

## **Christ Church Barnston**

Vicar: Revd. Chris Slater. Associate Minister Revd. Chris Murphy

Warden: Prof. Robert Moots.

Author: Robert Fiddaman.

### **Faculty Application: 1) Memorial Garden**

#### **2) Electrical Sockets**

#### **Statement of Significance.**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

#### **Church Setting and Description.**

The site of the Church comprises of a graveyard which is now closed, the Church building, an adjacent vicarage with garages and the church hall, which in the past served as the village school and is set surrounded by fields alongside the busy A551 which connects Thingwall and Heswall and is also close to Storeton Lane which is a popular commuter route to Birkenhead and Liverpool. The Church is part of a village which includes some housing, a cluster of farm building, some of which are undergoing renovation and conversion into living accommodation, and a public house which together form the Barnston conservation area. The immediate vicinity of the Church is sparsely populated with the congregation mainly being drawn from the wider areas of Thingwall and Heswall.

Christ Church is a tradition building, built in 1871 and is designed in the revival gothic style by the celebrated architect George Edmund Street and became Grade II listed in 1986. The building is constructed of white stone, which was quarried locally and has a steeply pitched red tiled roof, with a bellcote mounted at a high level above the west gable. Internally the Church essentially consists of nave and chancel while the roof comprises of exposed rafters supported by purlins carried on trusses on simple white walls. Pine pews separated by a walk way line the north and south sides of the nave. The chancel is separated at the chancel steps by a wooden traceried screen. The altar is set against the east wall behind a traceried rail. The chancel also incorporates choir stalls and an attractive pipe organ. On the chancel north side is the clergy vestry and organ chamber. The nave is lit by lancet windows on both sides and four light windows on the west gable end, whilst the chancel is lit by two lancets on the south side and a three window above the altar all windows are stained glass. Entrance to the church is via a porch at the west end of the buildings north elevation. The porch together with a coke store, also on the north side, were an addition to the original building in 1882/83. A flat roof single storey choir vestry was added to the building's west gable wall in 1965, this incorporates a toilet and small store room, the area also is used as a crèche facility during services and as an additional occasional meeting room. The Church is

simply furnished and the general feeling is one of space and simplicity, making it popular for weddings, it is also well used for funerals.

The boundary walls of the Church are lined with mature trees and its grounds including the graveyard, lawns, paths and carpark are well maintained in a fitting manner contributing to the local conservation area.

The Church hall is in frequent and regular use for meetings both Church and social, Sunday school and by uniform organisations, luncheon and sewing groups and the such like. It also serves as the location for the Church's administration offices.