

**PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE**  
**ST.ANN'S BELFIELD ROCHDALE**



**1. INTRODUCTION.**

The Church of St. Ann, Belfield stands in a prominent position at the centre of Belfield on the corner of 2 busy main roads. The surrounding population consists of white British with large numbers of Asian families. The church members, though small in number, are in good heart and look forward with enthusiasm to the arrival of a new Parish Priest.





## 2. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS.

Parish : St. Ann. Belfield ROCHDALE  
 Vacancy: Part-time Parish Priest  
 Patron: Bishop of Manchester  
 Bishopcourt. Bury New Road.  
 MANCHESTER M7 4LE

Archdeaconry, Deanery, Name of Area Dean.

Rochdale Deanery and Area Dean: Rev. Mark Coleman  
 Archdeacon Ven. Cherry Vann.

No official clergy housing. Previous vicarage has been sold 2016.

Official population 6000

Electoral roll numbers 46 (22 Non resident 24 Resident)

Average weekly attendance for the last 3 years stands at 35

Average weekly children/young people attendance 12

Yearly figures for

Baptism	14
Holy Communion before confirmation	0
Confirmation	0
Marriages	3
Funerals	5
Christmas communicants	58
Easter “	51

St. Ann's Parish Church was built in 1912 and seats approx 200.

Our Quinquennial inspection is due in 2017.  
We have a Parish Hall situated at the side of the Church building.



No other Anglican churches or licensed places of worship are in the benefice.  
A weekly pew sheet and a monthly newsletter "The Messenger" are produced.  
We also have a website [St.Ann.Belfield](http://St.Ann.Belfield) giving service details, contacts and other  
Church hall users contact details and information.  
The Churchwardens is Mrs.Margaret Morris.

3. **Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993.**  
**House of Bishops declaration on the ministry of Bishops and Priests 2014.**  
Resolution not passed.

4. **Local Community**



The Parish of St. Ann Belfield is amongst one of the most deprived areas of Rochdale with a mix of private owner occupier properties , council estates and also old established terraced properties.

The population consists of white British, large numbers of Asian families with some refugees. The population is rising due to new estates being built on the boundaries of our Parish. The surrounding area of St. Ann ‘s parish has a large Muslim population.

The Church Hall is attended by some of the local community for various activities and is also hired on a regular basis by some of our Muslim residents for family events.

A large industrial development “Kingsway Business Park” is now operational with new businesses re locating. Asda , JJB Sports and various warehouse sites are now being built and extended.

Kingsway retail park is situated opposite Church which consists of the following traders: The Range, Asda, Iceland, Poundland, Pets at Home, JB Sports and various fast food outlets. Small office units are also on the site. There is easy access to the motorway and the Metrolink stop provides regular tram services to Rochdale and more importantly Manchester with connections to Intercity Rail.

## **5. Schools and Voluntary groups.**

### **Schools**

We have two state schools within the Parish which both have nursery facilities.

Moorhouse Primary School and Belfield Community School.

Links have also been established with Crossgates Primary School in Milnrow following a very successful two year hosting of “Experience Christmas” with over 200 pupils and their teachers visiting. Two of the schools have since independently brought pupils into Church for follow up visits. These links could hopefully be strengthened.

### **Voluntary Groups.**

Voluntary groups at present using the Church Hall are:-

St. Ann’s Players, a drama group which produce excellent plays three times a year, which are very well attended.

Table Tennis group meeting Monday and Friday evenings.

Belfield Art Group meeting Wednesday afternoons.



Slimming World hiring the Hall Wednesday afternoon and evening also Thursday morning. This is a successful venture.

At the moment the Hall is hired Tuesday and Friday during the day by the Mental Health Community Therapy Programme. This is a new venture but one which we hope will continue unless the NHS hierarchy decide differently. The Hall also is hired monthly to hold local councillor surgeries and is used as a voting station during local and general elections.

## **6. Worship and Worshippers.**

Present pattern of services is

10.30am Sung Eucharist on Sunday mornings.

10.30am Said Eucharist on Wednesday mornings.

We have our own printed books from Common Worship.

We are an Anglican Catholic parish with vestments.

16 worshippers live outside the Parish boundary.

We have a small garden of remembrance at the front of Church.

## **7. Church-based organizations and Groups.**



We have a small Sunday school which meets at the back of Church during Sunday service. We have a willing band of teachers and the children's' work is on display in Church .

We have a small branch of Mothers' Union members.

We hold regular PCC meetings.

We hold occasional Parish Lunches and raffles.

St. Ann's Players perform 3 plays a year, these are excellent productions and are well supported by Church members and the local community.

The Art group and Church hold a joint Summer or Autumn fair with Much participation from the Art Group with their teachers holding taster sessions.

The Church is in good spirit though numbers are low with illness among some members.

## **8. Neighbouring Anglican Church and Parishes**

Neighbouring Churches are St.James, Milnrow and St.Thomas Newhey.  
At the moment we are working towards a shared partnership with Rochdale Town centre Churches, Kirkholt and Healey.

## **9. Ecumenism.**

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is a near neighbour but unfortunately there is no link here. Maybe this could be fostered.

## **10. Ministry.**

At the moment there are no retired clergy or licensed lay workers.

We have one Home Eucharistic minister who is able to take Communion to members of the Parish in their own homes.

We have active lay participants:-

Readers of Lessons and intercessors and members of the congregation offer the elements every week.

## **11. Mission**

We would look to our new Parish Priest to have energy to visit and encourage Baptism families. There is a good spirit amongst our congregation members who are enthusiastic to see growth.

We support Rochdale Hospice, Christian Aid, Additional Curates Society.

We support the Children's Society with collection boxes and provide food for the Rochdale food bank and Petrus community.

We have a Christmas Carol service to support Rochdale Heartbeat.

We made the Church Hall available during the 2016 Summer months for "Surestart" to encourage contact with local families.

## **12. Finance and Stewardship.**

Christian stewardship is practiced though this needs regular boosts.

We have successfully paid our Parish Share for a number of years but this year find this increasingly more difficult, one reason being when our Parish priest retired we also lost a number of his family members. Many of our congregation are on fixed incomes but are a wonderful support.

## **13. The next Parish Priest.**

Our hopes for the next Parish Priest is to be approachable with a pleasant manner and to have Pastoral care at the heart of their ministry. We would like our next parish priest to lead us with enthusiasm and encouragement. To strengthen already tenuous links with the local schools, to be available and to be seen around the parish. We would like the next Parish Priest to foster ecumenical links.

Recognising there will be only .5 Parish Priest dedicated to the Parish we feel that a shared priest with Christ Church Healey would be a positive appointment.