and its kitchen, opened in 1989, connects to the church via a covered passage and provides good space for church and community events. Outside there is good car parking and a large field which provides for recreational activities.

A large 6-bedroom, Edwardian two storey **Vicarage** with a single garage, outbuildings and extensive gardens is located close to the church. Built in 1914, originally as a Doctor's Surgery, it has been well maintained by the Diocese and PCC. The ground floor comprises an eating kitchen with log-burner, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom and WC. There is standing for ~ 3 cars.

The PCC own **two 3-bedroom properties** each about a 10 minute walk from the church. These are intended for church staff to live in. Currently one is occupied by the **Curate** and his wife and the other by the **Youth and Schools Worker/Families Worker** and children.

We have a **Property Committee** that meets monthly that is proactive in ensuring all the church buildings are appropriately maintained.

St George's
Church Hall



St Martin's



Ringin' Room



Poynton Parish Church

About Poynton:

Poynton, with a population of ~ 14,000, known by the locals as “the Village” is in the North East corner of Cheshire, 11 miles southeast of Manchester, 7 miles north of Macclesfield and 5 miles south of Stockport. There are excellent links to the North West motorway network; M60, M62, M6, and Manchester airport is less than 15 minutes away. Hourly trains from Poynton station take you to the heart of Manchester in less than 25 minutes.

The Macclesfield Canal runs north/south along the east of the parish and further east lies the large estate of Lyme Park which is managed by the National Trust. A few minutes walk to the north of the village centre is the 21-hectare Poynton Park with a large Angling pool, ancient trees and wildlife.

From the census of 2011, 98% of Poynton’s residents are white and 1.1% Asian. 75% recorded their religion as Christian and 23% as having no religion.

St George’s church presents a strong physical presence at the centre of the village which operates a shared space scheme giving equal priority to vehicles and pedestrians. Poynton has a vibrant café culture and a rich mix of specialist shops and high street names such as Waitrose, Aldi, Morrisons, Co-op, Boots, Costa and the Card Factory. There is an interesting mix of restaurants and boutique eating and drinking establishments from the small to the large, including Pizza Express and Wetherspoons, attracting locals and people from outside the parish.

Poynton is a sought after village with good schools attractive to young families. There are 5 primary schools and a large high school, with ~ 1,600 students. Adjacent to the high school is a leisure centre including a swimming pool and gym.

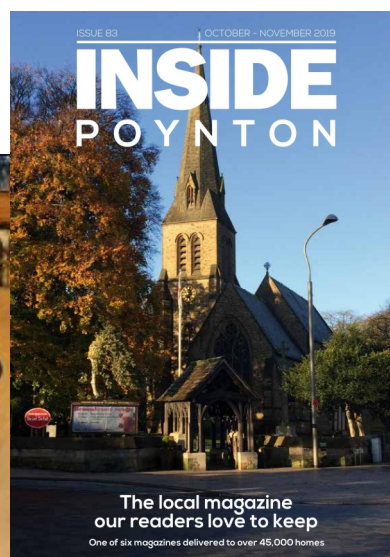
There are 5 nursing homes and 5 sites offering retirement housing in or just outside the parish.

Davenport Golf Club, an 18 hole course offering first class restaurant, bar and catering facilities in the Clubhouse, is in the East of the Parish.

The village boasts several choral societies of mixed abilities including “St. George’s Singers” a busy, energetic and sociable mixed choir, now established as one of the finest choral societies in North West England. Adjacent to Poynton Legion Club is Poynton Theatre home of Poynton Players Amateur Dramatic Society. Poynton Gilbert & Sullivan is one of many other thriving clubs and societies.

With over 800 members Poynton Sports Club is now in its 125th Year. The clubhouse is home to a wide range of activities and hosts Bowls, Cricket, Football, Lacrosse, Table Tennis and Tennis.

The newspaper “Poynton Post” is delivered monthly across the village and a magazine “INSIDE POYNTON”, is delivered every 2 months.



Poynton Parish Church

Finances:

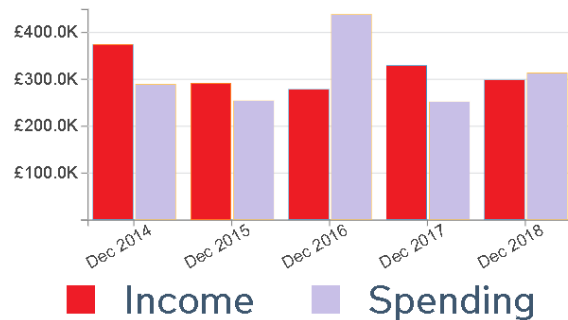
The finances of the Parish are in excellent standing, with a regular operating surplus¹ and total assets of approximately £1.8m of which approx. £0.5m is in cash and investment reserves.

Our Finance team comprised a number of volunteers who work with staff to count and bank cash, undertake administration tasks, authorise payments and run errands.

A “Finance and Standing” committee meets every 2 months.

There is a high level of governance, following Charity Commission advice. Accounts are validated by an external auditor. Full accounts with the annual report can be found on the Charity commission website

1: exceptions being in 2016 & 2018 when deficits arose due to discretionary spending on capital projects



Capital Projects

Generous giving by members of our congregations has enabled us to undertake major projects which have enhanced our ministry. In the last 20 years or so, we have undertaken the building of a new church hall and over 3 phases the internal re-ordering and modernisation of St George's church. At both Churches quality car parking facilities have been created.

Tithing Policy

As a matter of policy and principle, the PCC tithes all of its income by giving to outside charitable causes after prayerful consideration. The recipients are typically either well known national/international Christian charities, our mission partners or else local causes such as community fundraising efforts.

	2016	2017	2018
Income (£)			
Voluntary Income	177,492	225,836	208,615
Gift Aid recovered	33,321	37,347	35,446
Investments and Property	12,663	16,812	8,164
Trading (venue hire, fees etc.)	55,680	49,492	47,519
Total	279,156	329,487	299,744
Operating Expenses (£)			
Parish Share	83,033	85,057	71,885
Missionary and charitable giving	28,019	23,558	26,036
Church work	127,963	143,816	162,921
Total	239,015	252,431	260,842
Operating Surplus	40,141	77,056	38,902
Discretionary Spending (£)			
Purchase of property	200,000		
Capital Improvements to churches and grounds	528	500	54,315
Total	200,528	500	54,315
Net Change to Cash Position	-160,387	76,556	-15,413



St George's internal reordering: modern, bright and welcoming



Poynton Parish Church

Thank you for reading to the end. If you would like further information please contact either Dave or Helen, our church wardens.

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