

An aerial photograph of Christ Church Alsager, a stone church with a prominent square tower. The church is surrounded by a green lawn and a cemetery with numerous gravestones. In the background, there are residential houses and trees. A large, stylized cross is overlaid on the image, created with green brushstrokes.

Welcome to
Christ Church Alsager

Parish Profile

www.christchurchalsager.uk

A brief introduction

Christ Church is a lively part of the Church of England in Alsager, Cheshire - welcoming children, youth and adults of all ages. It is a parish church of over 150 adults and a regular Sunday Congregation of circa 90 adults plus children and youth (plus 40-60 adults and children on a Café/Messy Church Sunday). It is a Bible-based, evangelical church, open to the work of the Holy Spirit, with a strong family emphasis and strong youth and children and families work. Growing the Kingdom is extremely important to us, and recently we have been blessed by seeing new areas of ministry bearing fruit in exciting ways.

As a church, our ethos is underpinned by Romans 12, which we also express as living for Christ with an Up, In and Out focus: Up, as we deepen our love for God and allow ourselves to be transformed by the Spirit; In, as we seek to grow stronger in our relationships with one another; Out, as we share God's love with our community.

We are influenced by movements such as New Wine, Spring Harvest, LICC and Alpha. As a church we have, for many years, felt particularly called in the area of children's and youth work, and to this end we have a full-time Children's and Families Leader and also a full-time Youth Leader. Our part-time Administrator and a part-time Cleaner complete the paid team.

As well as a retired minister, we have four Lay Readers and one in training. Many other leadership roles within the church are held by lay people and we encourage one another to identify our gifts and to use them to serve the church and wider community.

We hope that this profile inspires you. We are excited about the next stage of growth as individuals and as a church within our community and look forward to sharing that journey with our new vicar. We're praying for a person of faith, a pastor, a leader who feels called to join us and excited by the potential to see the growth of God's kingdom here.

To get a better feel for our church, please have a look round our website at www.christchurchalsager.uk



A bit about Christ Church

There's something going on for all ages throughout the week at Christ Church: from Big Breakfast to craft group, bell-ringing to after-school clubs and much more.

Our Sunday worship is centred around two services:

- Our 9am service is reflective in style and typically follows a 'light' Common Worship pattern, with hymns and organ;
- Our 11am service has an informal 'New-Wine' style with songs led by a band and supported by modern media presentation; this service is also linked to our children's work and includes regular all-age celebrations.

To encourage all the church community to come together there is a Coffee and Doughnuts time between the two services where everyone meets to share time with each other.

In recent years we have been blessed by considerable growth in Fresh Expressions:

- We hold twice monthly Coffee & Communion services in the hall, including lifts for the housebound;
- Alongside the 11am service, we also run regular Café Church and Messy Church services in the hall. Aimed at families, these have an average attendance of 40 and 60 respectively.



For the community, we run socials and together with support groups such as parenting groups and a toddler group. As part of showing God's love to the community, each week we run Tea on Tuesday for children and families and also 'Big Breakfast' (which regularly attracts more than 60 people). In addition, we also get involved in town events.

A key facility for the church is our church hall. This is on the same site as the church and it provides excellent facilities for use by church and community; including an office, a kitchen and dedicated rooms equipped for youth and pre-schoolers. It is situated close to the comprehensive school (Alsager School) on Church Road about ½ mile from the town centre.



A bit more about Christ Church

Circa 60% of Christ Church members are part of one of our six 'Growth Groups' (our cell/home groups) and these form a key part of the pastoral support network in the church community.

The church also has a strong evangelistic focus and recently we have been running several Alpha courses each year which has resulted in many people coming to faith for the first time. Over the last few years we have also been greatly blessed by seeing several new areas of ministry beginning to bear fruit in exciting ways:

- Tea on Tuesday is a weekly event in the church hall that focuses on children and families. Alongside games and activities it also provides a free meal for children (such as pizza). Through their experience of Tea on Tuesday, several families have recently stepped further in their own journey of faith, with some coming to faith through a daytime Alpha course;
- Another new initiative is Café Church in the church hall. Envisioned to complement Messy Church and other church services, it is proving to be a popular and effective way of engaging with people who may not otherwise attend.

The church also shows God's love to others in many other ways as well, such as through running Parenting Classes and hosting a Community Lunch for Community Payback people.



We seek to love and welcome everyone regardless of gender, race, mental health, physical ability, economic power or sexuality, and are exploring what this looks like in our Church.

Just as the wider Anglican Church wrestles with some of the issues of human sexuality, Christ Church has not been exempt from this either. The PCC is committed, personally and corporately, to seeking and listening to God, studying the Bible and having conversations within Christ Church and the broader church, to seek to understand better how we love all people across the spectrum of views, including where there are deeply held and opposing theologically based views. We recognise that this exploration will lead to different outcomes for each of us and believe we should show grace, holding what we believe humbly, and treating what others think respectfully. We are looking for a vicar who can lead us in this continual exploration so that we journey well together.

Children and families' ministry

We have lots going on for children and families at Christ Church!

Our children and families' ministry is led by Jen Follett, supported by a dedicated and enthusiastic team of helpers. We run a range of regular groups, including Cherubs, our baby and toddler group, and Tea on Tuesday, an after-school club for families. We also offer groups for parents, which have included parenting courses, the Alpha Course, and Bible studies.

Kids for God is our weekly Sunday group for children and then on regular intervals throughout the year, families are invited to Messy Church and Café Church. Messy Church offers a variety of crafts and games for families to enjoy together, followed by a shared meal. Café Church provides a relaxed, family-focused way of worshipping, with brunch, creative activities, and opportunities for both children and adults to explore faith together.



We have good relationships with four local primary schools in Alsager, where we support through craft clubs, assemblies, and Bible presentations.

Our vision is that children and families experience God's love in all that we are and do; that they come to know Jesus personally, grow deeper in their relationship with Him, and feel equipped and inspired to share His love with others.



Youth ministry

Young people are a key part of Christ Church!

Christ Church values young people, and is always seeking opportunities to share the love of God with both those within our church family, and those within our wider community. Our strategy sees us aiming to help young people at all stages in their faith journeys to move forwards, growing closer to Jesus from whichever point they are starting. We work closely with the local Methodist and AOG churches to run a churches-together youth group which regularly sees 15-20 young people exploring big questions, engaging with discipleship, and increasingly taking ownership of their own faith.



Much of our youth work is community focused, and we also partner with the local secondary school to run a weekly prayer space & discussion group with over 20 young people attending most weeks. In addition, we partner with the school's RE department to deliver sessions on Christian topics to over 800 students every year.

Fun is also important to our youth ministry, and we run a weekly after-school youth café called Chat & Chill at the church hall, and regularly help young people to engage with faith and fellowship through Christian youth camps, exciting trips, youth worship events, and outdoor adventure activities with The Oakhanger Project.

Our young people shared their feedback on what they are looking for in a new vicar. They particularly emphasised that they would like a vicar who is confident in talking to young people, and helping them to explore faith, and feel valued and included in worship. Here are some of the other things they said:



Christ Church is important to us all

We have lots going on for all ages with a good spread across the generations within our church family. But we wanted to know how people felt and what they see as the church's strengths, rather than make assumptions. In a short survey of 77 responses, we've summarised what they said over the next two pages...

About Christ Church, I feel...	
Safe	91%
Valued and appreciated	75%
Loved	75%
Included	74%
Encouraged	74%
Supported	73%
Accepted for who I am	71%
Cared for	64%
Listened to	61%



"Happy"

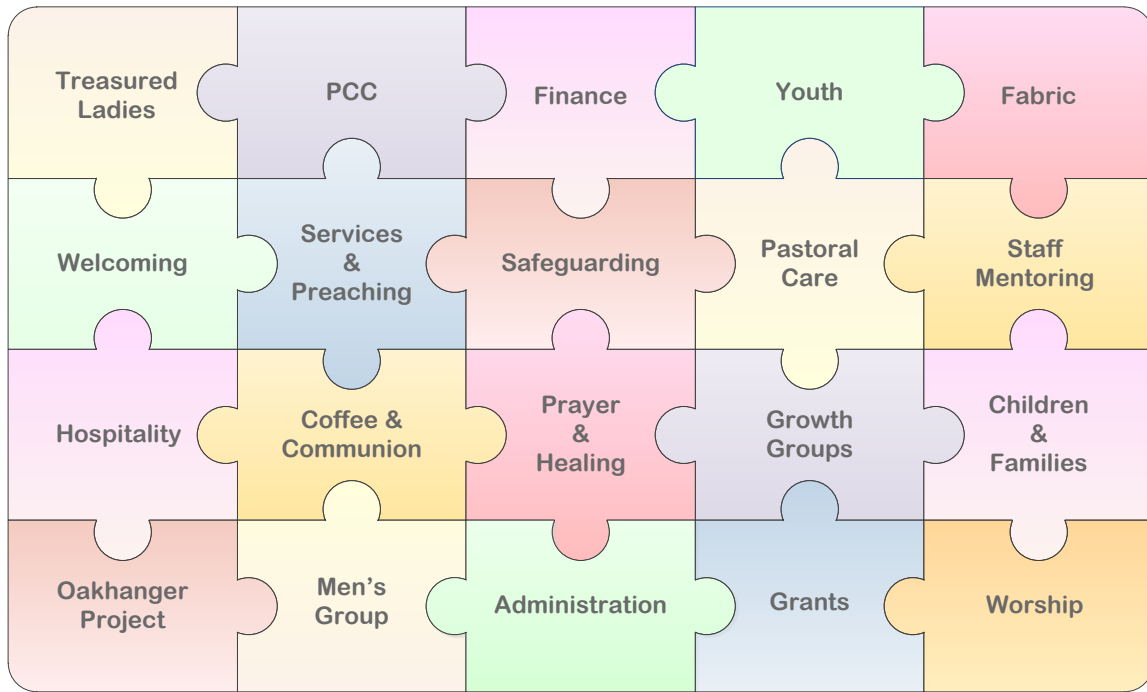
"I belong to a family of Christians seeking to live out their faith in Alsager"

"This is my family and has been for many years"

"Christ Church has always felt like home"

"Christ Church is an amazing church to belong to"

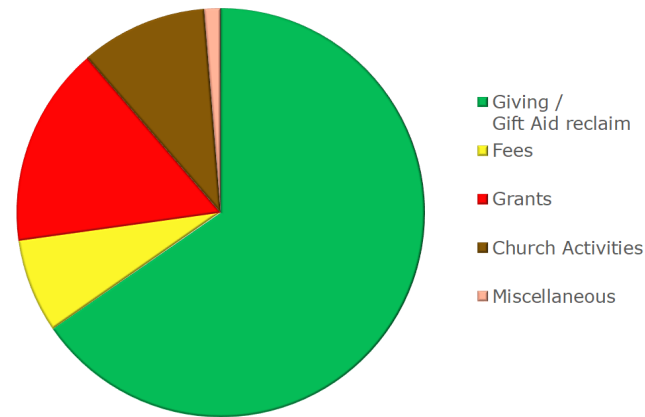
Church giving—time and money



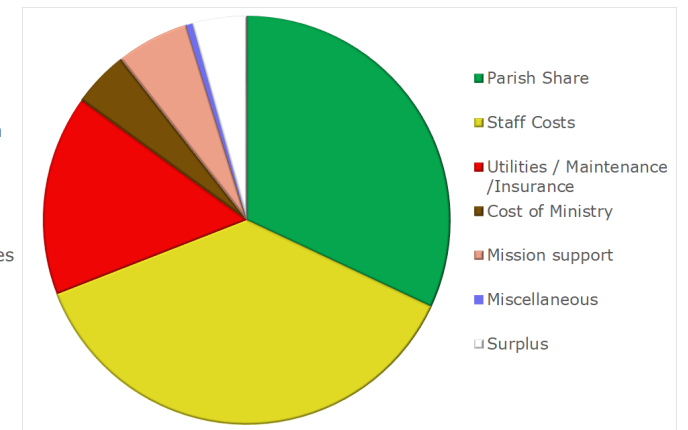
A lot of the church family get involved in the life of the church, whether on a Sunday and / or during the week. During the vacancy, the church wardens nominated one or two people to lead each core activity to ensure that we maintained our service to God and the community.

Like many churches, we are finding that having sufficient money is becoming increasingly challenging. Nonetheless, we continue to hold to what we believe God is calling us to do and hence, in recent years, this has resulted in the PCC approving a yearly budget that is in deficit. God's provision is good though, and, at the end of each year, we have found ourselves blessed with a surplus!

Income 2025



Expenditure 2025



At the end of FY2025, income was circa £242k and expenditure was circa £232k. Of the expenditure, parish share was £77.6k and other staff costs were £90.1k.

Once a term, the Treasurer gives an update to the church family about the state of the church's finances so we can all see where money is spent and whether our fiscal giving is going to maintain all the activities we do.

The Youth Worker and Children and Families Worker give a short update each term to the church family on what they have been doing as much of their work during the week is out of sight of most of the congregation.

We are very fortunate to have the church hall which we rent out to community groups. We were also grateful in 2025 to receive grants from Sainsbury's to replace our ageing dishwasher and to help fund the purchase of food for our weekly 'Big Breakfast' for the community.

10% of the income we receive from congregational giving and church activities is donated to UK and International charities. In 2024, these were: Tearfund; IcFem Mission; UCB; Oakhanger Project; Wycliffe Bible Translators; CSW.

Our vision and hopes for the future



As a church, we believe living out God's vision requires us to 'put our boots on' and walk with Christ, allowing Him to transform us so that we see, think and act as He would.

This means we want to be open to where He may lead us, which we believe, is to be a church:

- That is grounded in the Word of God, prayer, praise and worship
- That is open to change, where the Holy Spirit is able to minister
- Where we don't just pretend to love others but, with genuine affection, we actually love and value whoever comes through the doors
- With a membership that reflects the parish demographic profile of all ages
- That grows "whole-of-life" disciples of both young and old alike, who will confidently share their faith on their frontlines
- Where every member is encouraged to discover, develop and exercise their ministry as part of one body
- Where we work hard, sometimes with other churches, serving the Lord enthusiastically whilst honouring one another's gifts and contributions
- That practices hospitality, for whoever is in need
- That blesses the wider community whilst communicating real hope



We're looking for a new vicar

We are seeking a person of Faith

First and foremost a follower of Jesus, called to Christ Church

- Who is a humble follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, grounded in the Word of God, with an enthusiasm and capability to teach, preach and make His word relevant to daily life
- Who is guided by the Holy Spirit through prayer and reflection
- Who has a daily and real experience of Jesus and who wants this for us, so we each become the person God wants us to be

We are seeking a Pastor

A 'shepherd of God's flock that is under their care, watching over them' (1 Peter 5:2)

- Who recognises and values everyone as a unique child of God, and the church as a family of all ages
- Who identifies with, and cares for, all ages through whatever life brings
- Who leads and equips the congregation to love one another
- Who lives out a commitment to fostering a strong and effective safeguarding culture across the parish where all feel safe, valued, and welcome

We are seeking a Servant-Leader

A servant leader with proven leadership gifts and emotional intelligence who can:

- Lead leaders, who can facilitate, coach, mentor, delegate to employed staff, lay leaders and others alike
- Enable others to explore and live out faith in everyday life,
- Be present and visible, to see what is going on and to listen to what is said by the people the church serves
- Look UP, look IN and look OUT and identify where and how we can be more effective and thus decide what to stop doing, what to start doing and what to do differently



About Alsager

Alsager is a commuter town made popular by easy rail link to Crewe and Stoke railway stations as well as a 5 minute road link to the M6 / A500 junction enabling easy access to the East and West Midlands, as well as Cheshire and the North West of England.

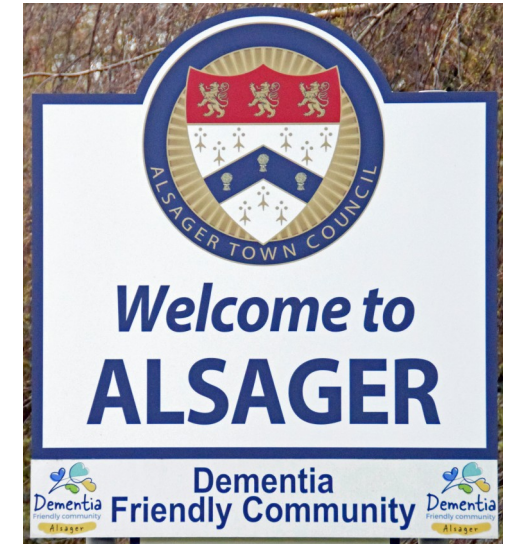
Alsager has a population of approx. 17,000 growing at a rate of circa 2.9% per annum. More than 95% of the population were born in the UK and more than 57% identify as Christian (according to 2021 census). 21% are under 18 and 25% are 65 or older. 78% of households are owner-occupied, compared to the national average of 62.5%. 11% are social housing and 10% are private rented.

It has two main Anglican parishes – Christ Church and St Mary’s – that roughly divide the population in half. Both parishes have pockets of deprivation, relying on the services of the Foodbank and Alsager Community Support Centre, both of which are actively supported by members of Christ Church.

BAe Systems, which manufactures ammunition for the British armed forces, is the only factory remaining in the parish, employing about 200 people. Other employers in Alsager tend to be ‘service based’: shops, pubs, hotels, bakeries, take-aways, garages for example.

The 11-18 mixed high school, rated ‘Good’ by Ofsted in 2023, is next door to the church. It has circa 1525 pupils. Sam, our Youth Worker, teaches RE lessons at the school and has built relationships with many pupils and staff.

There are five primary schools in Alsager, two of which – Pikemere and Cranberry – are within the parish and which Jen, our Children and Families worker, frequently visits.



Some general statistics

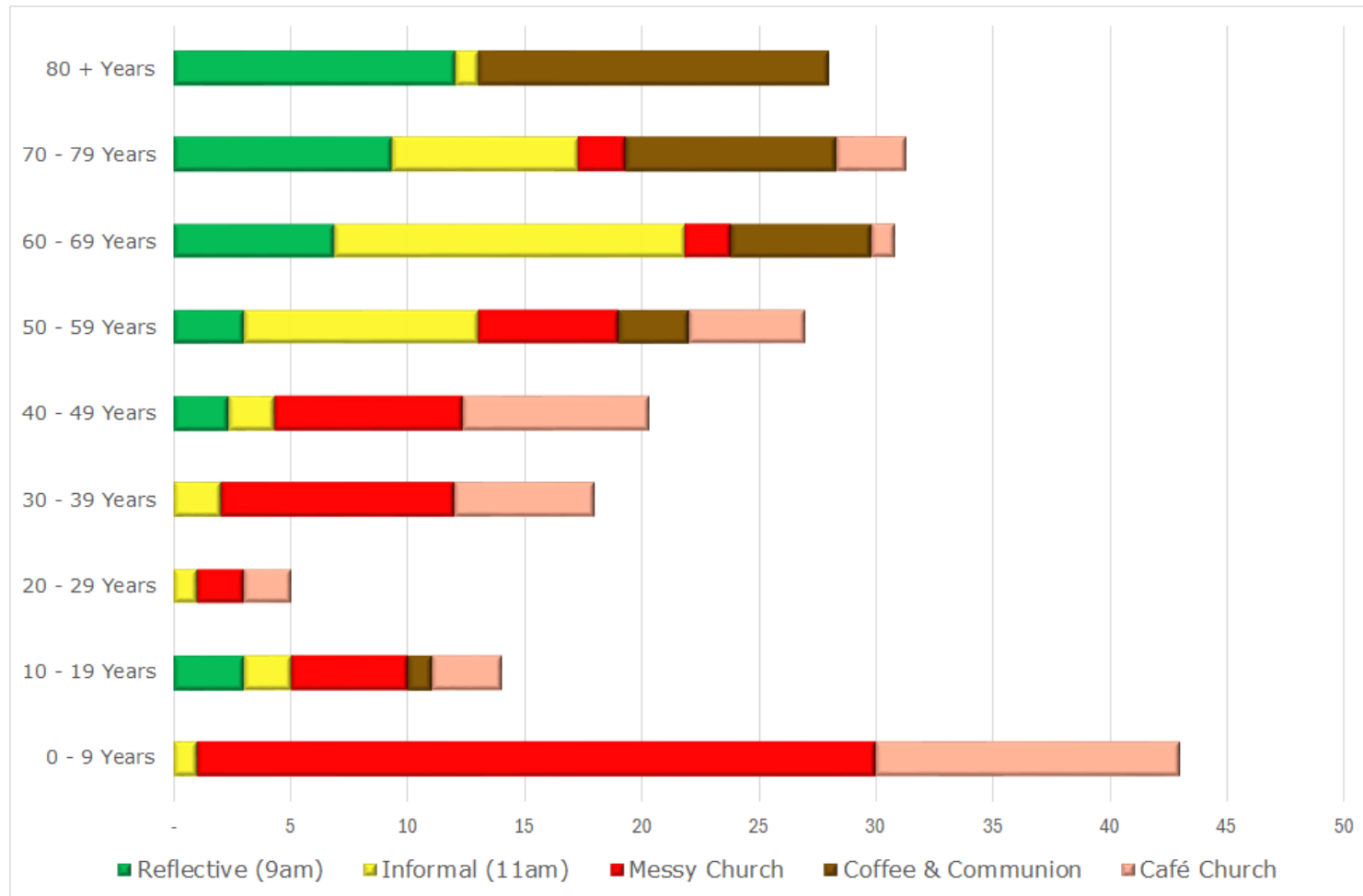
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Baptisms	1
Thanksgivings	0
Weddings	2
Funerals/Committals	17

From 2025 Parish Return.

Baptisms and weddings were lower in 2025 than previously due to our minister being on extended sick-leave.

Average attendance by service and age



From 2026 church statistics.

Compared to Alsager demographics, the church has fewer:

- 10-19 year olds
- 30-50 year olds (especially those with no children)

We are keen to address these gaps.

Please note that some people go to more than one service and hence, within the absolute length of each bar, there may be some double-counting.

Buildings

All our buildings are in good repair and comprise the Church, Church Hall and Vicarage.

The Vicarage is a large four-bed detached house with large gardens to the front and side aspects, a large drive to the side and a double garage to the rear of the house. It is situated just two minutes' walk from the Church and within walking distance of Alsager High School and several of the local primary schools.



The Church and Church Hall are on the same site which enables family services that have some separate children's activities in the hall to be easily accommodated.

The church, which seats 120, was extensively modernised about 17 years ago, to provide a welcoming and flexible environment. Updates have continued to be done since.

The most recent Quinquennial inspection was in 2020 and we have another one currently being scheduled. The last report highlighted one major item requiring immediate attention, namely the potential safety risk associated with the old beech tree in the churchyard. This has been addressed.

It also highlighted a few other less urgent, but still relatively costly, items. Budgets have been laid aside for these and they are currently being progressed. With these items in hand, we believe we are in a good place for next Quinquennial.

The Church Hall comprises the Church office, hall, lounge, a crèche room, youth room and additional meeting room plus a large fully equipped kitchen.