



Holy Trinity Meole Brace Shrewsbury



Growing faith,
proclaiming hope,
and living the love of Jesus

Parish Profile

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1. Invitation and welcome

An invitation from the Bishop of Lichfield



Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

St Chad, Lichfield's first Bishop, journeyed around Mercia with heavenly hope and the good news of Christ's resurrection. He believed that there was 'a new opening for the gospel' in Mercia. Many people became followers of Jesus.

Accounts of the apostles' journeys, as they travelled in the power of the Spirit, with little other than the stories of Christ's life, crucifixion and resurrection, were Chad's only companions. His plan to walk Mercia was as daring in its simplicity and boldness as God trusting the gospel first to the shepherds and then to just twelve apostles.

Chad set out believing that he would bear fruit, and that the kingdom of God

would grow. Bede describes Chad as 'humble, devout, zealous and apostolic'.

Today, in our much more complex world, I recognise a similar opening for the Gospel in these parts, and I invite you to join with me in seizing this opportunity to follow Christ in the humble, devout, zealous and apostolic footsteps of St Chad.

Over the centuries, we have become immersed in Chad's legacy - as we are immersed in Christ at baptism. Chad's church of ordinary Mercian people became a growing community of Christian faith through the example of Chad's pilgrim life and ministry pointing to Jesus. This must have encouraged him in his arduous and sacrificial journey for the sake of the gospel. To truly follow Christ in Chad's footsteps today, we must be committed to this life and ministry.

This is zealous.

Chad's legacy of a vibrant community of faith leads us today to charge our clergy with nurturing, outside weekly worship, confident knowledge of the faith handed down to us. Such faith is characterised by a readiness in each member of our worshipping communities to speak about what Jesus Christ means in their lives and how they are being shaped by him.

Doing this, we will recognise and rejoice in the gifts of all those, lay and ordained, who contribute to the life and ministry of our churches.

This is apostolic.

Our clergy should take responsibility for their own flourishing and effectiveness, supported by the wellbeing and learning programmes in development and through prioritising participation in peer support and review. Chad would have been spurred on seeing God's unfolding plan in Mercia, just as the flourishing of the gifts of all God's people can contribute to our clergy's human flourishing and effectiveness as ministers.

This is humble.

Together, as the Body of Christ in this place, reflecting Chad's legacy in giving priority to purposeful evangelism, creative engagement with local communities, and to becoming more diverse and growing younger, our trajectory is given full expression in our diocesan strategy, 'Seeking the Kingdom'. It is a manifesto for what I invite us by God's grace to achieve as a diocese.

If we are truly to follow in Chad's footsteps together, we will go forward with his devotion to prayer. So doing, we will go believing that God will be faithful and will build his kingdom. **This is devout.**

Our journey together begins with our vision prayer:

As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find you, O God already at work in your world.

We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities.

We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope.

+Michael

Welcome from the Bishop of Shrewsbury and the Archdeacon of Salop



We're delighted that you're looking at this post, as Vicar of Meole Brace. We pray that God will give you a clear sense of whether he

might be calling you to serve in this role. Should you join us here, we look forward to working with you in God's service!



In Lichfield diocese, much of our shared life, leadership and mutual support is lived out through episcopal areas, so we would expect to get to know you and to encourage you in your ministry and mission here. We have much to do in God's service, and a wonderful area in which to serve him together.

The Shrewsbury Episcopal Area (which covers the same area as the Archdeaconry of Salop) covers a large area and many communities across North Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Reaching from the Cheshire border in the north to the edges of the Shropshire Hills (and the Diocese of Hereford) in the south, and from the outskirts of Wolverhampton in the east to across the Welsh border in the west, it includes

churches of all sizes, traditions and history. Mostly rural, we also serve the ancient town of Shrewsbury, fast-growing Telford, and a number of substantial market towns, Seeking the Kingdom of the one God whose love is constant in all places.

The profile produced by the parish is a substantial document for a substantial calling and role, leading a strong ministry team who together lead rich and varied mission and ministry in church and wider communities. This doesn't mean there's any complacency, and you'll see from the profile that there's a desire for a Vicar who will lead the church in seeking God's vision for its next chapter. This role offers to the right minister an opportunity to build well upon strength, with a church characterized by generous evangelicalism, locally rooted and with wide connections.

We hope this profile gives you enough insight into Meole Brace and the role of Vicar there to discern with God whether he might be calling you to serve here.

If you'd like to know more before applying, please contact Archdeacon Nick on 07506 748 702 or at archdeacon.salop@lichfield.anglican.org

+Sarah and Archdeacon Nick

2. Introduction



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the position of Vicar of Holy Trinity, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury.



We've put together this document to tell you about our parish and the churches that serve it – Holy Trinity Meole Brace and the Church of Christ the King. Together we are **Trinity Churches**, Shrewsbury.

We are a large, open evangelical parish church with several congregations, all different in style, but united in our love for Jesus.

Meole Brace is both a self-contained village and a suburb of Shrewsbury. Our

parish has several distinct areas, all very different in character.

In the same way, we are both a traditional parish church, very much part of the life of the village, and a place where Christians from a wider area come to worship, serve, and belong.



This parish profile has been prepared with input from every part of the church. Our desire is to share something of ourselves with you – who we are, the things we do, the things we care about, what unites us, and the opportunities and challenges we face. We want to open our hearts and present the church as it is, not as an idealised version of itself.

In the same way, we've worked together to describe the sort of person we would like to welcome as our new Vicar.

We realise that no one person is likely to possess in full all the attributes listed in the person specification! (If you think you do, you're probably not the person for us!)

So, we've tried to describe honestly what we long for at Meole Brace ...

... a Vicar with whom we can build a great relationship and a genuine partnership in the gospel, based on love, friendship, and forbearance, a common faith and shared values.



3. Where we are

Shropshire



Shropshire, nestling along the border with mid-Wales, is a great place in which to live! Mainly rural in character, large¹, and lightly populated, its countryside is rich, varied and unspoilt.

The Shropshire Hills, including the Long Mynd, Stiperstones, and Caer Caradoc, are great for walkers and lovers of nature, as are the meres and mosses in the north.

The River Severn, rising from its source in the Cambrian Mountains, flows through Shrewsbury and the Ironbridge Gorge - birthplace of the industrial revolution - and on through Bridgnorth.

Historic market towns, such as Ludlow and Church Stretton are full of character and interest.



Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury has a population of just over 70,000 and is an attractive, self-contained town at the heart of the county. Its compact, historic town centre is encircled within a loop of the Severn.

In 2024, Shrewsbury won the prestigious "Great Town Award" in a national competition². With its range of independent shops, Shrewsbury's High



Street was number one in a list of Britain's top twenty High Streets³, whilst its thriving indoor market was named "Britain's Favourite Market" in 2023, 2024 and 2025⁴.



¹ Shropshire is the largest landlocked county in England and one of the most sparsely populated.

² Academy of Urbanism, 2024

³ Daily Telegraph, Britain's 20 Best High Streets, 2024

⁴ Great British Market Awards, National Association of British Market Authorities

The Quarry Park brings green space into the heart of the town and is the venue for an annual food festival and open-air music events. There is a riverside theatre and a popular independent cinema.



Above all, Shrewsbury is a friendly place, and small enough for there to be a good chance of meeting someone you know whenever you go into town!



⁵ 2021 census

⁶ [https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/cost-of-living/2023/07/16/shropshire-rates-of-child-poverty-](https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/cost-of-living/2023/07/16/shropshire-rates-of-child-poverty-revealed-as-campaigners-call-to-scrap-the-two-child-cap-on-benefits/)



Outside the “river loop” are the main residential and employment areas, with traditional light industry to the north, business parks to the south and east and the hospital to the west.

Four out of five people work in the service industry⁵. Most work locally, though some commute to other towns. There are large retail parks to the north and south, and several smaller local shopping areas. Shrewsbury has eight secondary schools (6 state and 2 private) with overall results above the average for England.

There are an estimated ten verified rough sleepers in Shrewsbury, with about 50 others in temporary accommodation or sofa-surfing, supported daily by the Shrewsbury Ark (Shrewsbury Christian Centre Association). It's reported⁶ that

revealed-as-campaigners-call-to-scrap-the-two-child-cap-on-benefits/

29% of children in Shrewsbury and Atcham live in poverty. There are two food banks.

Street Pastors have a strong presence in the town, helping people who have become vulnerable in the evening. Church members are involved in all these groups.



Shrewsbury is well connected by road and rail, with good links to Birmingham (50 miles), Chester, Liverpool and Manchester, the Cambrian Coast and North Wales.

London is just over two and a half hours by train, and the Lake District is three hours by car.

The Parish of Meole Brace

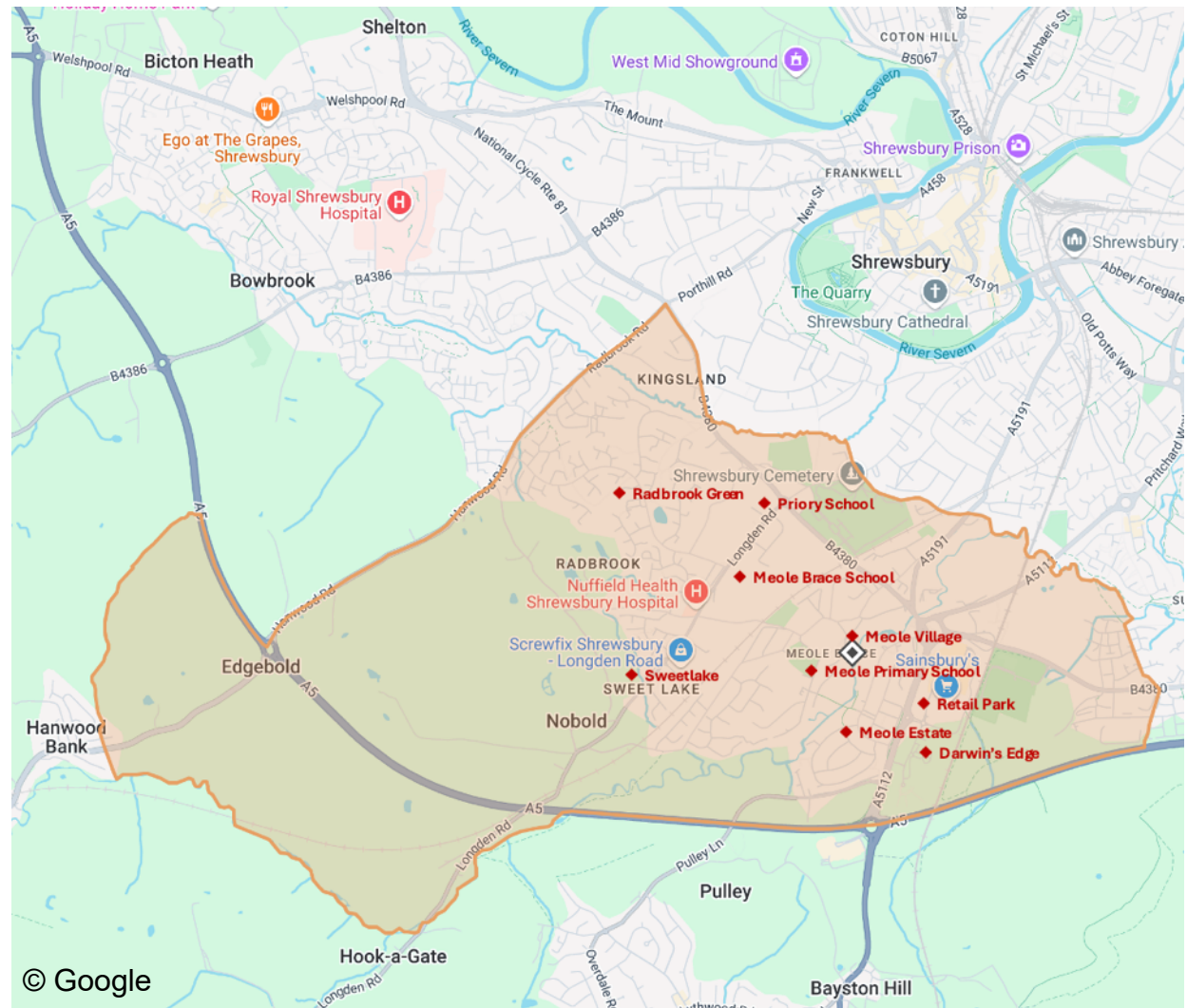
Located to the south-west of Shrewsbury, Meole Brace appears as *Mela* in the Domesday Book of 1086, and *Melesbracy* in 1274.

Although Meole has been joined to the wider built-up area since Victorian times, it can still feel and function like a real village, distinct from the rest of the town.



Our parish covers Meole Brace and the adjacent area of Radbrook Green and has a population of about 9,000.

There are several distinct areas and facilities within the parish:



Meole Village



Centred on the church and the historic village centre, and bounded by the railway and the Rea Brook, the village comprises Victorian, pre-war and post-war housing, as well as shops and a care home.

The Vicarage is in Church Road, and we also have a house in Dargate Close⁷.

There is an excellent **C of E primary school** with which the church has strong links, including representation on the governing body.

⁷ Owned by the Diocese and lived in by our curate

From the Headteacher ...

Our relationship with Holy Trinity Church is truly special, highlighted by the depiction of the Church building in the school logo, symbolising its place at the very heart of the school.

As well as visiting the church regularly for special services at Harvest, Easter and Christmas, the children experience faith in action as members of the church community come into school each week to pray and lead whole-school Worship through "Open the Book".

School leaders and church leaders work in partnership to shape our Christian distinctiveness and support children in fulfilling their potential, in keeping with our school vision of "Let your light shine," (Matthew 5:16).

This shared vision and collaboration enabled the school to achieve an "Excellent" grading in our most recent SIAMS inspection - a testament to the strong bond between church and school. **We look forward to this relationship going from strength to strength, for the benefit of all our children and families.**

Henry Bray (Headteacher, Meole Brace CE Primary School and Nursery)



Meole Estate

This area, to the east of the Rea Brook, is a mixture of housing association and some privately owned houses. It is not directly connected by road to other parts of the village, only by footbridges, and has a sense of a separate community.



The church has a presence here at the "Meet Place", including 'Warm Spaces' and an after-school club. We own a house (presently rented out) within the estate.

Radbrook Green

Radbrook Green is a large development of modern housing, in a leafy green setting with a network of footpaths, lakes, and a nature reserve. It has a local centre, with supermarket, shops, surgery and other facilities.



There is a **primary school** where we are involved in the governing body, and an attractive community centre where the Church of Christ the King (CTK) is based.

We also have a house on Perivale Close in Radbrook, owned by the Diocese and lived in by our Pioneer Ministers.

Newer developments

Sweetlake is a new housing development off Longden Road, popular with families and first-time buyers. Though close to the church, there had been relatively little engagement with the community. It's an important area for pioneering outreach.

Members from CTK and young adults from Holy Trinity have led monthly events including carol singing, pancake giveaways and afternoon teas - we are starting to build bridges with residents.

Newly developed areas at **Otley Road** and **Darwin's Edge** represent similar opportunities for outreach.

Meole Brace School and Priory School

These two excellent **secondary schools** are located on either side of the Longden Road. We are represented on the governing body for Meole Brace School.

Meole Brace Retail Park

This popular retail park includes a Sainsburys and other large retail units, together with a McDonalds, a Pizza Hut and, nearby, a Park and Ride site.

Shrewsbury Town FC

STFC moved in 2007 to its purpose-built stadium, now known as the Croud Meadow, in the eastern part of the parish.



4. Our vision, vocation, and values

Our vision:

Growing faith, proclaiming hope, and living the love of Jesus

This vision is not just for us but also for our community and the wider world. It needs to be lived out in our everyday lives and shared with everyone.

Our vocation:

More like Jesus

In all that we do we want to be more like Jesus. This is our vocation, our calling, and our direction of travel.

Our values:



All ages

Jesus gathered people of all ages of life and stages of faith to follow him. In our work – with young and old alike – **we want to do the same**, living out the great adventure of everyone being part of God's amazing family



Authentic

Jesus promised fullness of life in the midst of a broken world. In our ministry – including small groups, prayer and work across local communities – **we want to do the same**, acknowledging our own brokenness and modelling integrity, humility and compassion in all that we do



Generous

Jesus spoke of giving our all to the one who gave his all for us. In our life together – as we serve, resource God's work, and bless the community – **we want to do the same**, giving the best of our time, talents and gifts to build up the church and to love the world



Pioneering

Jesus called the church to proclaim the gospel afresh in every generation. In each part of our parish, across the Shrewsbury area, and over the world – **we want to do the same**, growing a church where creativity, courage and being a resource to others are lived out



Hospitable

Jesus did some of his best things over a meal table. In our community – including our Sunday gatherings, community events, and through the Trinity Centre – **we want to do the same**, offering a welcome to all, places to connect with others, and an open door to the love of God

For us, these values are not mere words. They have key roles in the life of a community that wants to be more like Jesus. They are a **springboard** for action and new initiatives, a **filter** to help us identify the most important things to focus on, a **conscience** to help us avoid doing the wrong things, a **glue** that binds us together in service, and an **anchor** that keeps us rooted in the life of Jesus, which is itself a distinctive value.

5. Who we are



Churches and congregations

Trinity Churches comprises several congregations, each with a characteristic style of worship. Although most people would probably consider themselves part of one particular congregation, there is overlap and movement between them and a strong sense that we are one united church. Our worshipping community numbers about 600 people across all congregations.

Morning services at Holy Trinity and Christ the King usually follow a common theme, often with the same sermon delivered at all three services. These usually follow a planned sequence – either working systematically through a book of the Bible or exploring a theme. Recent series have included “The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament”, a New Testament series on “one another-ing”, and a summer series in Psalms. Sermon topics are sometimes followed in small group meetings.

Holy Trinity, Meole Brace

9 a.m. service



Our 9 a.m. service of Holy Communion (Common Worship) has a structured, traditional feel with familiar hymns and songs and music from both organ and a dedicated worship group. Members are drawn to its quieter, contemplative

atmosphere, liturgical setting, and sense of continuity, describing it as friendly and welcoming. Bible-based preaching is important and follows the same themes as the 11 a.m. service.

"At times of difficulty, we couldn't wish for a more supportive church."

Coffee and conversation after the service is valued, helping to foster strong relationships among a largely older congregation. Members know one another well and notice when someone is missing or in need.

"This congregation is where I have found my home." ... "I have many friends here ..."



Typical attendance is about 60 adults, with some indications of growth in recent months.

11 a.m. family worship

This service is popular with families, and is more informal and contemporary in style, with music led by a worship group.



It is less liturgical in format, but always includes confession, scripture reading, and intercessory prayer. Bible-based preaching is important and follows the same themes as the 9 a.m. service. There is a monthly service of Holy Communion.

"For me, the 11 am service is where I can worship God, meet my friends, and hear good Bible-based teaching"

Members of the congregation, including young people, are involved with readings and prayers, welcoming, stewarding and audio-visual. Leaders, preachers, and musicians are drawn from a pool of capable people.

People describe services as relaxed, accessible and vibrant, with lively music, clear Bible teaching, and many ways to get involved.

"Clear Bible-based teaching, applied to everyday life"



There is a full programme of activities for children and young people, including Pathfinders for 11-14's and 'Anon' for ages 14-18. These meet three times a month, which is a major draw for families. There is also a monthly all-age service.

Typical attendance is over 100, including 15 to 20 children and young people.



Over the long term, this service has seen a slight decline in numbers with some people attending less regularly.



Online congregation

A morning service is livestreamed each Sunday on Facebook. This is usually the 11 a.m. service, with the 9 a.m. service being streamed once a month. We have a team of online welcomers and an online congregation of 8-10 regulars.

6.30 p.m. service

Our 6:30 service is held in the Trinity Centre (see Section 8) and is more informal and reflective in style.

"It's a little oasis on a Sunday night to re-charge ... to come and receive"

Members appreciate the sense of Spirit-filled worship, the open atmosphere and the opportunity to reflect, recharge and respond.

It attracts a mix of people, mainly adults of all ages, who feel welcomed and value the participatory approach.



Members find the worship to be deep, personal, and refreshing, with strong Bible teaching.

It's a safe space where people feel able to share and experience the Holy Spirit in a natural, unforced way.

Attendance is stable, with an adult congregation of about 30 in recent months.

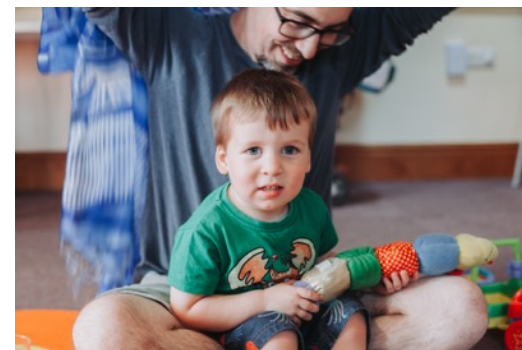
"People have the opportunity to get involved and offer testimony - it's a safe space"

Trinity Youth meet in the Trinity Centre at the same time.

Little Buds (Toddler Church)



Our monthly "Little Buds" service focuses on the pre-school age group. It meets monthly in term time with about 30 attending. Most are from families who are not yet part of our other Sunday congregations, though some have a connection through baptism. A typical session explores a Bible story through craft, play, song and story, and always finishes with a shared lunch.



"I feel part of a big family at church"

Messy Church

Our monthly Messy Church meets after school once a month in the Trinity Centre with about 50 attending and a really capable team of helpers. Like Little Buds, Messy Church lives out our values of generosity and hospitality – every session ends with a meal!



We also run a monthly Messy Church at Belle Vue Church (see below), as well as "A little bit Messy" on the Meole Estate. These are great opportunities for people of all ages to explore faith together.

We have also offered extra "Seriously Messy" sessions, offering families the opportunity to explore issues of life, death, and faith together.

Mid-week communion



A service of Holy Communion is held once a month at Holy Trinity. This gentle service is friendly and welcoming - a precious oasis in the middle of the week for those who attend.

Christ the King, Radbrook

10:30 service

CTK, as it is known, is a small, friendly congregation based in the Radbrook Community Centre and serving the local community. About 25 – 35 people attend, many of whom are older, some with physical limitations.

"We are part of Trinity Churches, but value the small but very warm fellowship of CTK"

CTK's location, accessibility, and welcoming atmosphere help to make it a

spiritual home where people feel accepted and supported.

Worship is informal with a strong sense of family and mutual care.



"We look out for each other. There are no questions that can't be asked"

Bible-based teaching, aligned with the other Sunday morning congregations, is valued and there are several home groups and prayer gatherings. The congregation is keen to explore different ways to reach out into the local community, as well as deepening their own fellowship.

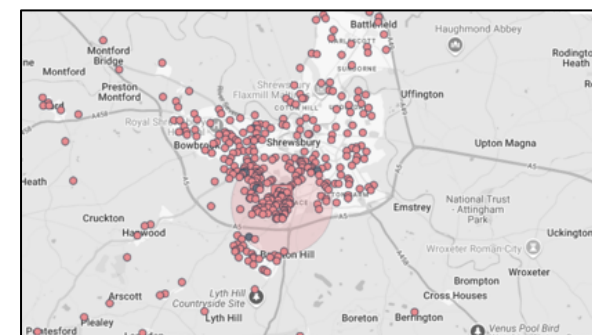
Age profile

Age group	% of HTMB's worshipping community	Shropshire 2021 census
Children (0–10)	13%	11%
Young people (11–17)	3%	8%
Young adults (18–34)	7%	18%
Adults (35–69)	63%	40%
Older adults (70+)	14%	23%

Young people and young adults are a big part of our church family but are still under-represented compared with the wider population.

Where we come from

Our congregations are drawn from the parish and from other parts of Shrewsbury and surrounding area. About 70% live within 3 miles of the church, and about 11% live more than 10 miles away.



© Church Suite / Google

Holy Trinity, Belle Vue

Since summer 2020, we have enjoyed a special relationship with our neighbouring parish: Holy Trinity Belle Vue.



During the Covid pandemic, the Bishop of Shrewsbury asked us to support the congregation at Belle Vue. They were without leadership, their worshipping community had declined dramatically, and their income had fallen.

It has been a privilege to be able to help.

Support from Trinity Churches involves a significant commitment from the Vicar and Associate Vicar, who act as "supporting ministers", taking it in turns to chair the PCC. Together with our Curate

and others from Trinity Churches, they cover all preaching and leading of services. The congregation is a stable 25.

Our involvement also includes support for a popular and growing Messy Church (25+ children), support for Pre-school (rated "Outstanding" by OFSTED), a toddler group, a monthly communion, visits to residential care homes and a small number of occasional offices.

We also provide governance and administrative support to Belle Vue from our Church Office. Our Operations Manager acts as Honorary Treasurer. There have been maintenance issues with their large church building.

By 2023, at the invitation of the Bishop, both churches began to explore the possibility of formalising the link between the two churches, perhaps by combining the benefices.

With Holy Trinity Meole Brace entering an interregnum in early 2025, we agreed to put this discernment process on hold until a new incumbent is installed.

Our new Vicar will need to re-engage with this process of discernment during their first year in post, as well as continuing, with others, to support our neighbours at Belle Vue.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a big priority for us, and we take it very seriously.

At the heart of this is the fundamental expectation that every child, young person, and adult has the right to be safe when engaging with God's church.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, integral to all we do.

We have two **safeguarding officers** who work alongside the Vicar and other ministry leaders with the full support of the PCC and churchwardens.

We provide safeguarding training for all our leaders and their teams.

Our **Safeguarding Policy** is reviewed regularly with the PCC and safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting.

The Policy can be viewed on our website: <https://trinitychurches.org/safeguarding-and-dbs/>

6. What we do

Our activities

Like every church, we have a programme of activities in addition to our Sunday services. A huge number of people, mainly volunteers, are involved in delivering these – some very visibly, others almost unseen.

We pray that the things we do will be a true reflection of our **vision** to grow faith, proclaim hope and live the love of Jesus in the church and wider community ... and our shared **values** to reach all ages and be authentic, generous, pioneering, and hospitable.



Check out our website⁸ <https://trinitychurches.org> to see what's going on at the moment.

Here's a flavour of what we do:

Children, families and youth

On Sunday mornings, **Trinity Kids** has over 30 children from birth to age 10. A recent innovation has been Welly Sunday where our children meet outside, in the churchyard or Glebe Field.



For young people, **Pathfinders** and **Anon** meet fortnightly on Sunday mornings for their own interactive Bible study and prayer.

*"People are interested in us"
(Sunday night youth)*



On Sunday evenings, a group of **older teenagers** meet during the evening service for cake and to study the Bible together. They also enjoy trips and other activities together.

"As a newcomer, I was welcomed into the group"

This group has seen some growth in recent years, both numerically and in terms of deepening faith and friendship. Several are starting university this year – we shall miss them! We currently have a vacancy for a dedicated youth minister.

⁸ The website is currently under reconstruction



Weekly **Trinity Tots** groups meet in the Trinity Centre and in Radbrook Green (see Section 6). Grandparents are welcomed, as well as parents and children. We invite people from these groups to explore faith further in the **Little Buds** toddler church and **Messy Church**.

"When they say they are praying for you, I'm pretty sure they are praying for you" (Trinity Tots parent)

Local schools

We have very close links with local schools, especially Meole Brace C. of E. Primary school where church members serve as **governors** and **chaplain**, supported by weekly **prayer** for the school.

We are involved in **Open the Book**, school **assemblies**, **prayer space events**, a **drop-in session** for parents and regular **school services** in the church.

We've been part of CPAS **weekend adventures** for outdoor fun and learning about Jesus, together with Hereford Diocese.

"My son loves it when the school comes into church"

We visit Radbrook Primary school every week. There is the **Shine** group for children at the top end of primary school, a week-night **Life Group** for secondary school students and an after-school club, **Meole Brace Kids** (MBK) on the Meole Estate. We support Shrewsbury **Youth for Christ**, including providing governors.

Community-facing ministry

The Trinity Centre is a key part of our presence in the community. It is used extensively during the week for church-led activities and external groups. About 60 guests come to **Trinity Table** every month for a companionable meal. Church members prepare food and give a "thought for the day".

Holiday at Home is a popular 3-day event each August for older friends.

Our Annual "**Apple Day**" is a huge draw – the church, Trinity Centre and church grounds are packed with local people.



In the Meole Estate, **Warm Spaces**, has become a weekly expression of church at the Meet Place for those who belong, with a shared meal and monthly Communion.

There is also an **after-school club** and a **Food Share** scheme.

In Sweetlake, a range of **community events**, involving mulled wine, cake, hot chocolate, pancakes and Easter eggs, fuels our pioneering outreach.

In Radbrook, monthly **afternoon teas** in the Community Centre are increasingly popular.

We regularly visit and lead services at **residential homes** in the parish, ministering to about 200 people a month through hymns, Bible reading and communion.

Prayer and Bible study

Prayer is essential to the life of the church. In recent years we've sought to deepen our prayer life, through the **Prayer Course**, **24/7 prayer**, **Compline on Zoom**, and more regular opportunities to pray together for specific places or issues.

Prayer has been a particular focus of church life during the interregnum, with a **half night of prayer** being attended by about one third of the church for at least part of the evening – an initiative we now plan to repeat each term.

"I'm grateful that our church is a praying church"

There is a weekly **Men's prayer** group and a **school prayer** group. Prayer also takes place in our small groups. All are seen as **safe spaces** where friends can pray for each other, the church, and the world.



There are about **16 small groups**, meeting in various locations and different times for prayer, **Bible study** and friendship. In a fairly large church, they play a very important part in the lives of many members.

Over 100 people are associated with a small group. The groups all do things slightly differently, reflecting the different ages and interests of their members. We are working to co-ordinate these groups and equip and train leaders.

"Home group has been hugely significant to my spiritual development"

In many services, our selected and **trained prayer team** offer prayer ministry to those who ask for prayer, whilst members of the congregation will often pray informally for one another.

Urgent prayer needs are shared (with permission) via an email **prayer chain**.

Pastoral care

Many within the church are involved in providing **pastoral care and support** to others, both formally and informally. Small groups are especially important for this, in addition to the work of the clergy team

which includes pastoral visiting, funeral ministry and bereavement support.

Most of the time this works, but not always. We realise that we all need to be better equipped to care for one another, with better co-ordination to make sure that nobody's needs go un-noticed. A working group has recently been set up to look at the delivery of pastoral care.

Mission and partnerships

Trinity has a long-standing commitment to mission, both locally and globally. At least once a year we offer the **Alpha Course** and we have recently begun offering the **Start Course** in the daytime, with a crèche for small children.

Members of our congregations are very involved with organisations such as Youth for Christ, the Food Hub, and Shrewsbury Ark (supporting homeless people).

Our Mission Relief and Development Committee (MRDC) helps to support partnerships with mission agencies, local projects such as Street Pastors, support for work in Afghanistan, and individual mission partners working overseas in North Africa and Thailand.

Courses and events

We use both the Trinity Centre and the church for termly courses and frequent special events, including a study course in Romans, the **Bible Course** and the **Prayer Course**. A recent joint meeting of Deanery Synod and Christians Together in Shrewsbury focused on the Christian's response to the **climate crisis**.

Eco-church

We are responding to the environmental crisis through our prayers and teaching, by encouraging one another to live more sustainably, and in how we manage our buildings and care for our land.



For example, we are investigating provision of a ground source heating scheme using the Glebe Field. We have a bronze eco-church award and are working towards silver and gold.

Church life and occasional offices

In 2024, there were 14 baptisms, including baptism by immersion, 5 weddings and 19 funerals.



We have active bell ringing, flower arranging and banner making teams whose artistry greatly enhances our worship.



Our services at Easter and Christmas are great opportunities to connect with the local community.

Over 450 people celebrated here at Easter 2024, and over 700 at Christmas. About 2,000 attended special services for schools in Advent.

7. What sort of church are we?

We are ...

A parish church and a town church

The focus of our church life and mission is on our large and varied parish, in all its variety. Many people in our congregations live in the parish. But there are many others who come from different parts of Shrewsbury or the wider area because they like the teaching, styles of worship, or community life that they find at Trinity Churches. All are welcome.

... not uniform ...

It's plain to see that we are a church of different congregations, worshipping at different times, in different places, and in different ways.

As people, naturally, we're different too – different ages, different backgrounds, and from different families. And as Christians, we're also a varied bunch. Some have always been Anglicans, from varying traditions within the Church; others found their faith in other churches and only later joined Holy Trinity. In this sense, we are a diverse church.

... but united ...

And yet, there is a very strong sense of unity in the church, even between people who hold different views on some issues.

Most people, despite belonging to different congregations, would strongly identify as being members of Holy Trinity. This unity is due, in no small part, to the commitment of the Vicar and other leaders to all of the congregations (occasionally preaching the same sermon in three places on a Sunday morning), and the fact that most other church activities are common to all congregations.

Even more than this, what unites us is a common desire to be shaped by the word of God, led by the Spirit and rooted in the love of Jesus.

... in 'moderate diversity' ...

But what sort of church are we? Labels aren't always helpful, because they mean different things to different people at different times. We could perhaps be described as a "broad church". But, if we must have a label, "**Open Evangelical**" probably describes us best.

If asked, a good number of people would probably describe themselves as simply "Evangelical" or "Traditional". Others might consider themselves "Charismatic Evangelical, whilst others wouldn't know or care. In truth, the church is probably all these things and more!

All are welcome – we can learn from one another.

At its best, Holy Trinity feels like a church where this sort of moderate diversity (of theology, churchmanship and more besides) is not just managed or tolerated but can be an actual source of blessing because it makes us focus on the fruits of the Spirit and the things that unite us in Christ.

This unity is something that people at Holy Trinity really value, and do not want to lose.

... where differences of opinion don't prevent fellowship.

As a church, we don't always all see things the same way. Rather, we seek to be an authentic, generous, and

welcoming community where differences of opinion don't prevent our fellowship, and where everybody is welcomed, valued and loved.

The 'Living in Love and Faith Course' was delivered a few years ago, with a sermon series in the 6:30 service on issues of identity and sexuality. This enabled people to gain understanding of different views.

The previous incumbent did not offer **Prayers of Love and Faith**, and the issue

has not been at the forefront of our church life.

Within the Ministry Leaders Team, there is a full spectrum of views on this issue.

In a recent consultation⁹ undertaken to help us prepare this Parish Profile only four out of about 900 response statements mentioned the issue.

We realise that will be a matter for the next incumbent to address. In doing so, they need to be aware that there are

varying shades of opinion in the church, some strongly held, on how the Bible's teaching is to be understood and applied.

There is also a strong desire to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.

We need a vicar who is able to handle this issue wisely and well, with love, prayer and humility.

⁹ The consultation did not include questions about LLF but included open questions where any issue could be raised.

8. Church leaders, staff, and lay workers



Our ministry team

Vicar

Full time



Vacant

Associate Vicar

Part time



Fi Iddon

Curate

Full time



Ian Budd

Associate Minister

Non-stipendiary



Charles Ruxton

Children & families minister

Full time



Cerys Hughes

Pioneer Community Ministers

Job share



Keith and Amal Moore

Youth Minister

Part time



Vacant

Pre-school worker

Part time



Rachel Cama

The Church Office and Trinity Centre

Operations Manager

Kevin Pilsbury

Trinity Centre and Events Manager

Helen Hinton

Office Administrator

Shannon Commins

Finance Officer

Jenny Jones

Verger

Kelly Ashton-Pallatina

Gardener

Tim Creyke

Trinity Centre Welcome Assistants

We have a team of Welcome Assistants

Our safeguarding officers

Safeguarding officers

Rachel Woods and Phil Lewis

Our Churchwardens

Wardens

Jenny Surl, Anne Hasnip, Erica Staples, and Roy Paterson

Our volunteers

We have an amazing number of people, both lay and ordained, who serve voluntarily in many different ways, from preaching, leading services or chaplaincy roles, to mowing the grass, making coffee, or visiting people in care homes, and much more besides.

At other times, people will be serving food at Trinity Table or the Community Tea, visiting local schools or care homes, or installing benches in the Glebe Field.

About 80 names appear on the serving rotas for the 9 am and 11 am services across the congregations, in addition to the service leaders, preachers, music groups, bell ringers and children's and young people's leaders. Other services also depend on faithful volunteers and helpers.

There are about 20 small group leaders and others who host these groups.

We also have several retired clergy, including one bishop, and other ordained and licensed people within our various congregations. They provide valuable support, including preaching and leading services, under the direction of the Vicar.



Sometimes we worry that it's difficult to find volunteers, which can be true, especially as our volunteer base gets older, but this must be seen in the light of the many people who already serve cheerfully in all these ways.

All these contributions are essential, highly valued, and a reflection of the body of Christ, each person playing their part.

9. Buildings and spaces

Holy Trinity Church

We have been blessed with a truly amazing portfolio of buildings and land. Together, they enhance our work and worship and help us to engage with the local community.

The Church building



There has been a church at Meole Brace since Saxon times. The present church, which can accommodate up to 300 people was built in 1867-68.

Described as "one of Shropshire's best-kept secrets", it is a large, well-proportioned, Grade 2* listed, red sandstone building, set amongst mature

trees in a spacious, well maintained, churchyard.

The tower houses a working peal of bells and has a commanding view over the local area.

The church has an outstanding set of Pre-Raphaelite stained-glass windows by William Morris, Burne-Jones and Ford Madox Brown.



It is a beautiful, inviting, and inspiring setting for worship, and is used for our 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, christenings, weddings, funerals and other events.

The building is in very good order, but the heating system needs to be updated.

The churchyard and memorial garden



The churchyard is closed to new burials, and is the responsibility of the local authority, although we undertake regular grounds maintenance on their behalf.

A small memorial garden, adjacent to the church, Trinity Centre and Glebe Field, provides a quiet space for reflection, prayer and the interment of ashes. It is also, appropriately, the location for our Easter Day sunrise service.

The Trinity Centre

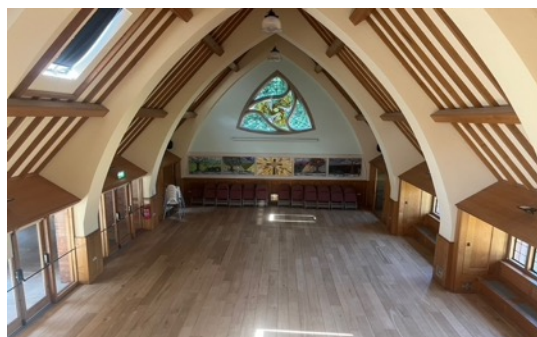


The Trinity Centre is attached to the main church buildings by a cloistered courtyard. Funded by church members and a number of charitable trusts and opened in 2008, it is a beautiful building that provides a focal point for the local community and a superb venue for church activities. It is governed by a separate constitution and management structure but is clearly part of the church.



With a large hall, office, well-appointed kitchen, and four meeting rooms on two levels, it offers high quality accommodation for a wide range of community, professional and statutory organisations.

It's also a wonderful venue for outreach, children's and youth groups, and Christian courses, as well as birthday parties and the like. Hundreds of people come through its doors each week.



The **Church office** is staffed and open daily and supports all aspects of the church's ministry. We have a great team of Welcome Assistants from all backgrounds and stages of life, who enrich the daily life of the centre and offer wonderful hospitality.

"We've grown as a team to develop our skills together"

The Glebe Field

The Glebe Field, which lies between the church buildings and the Vicarage, was transferred by the Diocese to the PCC in 2019. In the past year, having explored a range of options for its use, we opened it to the public as a green space for both church and community to use and enjoy.



Our committed grounds team have installed benches and a firepit area and maintained and planted trees. We are actively seeking to manage the Glebe Field in ways that will increase its biodiversity.

We are also exploring options for a ground-source heating scheme using part of the field to heat the Trinity Centre.

Other places for worship and community

Radbrook Community Centre



Radbrook Community Centre is a modern, purpose-built building at the heart of Radbrook Green.

By arrangement with the Community Association, we use it for Sunday morning services at the Church of Christ the King – sometimes referred to as our “flat-pack church”.

We also use it for community-focused events such as the Radbrook Community Tea.

The Meet Place

The Meet Place is a small community space on the Meole Estate, owned by the Housing Association.

It is the venue for many of our community-facing activities on the Meole Estate, including a “Warm Space”, Meole Brace Kids (MBK), ‘A Little Bit Messy’, fitness classes, lunches, and work with the Food Hub.

The Vicarage

Full details are set out in Appendix A



The Vicarage is on Church Road, just 100 yards from the church, with views over the Glebe Field towards the Trinity Centre.

Other houses

We have the use of three other houses, each located in a different part of the Parish.

Perivale Close

A modern detached house in the northern part of Radbrook Green, this diocese-owned property is lived in by our Pioneer Ministers.

Dargate Close

A large, modern detached house in the southern part of Meole Brace, this diocese-owned property is lived in by our curate.

Wilderley Crescent

A mid-century terraced house in the southern part of the Meole Estate, this property is owned by the church. It is presently let out to private tenants.

10. Finance summary

Overview

In recent years, we have been able to balance our budget, with all our everyday expenses and planned project costs covered by regular income. We are so grateful to God for his faithful provision for us, and to our members for their generous giving.

About 70% our income comes from our own members (including gift aid). The rest comes from fees, grants, and income, mainly from the Trinity Centre.

Income and expenditure (2024)

Income	£403,000
Expenditure	£388,000
Surplus	£15,000

A similar budget has been set for 2025.

Our unrestricted reserves currently stand at over **£194,000** of which over **£52,000** has been earmarked for improvements to heating and lighting in the church building.

It's important not to be complacent. The main reason for the surplus is that we have some vacant posts, which reduces salary costs. We've also seen a small reduction in member giving, though this was offset in 2024 by an increase in income from the Trinity Centre.

Tithing our income

Every year, we set aside **10%** of our members' giving (including Gift Aid) as a tithe which is used to support mission at home and overseas. This principle was applied to the fundraising for building the Trinity Centre in 2008, enabling a parallel project in Zambia.

Common Fund / Parish Share

As a well-resourced church, we meet our Parish Share request in full (**£97,000**). This expense is far outweighed by the fact that the Diocese pays the salary, pensions, and housing costs of our key clergy posts, and provides training and professional support to the church.

Blessed to be a blessing



The pandemic and ensuing cost of living crisis significantly reduced our church income. In response, we invited members to increase their regular giving, with 25% of the increase used to create a “**cost of living**” fund for the benefit of people in the parish.

The response from members was overwhelming. Giving overtook pre-pandemic levels and significant funding has been distributed to people in need.

A more detailed description of our church finances to 2024 is set out in Appendix C

11. Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

Vision

A new incumbency presents an opportunity to develop and communicate the vision for the church in more detail. During the interregnum we have deliberately focused mainly on our values. This document shows where our heart is – we need to be clear on our direction.

Our role as a Parish Church

We are at the heart of the community and have a heart for the community. People feel comfortable on the Church premises, including the Trinity Centre, Glebe Field and churchyard.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are great opportunities for outreach, and we have very strong links with local schools.

Events like Apple Day attract huge numbers of local people, many of whom have a sense of belonging. Ours is an amazing parish, with so many opportunities to meet and welcome people and to share the love of Jesus.

The quiet revival

There are reports of increased church attendance in the UK, especially among young adults, despite an overall decline in religious affiliation. We've seen a few new people coming to the church, and long to see more. We need to pray for revival and the movement of the Holy Spirit and be willing to accept the changes that this could bring.

An all-age church

Our children, young people and young adults are a real source of blessing to us, and we love being an all-age community where younger people are valued and nurtured. We want to do all-age church really well, following Jesus' example of gathering people of all ages of life and all stages of faith to follow him.

Youth minister and music leader

The part-time post of youth minister is vacant. It's a challenge, but also an opportunity. One option might be to fill this post creatively by combining it with the

role of music leader. Finding the right person, or people, for these roles is a key opportunity for our new Vicar to shape the team.

Small groups

Small groups are a very important part of church life, providing safe places for friendship and support as well as opportunities for prayer and Bible study. For some they are a lifeline. There are opportunities for encouraging more people to join a small group, and for groups to have a key role in prayer, discipleship and outreach.

Developing and enabling people

The church has a track record of nurturing and developing people for Christian service, church leadership, and mission at home and overseas, and we want to continue this.

We are blessed with many experienced and gifted people, including our lay readers, who already provide vital support throughout the church. Many in our congregations have a heart for service,

and gifts that can be encouraged and developed. This might include leadership development and mentoring for young adults.

A resourcing church

As a large and well-resourced church, we have opportunities to bless other churches in the town, the deanery and the diocese, as well as learning from them. Our experience supporting Holy Trinity, Belle Vue is a particular example of this. Our amazing admin team do so much to release others for mission and ministry.

Challenges

An ageing volunteer base

We have a huge number of willing volunteers, but they are getting older. Changes in society (including later retirement) mean that fewer people tend to volunteer in traditional ways. Older volunteers are concerned about a lack of successors.

Some very involved people have recently retired away from Shropshire, and we miss them very much. This is a challenge for us,

and we need to find new ways of working and encouraging people to get involved.

A new heart for mission

Mission and outreach is already a big part of what we do, with many people involved in sharing the good news about Jesus through personal contacts, groups such as Alpha, work with families and schools, and support for mission at home and overseas. But every generation needs to discover its own heart for mission.

We need to be encouraged and inspired to reach out to people in new ways with the gospel, with a clear strategy for making new disciples. There are parts of our own parish that still feel hard to reach, as well as newly developed areas where people need to hear the good news.

Beyond welcoming: belonging

We are good at noticing and welcoming new people. Often this leads to new people quickly feeling part of the church family. But in a big church, some people may feel they are still on the margins, unnoticed.

We need to maintain a strong culture of belonging. We also need to notice when people leave or move to the margins. And we need to turn the fringe into disciples.

Maintaining unity amidst complex issues

We are a united church, and this is very important to us. We tend to focus most on the many things that unite us.

People are concerned that focusing on issues that are potentially divisive might strain that unity. The challenge is to navigate difference with grace, maintaining trust.

Relevance in a changing world

In a fast-changing world, we believe that our faith in Jesus brings hope, meaning and purpose. Whether navigating issues around social media, medical ethics, or developing a biblical, Christian response to the climate crisis, we need to remain informed, active and relevant to people of all ages.

12. Our new Vicar

Person specification

You will be someone who loves Jesus, loves people, and will lead this church with love, wisdom, humility and joy. You will share our delight in discovering unity amidst variety and will commit to helping us grow together in faith, love, service, and mission.

We asked people in every part of our church family to tell us what kind of person we should be looking for as our new Vicar. We received hundreds of responses and have used these to describe the personal qualities that we believe will be important in the role.

Of course, we realise that nobody is perfect, and none of us can fully live up to our own standards, let alone God's! But we are looking for someone who can both **lead** us and **walk alongside** us as we follow our shared vocation to be "more like Jesus".

Please ask God to help you discern whether you could be the person we are looking for!

Spiritual life and faith

You will be a committed follower of the risen **Jesus** with an authentic and personal faith, who inspires and helps us to become more like Him.

You will be full of faith and the **Holy Spirit**, open to the leading of the Spirit, and helping us by your teaching and example to grow spiritually.

You will be faithful and obedient to **God**, teaching and showing us how to live in ways that please Him.

You will be a person of **prayer**, who supports and encourages the prayer life of the church. You will be aware of your own weaknesses and need for prayer - and we will pray for you.

You will be deeply grounded in the **Bible**, holding it to be the inspired word of God and useful for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. By your teaching and example, you will help us to understand Scripture well and set the compass of our lives in mature discipleship.

You will be secure in the knowledge that you are **loved** by God. You will **love** those in your care – all of them - and encourage us to grow in our **love** for one another, our community, and the world.

Self-management

You will manage your own **time** really well – working hard but also knowing when to rest and play and when to ask for help.

You will have a life beyond the practicalities of service and will take holidays, time off work, and **Sabbath** – and we will support you in this.

You will have **support** networks and relationships that provide you with nurture, challenge, and opportunities for spiritual reflection.

Vision and strategy

You will help to bring a clear, Spirit-led **vision** to the church, rooted in prayer, scripture, and shared discernment.

You will bring fresh **insight**, without losing sight of what is already thriving.

You will be a **strategic** thinker, able to discern priorities and see the bigger picture.

You will understand the importance of gaining the **trust and confidence** of others as a firm basis for any necessary challenge and change.

You will have an ability to share vision and strategy and **communicate** it clearly, encouraging the whole church to move forward in hope and unity.

Leadership skills

You will need well-developed **leadership skills** – there is no doubt about this!

You will be the confident leader of a strong, gifted and varied team – a “**leader of leaders**” – who can direct people with wisdom, humility, and firmness of purpose.

You will discern the strengths and gifts of all team members – ministry team, other clergy, staff and volunteers – by getting to know them well and building relationships of trust and accountability.

You will support, develop, and enthuse all who are called to ministry in the church, whether staff or volunteers, and have the **sensitivity** to handle any conflicts that may arise.

You will be a team member as well as Team Leader, having a **servant heart**, willing to get involved in any aspect of the church's life and work. You can't and mustn't do everything yourself, but there should be no areas in which you would be unwilling to serve.

You will have the confidence to share leadership, identifying, nurturing, and developing the gifts of others and releasing them into service and ministry. You will **delegate** extensively, wisely, and well, whilst maintaining clear oversight and ensuring full accountability and unity of purpose.

You will be a team builder and **enabler** of people, inspiring and encouraging them to serve in every aspect of church life.

You will value all who serve in various capacities, **acknowledging** their work and thanking them as part of the body of Christ.

As Vicar, you will be comfortable in your role as a **community leader** in the parish, developing good relationships with local people, schools, and community groups.

Management and technical skills

With the full support of our Operations Manager, Church Office team,

Churchwardens, and Trinity Centre staff, you will have **overall responsibility** for managing the staff, property, and resources of a large and complex church and public-facing organisation.

You will have gained relevant **experience** in a church or other organisation and will have a working knowledge of governance, staff development, and church finance.

You will be well organised, and have good, up-to-date **IT skills**. You will be comfortable communicating via the church website and social media and be able to produce and use good quality presentational material for services and other activities.

Safeguarding

You must have a wholehearted commitment to and experience of the **safeguarding**, protection and flourishing of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

You will model and uphold a **culture** of vigilance and care for all members of the church community.

Relational skills

You will be someone whose love for people is clearly evident as you relate to them with warmth, grace, and care. You will be approachable and emotionally intelligent, a good listener, creating space for others to speak, flourish, and be known.

You will be at ease with people of all ages, from children to older adults, and with people from different backgrounds. You will relate to people of no faith, or who are exploring faith for the first time, as well as people long established in the church.

You will be confident in a range of settings, from the school gate to the hospital bedside. You will be comfortable in formal meetings and informal conversations, acting with grace and kindness in either setting. People will be able to trust you with personal or sensitive information.

You will encourage, and yourself enjoy, strong, healthy relationships within the church, encouraging trust, friendship and a sense of belonging. You will be sensitive to people on the margins, helping to ensure that people with additional needs or vulnerabilities have a place and a voice.

By your teaching and example, you will help and encourage us to see people as Jesus sees them, with love, dignity and purpose.

Preaching and teaching

You will be a person who loves God's word and loves sharing it with others in ways that inspire reflection, action and spiritual growth. Your preaching and teaching will be firmly grounded in Scripture, open to the Holy Spirit, intelligent, and relevant to today's world.

You will have the ability to teach the faith in ways that make sense to all – those who are new, those who are growing (or struggling), and those seeking deeper understanding. You will have the ability to express complex ideas with simplicity. You will help us to understand the Bible better, both in detail and in world view, and apply it in practical ways, encouraging us all to follow Jesus more closely.

You will nurture a teaching culture across the church, helping others to discover, develop, and use their gifts as preachers, teachers, leaders of small groups, and disciple-makers.

You can't be everywhere or do everything at the same time! Whilst you will lead and preach in all our congregations at least some of the time,

you will share these tasks with the Associate Vicar and others who are capable and qualified, whilst maintaining clear oversight and direction.

Mission & Pioneering

You will have a heart for mission, not just as a church programme but as a whole way of being. You will be passionate about helping others discover the love of Christ.

You will get to know the different parts of the parish and the opportunities we have to reach each part of the community. You will help us to develop our pioneering work in parts of the parish that are difficult to reach. You will help us develop existing links with local schools, organisations and neighbours and be visible, accessible and engaged.

You will encourage us to support and engage with mission - in Shrewsbury, nationally and internationally - affirming and valuing members of our church family who are directly involved.

We understand that Jesus commands us all to be witnesses to him. By your teaching and example, you will encourage and equip us to play our part in mission, both locally and globally.

Personal qualities

When people in our consultation listed the personal qualities they hoped to find in our new Vicar, by far the most frequent response was:

- **A sense of humour!**

This is so true! In all the joys and sorrows, achievements, and frustrations of church leadership, we need someone who can bring lightness, approachability, and joy to the role, not as a novelty, but as a way of relating to others and sustaining a healthy ministry.

Other qualities suggested were:

- **Kind** and compassionate
- **Emotionally intelligent** and self-aware
- **Down to earth**, real, and relatable
- **Warm**, personable and approachable,
- **Humble** and honest, willing to admit mistakes and say sorry when necessary
- **Energetic** and enthusiastic
- **Brave** and resilient
- **Adaptable**, not rigid, able to respond to a changing context without losing clarity
- **Hardworking** and committed
- **Creative** and open to fresh ideas

So, no pressure there ...!!

Qualifications and experience

We are looking for a person who:

- is in **priest's orders** in the Church of England or in a church with which the Church of England is in communion, and has completed successfully IME4-7 or the local equivalent, and
- has at least **three years' experience** of ministry in the Church of England or other Anglican church in the British Isles.

By basing this person specification substantially on material put forward by members of the church, we hope and pray that it reveals an honest, even if imperfect, picture of what we long for at Meole Brace ...

... a Vicar with whom we can have a genuine partnership in the gospel, based on love, friendship, and forbearance, a common faith and shared values.

God has blessed us in just these ways over many years, and we seek his blessing anew as a new chapter opens in the life of the church.

Initial role description

To be reviewed with the Archdeacon of Salop after 6 months in post

General

In common with all incumbent-status clergy appointments in the diocese:

- To exercise faithfully and diligently the ministry of a parish priest as canonically defined and as appropriate in the benefice, deanery and diocese
- To lead, pastorally and collaboratively, the mission and ministry of the five parishes of the benefice, in living out our diocesan vision of 'Seeking the Kingdom'
- To exemplify and promote good safeguarding policy and practice, in line with 'Promoting a Safer Church' as implemented in Lichfield diocese.

Relationships

The Vicar:

- is responsible to the Bishop of Shrewsbury for the cure of souls within the parish
- is leader of the staff team

- works closely with the Church Wardens
- is ex officio chair of the PCC
- will get to know all of our congregations and build relationships with them within the unity of a single parish of Trinity Churches
- is a member of the Deanery Chapter and Synod

Responsibilities

- To look after your own spiritual life, as described in the person specification under "Spiritual life and faith" and "Self-management".
- To provide leadership to the staff team, the PCC, and ministry leaders, inspiring them to effective and fruitful working.
- To ensure that staff and lay leaders have appropriate training and development.

- To lead the church in developing its vision and strategy, ensuring that this is consistent with a biblical vision for the church and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- To maintain and develop, with others, the ministry of biblical preaching and teaching with a vision of growing a church shaped by the word of God, led by the Spirit, and rooted in the love of Jesus.
- To be visible at key services and to oversee, direct, and enable the leading of public worship and the ministry of sacraments across all our congregations, without always having to be the one who leads.
- To ensure that the church is engaged with and visible in the community and that Christ is proclaimed in word and deed.
- To ensure that pastoral needs are met, that appropriate care structures are in place, and that occasional

offices are conducted in an appropriate manner.

- To continue, with others, supporting our neighbours at Belle Vue and, within the first year in post, to restart and lead the process of discernment in both parishes over our future relationship.
- To work closely with diocesan and parish safeguarding officers, volunteers, and external agencies to maintain a safe and accountable environment in every area of church life.
- To ensure that safeguarding policies and practices are understood, embedded and followed throughout the parish, and continually improved to keep everyone as safe as possible.
- To have an awareness of church finances and contribute to the processes of budget setting and monitoring.

Appendix A: The Vicarage

The Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, SY3 9EX



Located in the heart of the village at the junction of Vicarage Road and Church Road, the Vicarage was built in the early 1980s, replacing the Victorian vicarage next door.

The Vicarage is an ideal family home with spacious accommodation and four bedrooms. It is set in large gardens - a fabulous space for entertaining, gardening, or play. It is close to the church, the local primary school and two excellent secondary schools.

Downstairs

- Entrance hall
- Large study with room for two desks, having direct access from the front door
- Hallway with large storage cupboards
- Large sitting room
- Snug / dining room
- Dining kitchen
- Utility room

Upstairs

- Bedroom 1: double with fitted wardrobes and ensuite shower room
- Bedroom 2: double with fitted wardrobes
- Bedroom 3: double with fitted wardrobes
- Bedroom 4: single with fitted wardrobes
- Family bathroom
- Access to partially boarded loft storage

Outside

- Large back garden overlooking the Glebe Field and Trinity Centre, comprising patio, lawn, mature trees, flower beds and a small summer house.
- Large front and side gardens with hedgerows along Church Road.
- Pedestrian gate onto Church Road
- Vehicular access to Vicarage Road, shared with the old Vicarage
- Large driveway with parking for four cars
- Access to the "Vicar's path" leading to the church buildings (100 yards).

Heating etc.

All windows are double glazed, and the house has gas central heating. Combined gas and electricity bills were about £150 per month in Autumn 2024. There is good mobile signal coverage and broadband.

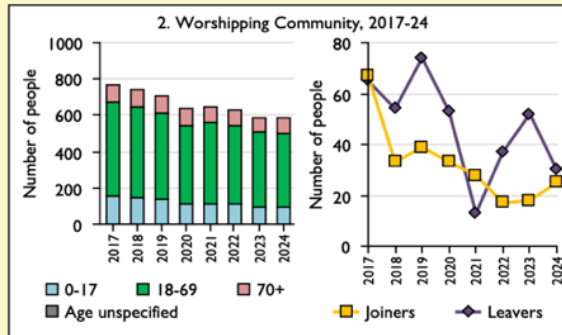
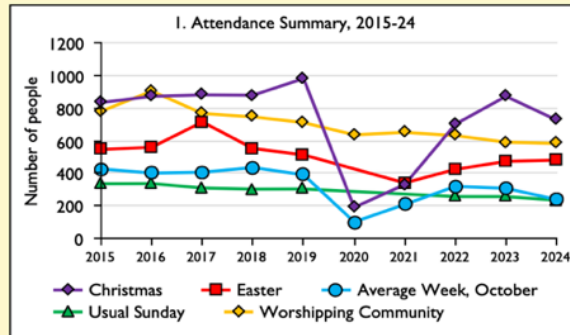


Appendix B: Parish Statistics

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Meole Brace: Holy Trinity in the Deanery of Shrewsbury and Wrekin

Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	833	871	880	878	980	190	330	700	871	726
	Easter	545	559	714	551	512	-	340	423	472	480
	Average Week, October	426	401	406	434	390	101	208	319	307	238
	Usual Sunday	335	336	309	302	303	-	-	256	256	234
	Worshipping Community	780	903	766	745	710	635	650	630	590	582
2. Worshipping Community	Total			766	745	710	635	650	630	590	582
	0-17			151	150	140	115	115	115	98	95
	18-69			520	500	470	430	445	430	407	407
	70+			95	95	100	90	90	85	85	80
	Age unspecified			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joiners			67	33	39	33	28	17	18	25
	Leavers			65	54	74	53	13	37	52	30
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	275	277	265	262	263	-	-	220	224	211
	Children	60	59	44	40	40	-	-	36	32	23
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	352	319	338	377	331	89	167	266	249	207
	Children	74	82	68	58	59	12	41	53	58	31
	Adults, School	54	75	70	112	63	-	13	9	-	5
	Children, School	125	173	125	80	140	-	95	91	-	88
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	18%	18%	14%	13%	13%	-	-	14%	13%	10%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	17%	20%	17%	13%	15%	12%	20%	17%	19%	13%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	18%	19%	20%	20%	20%	18%	18%	18%	17%	16%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	30	29	33	37	31	6	16	30	39	14
	Marriages	21	28	15	20	21	6	8	11	12	5
	Funerals	38	45	45	48	35	39	28	32	42	31
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	385	392	390	410	381	379	379	385	404	391

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Meole Brace: Holy Trinity in the Deanery of Shrewsbury and Wrekin



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 8568

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	22%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	28%	31%	33%
% aged 45-69	34%	31%	31%
% aged 70 & over	16%	14%	14%
% Christian	50%	49%	46%
% non-Christian religion	2%	11%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 8917

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

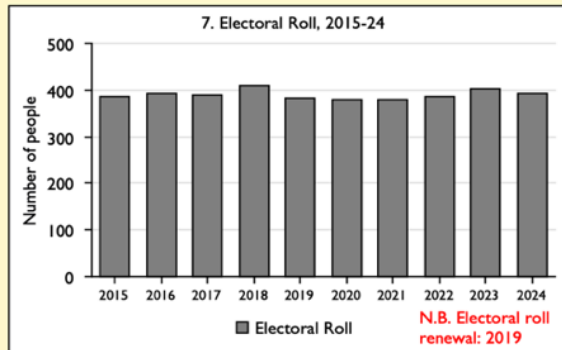
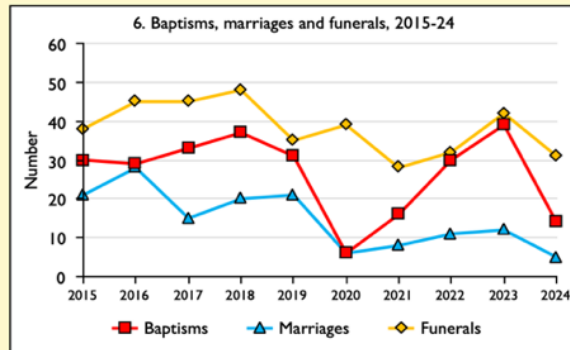
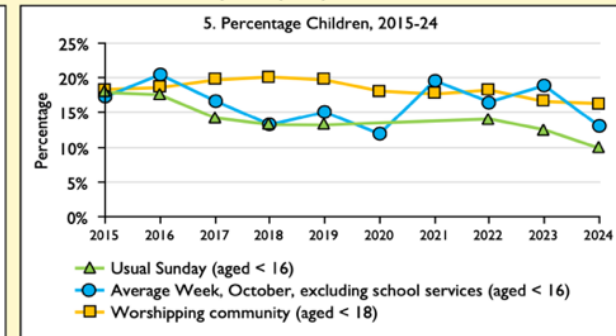
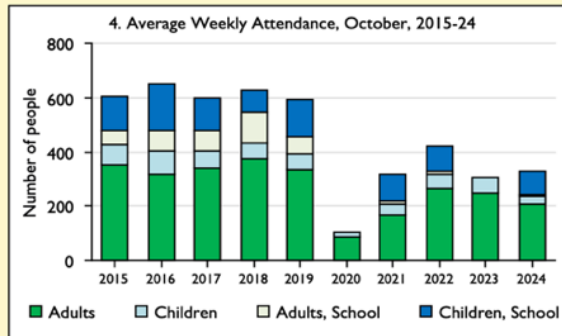
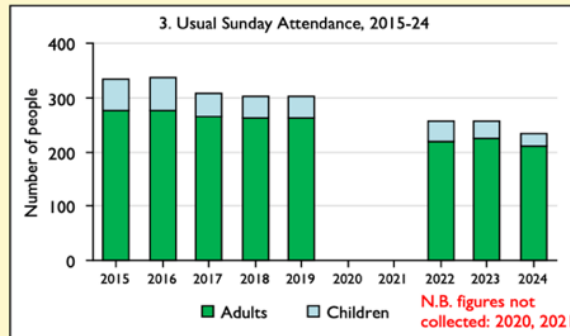
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

Parish Code: 200558



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1; 2016 2; 2017 2; 2018 2; 2019 2; 2020 2; 2021 2; 2022 2

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 2024

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

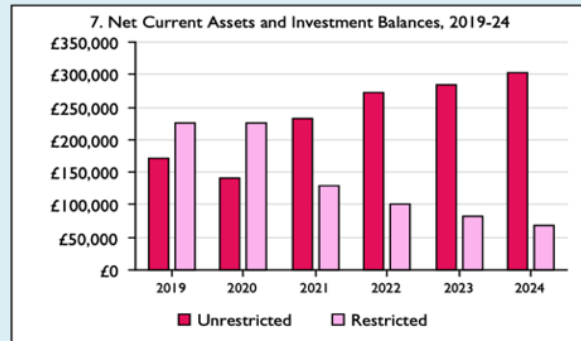
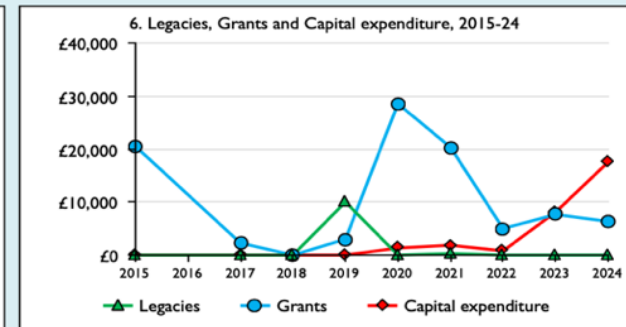
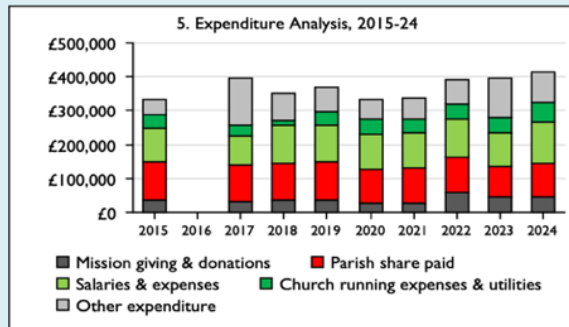
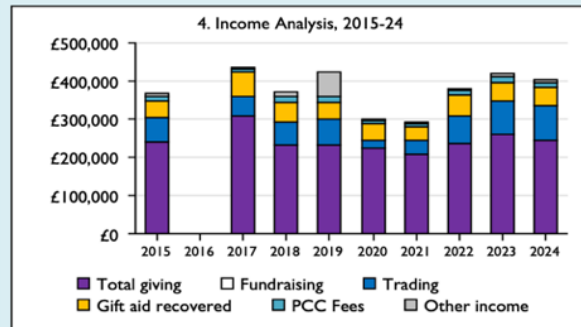
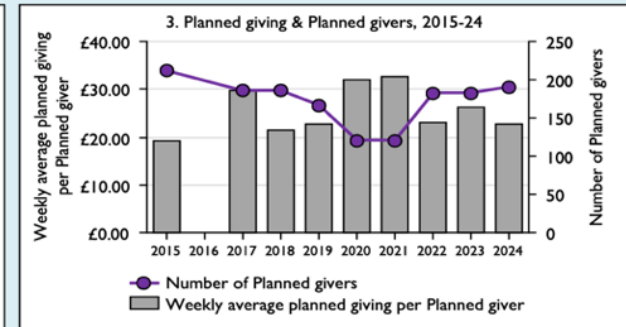
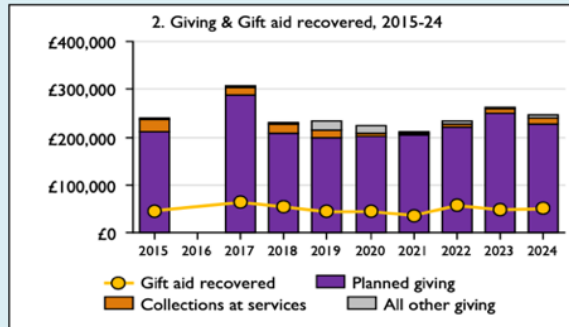
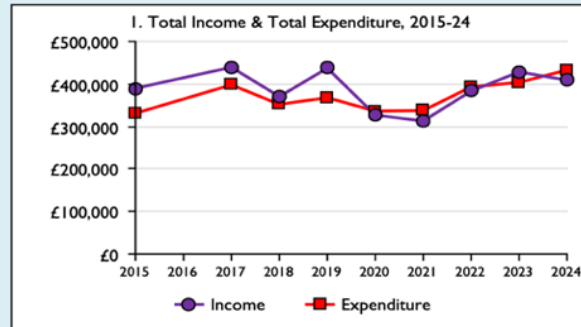


Appendix C: Finance details

Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Meole Brace: Holy Trinity in the Deanery of Shrewsbury and Wrekin

Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Total Income & Total Expenditure	Income	£390,056	-	£439,295	£370,507	£437,309	£326,949	£312,929	£383,462	£428,408	£409,02
	Expenditure	£331,150	-	£398,080	£352,079	£367,904	£336,205	£337,465	£393,249	£403,894	£432,73
2. Giving & Gift aid recovered	Planned giving	£210,415	-	£288,252	£207,269	£196,960	£201,624	£205,066	£219,348	£248,972	£225,88
	Collections at services	£26,169	-	£16,635	£18,488	£16,154	£6,515	£1,967	£8,284	£8,909	£14,618
	All other giving	£1,869	-	£3,228	£6,043	£19,686	£16,067	£2,679	£6,850	£3,930	£5,304
	Gift aid recovered	£45,951	-	£63,301	£53,802	£43,503	£43,992	£36,042	£56,535	£47,984	£49,812
3. Planned giving & Planned givers	Weekly average planned giving per Planned giver	£19.09	-	£29.80	£21.43	£22.68	£32.04	£32.59	£23.05	£26.16	£22.74
	Number of Planned givers	212	-	186	186	167	121	121	183	183	191
4. Income Analysis	Total giving	£238,453	-	£308,115	£231,800	£232,800	£224,206	£209,712	£234,482	£261,811	£245,80
	Fundraising	£463	-	£512	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Trading	£63,693	-	£50,671	£59,711	£66,109	£19,745	£35,169	£74,036	£86,622	£89,308
	Gift aid recovered	£45,951	-	£63,301	£53,802	£43,503	£43,992	£36,042	£56,535	£47,984	£49,812
	PCC Fees	£13,318	-	£10,942	£16,308	£18,019	£6,525	£8,519	£9,706	£16,551	£9,441
	Other income	£7,683	-	£3,473	£8,886	£63,878	£3,957	£2,941	£3,703	£7,790	£8,321
5. Expenditure Analysis	Mission giving & donations	£35,848	-	£30,840	£34,365	£38,035	£25,750	£25,295	£59,595	£43,363	£46,852
	Parish share paid	£114,553	-	£107,267	£108,836	£110,876	£98,835	£103,542	£103,209	£93,209	£97,073
	Salaries & expenses	£95,842	-	£86,484	£111,452	£106,830	£105,977	£103,596	£113,896	£97,304	£122,13
	Church running expenses & utilities	£40,634	-	£32,855	£16,550	£41,139	£46,372	£41,659	£41,207	£44,072	£57,649
	Other expenditure	£44,273	-	£140,634	£80,876	£71,024	£57,927	£61,510	£74,547	£117,848	£91,519
6. Legacies, Grants and Capital expenditure	Legacies	£0	-	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£274	£0	£0	£0
	Grants	£20,495	-	£2,281	£0	£3,000	£28,524	£20,272	£5,000	£7,650	£6,336
	Capital expenditure	£0	-	£0	£0	£0	£1,344	£1,863	£795	£8,098	£17,509
7. Net Current Assets and Investment Balances	Unrestricted					£171,714	£140,207	£232,267	£272,172	£283,706	£302,63
	Restricted					£225,701	£225,882	£128,421	£100,374	£82,424	£68,099

Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Meole Brace: Holy Trinity in the Deanery of Shrewsbury and Wrekin



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2024)
Parish: 22.74
Diocese: 12.36

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2
Parish code: 200558

Notes & definitions

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.

Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.

Graph 3: **Planned giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; **Planned givers** = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.

Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.

Graph 4: **Total giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including special appeals.

Graph 4: **Other income** = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.

Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.

Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.

Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.

Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.

For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

Variations from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 2; 2017 2; 2018 2; 2019 2; 2020 2; 2021 2; 2022 2; 2023 2; 2024 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 04/06/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

