

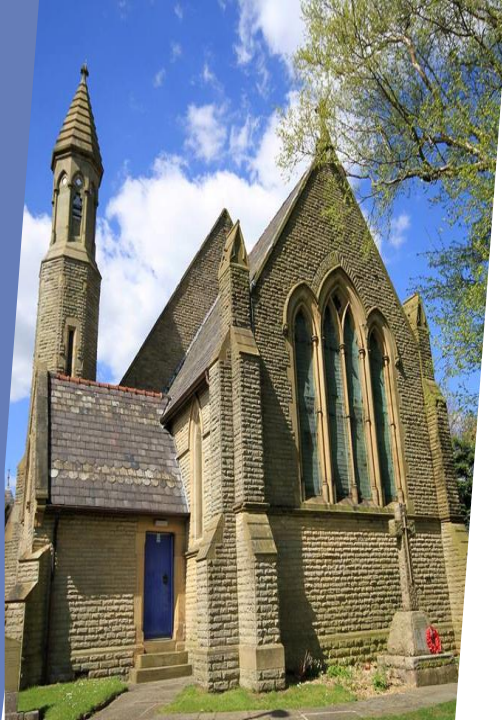


The Benefice of High Crompton and Thornham



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Manchester



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Our Benefice

St. Mary's, High Crompton and St. James', Thornham became a benefice in 2015. Both churches retain their own PCC but continue to find new opportunities and ways to work more closely together.

We continue to proactively build the community of the benefice through sharing strengths and supporting each other. For example, we have recently formed a collaborative 'communications' group aimed at improving the ways we engage our parishioners and reach out across social media. Similarly, the treasurers and church wardens of both churches work closely together.

In addition, we share joint services on festival days, support events at each church and join together for confirmation and other courses to explore and deepen our faith.



Our Services

Sunday worship at both parishes has been streamlined so that, for example, All-Age Eucharists now fall on the same Sunday of the month.

Mid-week festival days e.g. Corpus Christi, alternate each year between both churches as an opportunity for congregations from both churches to worship together.

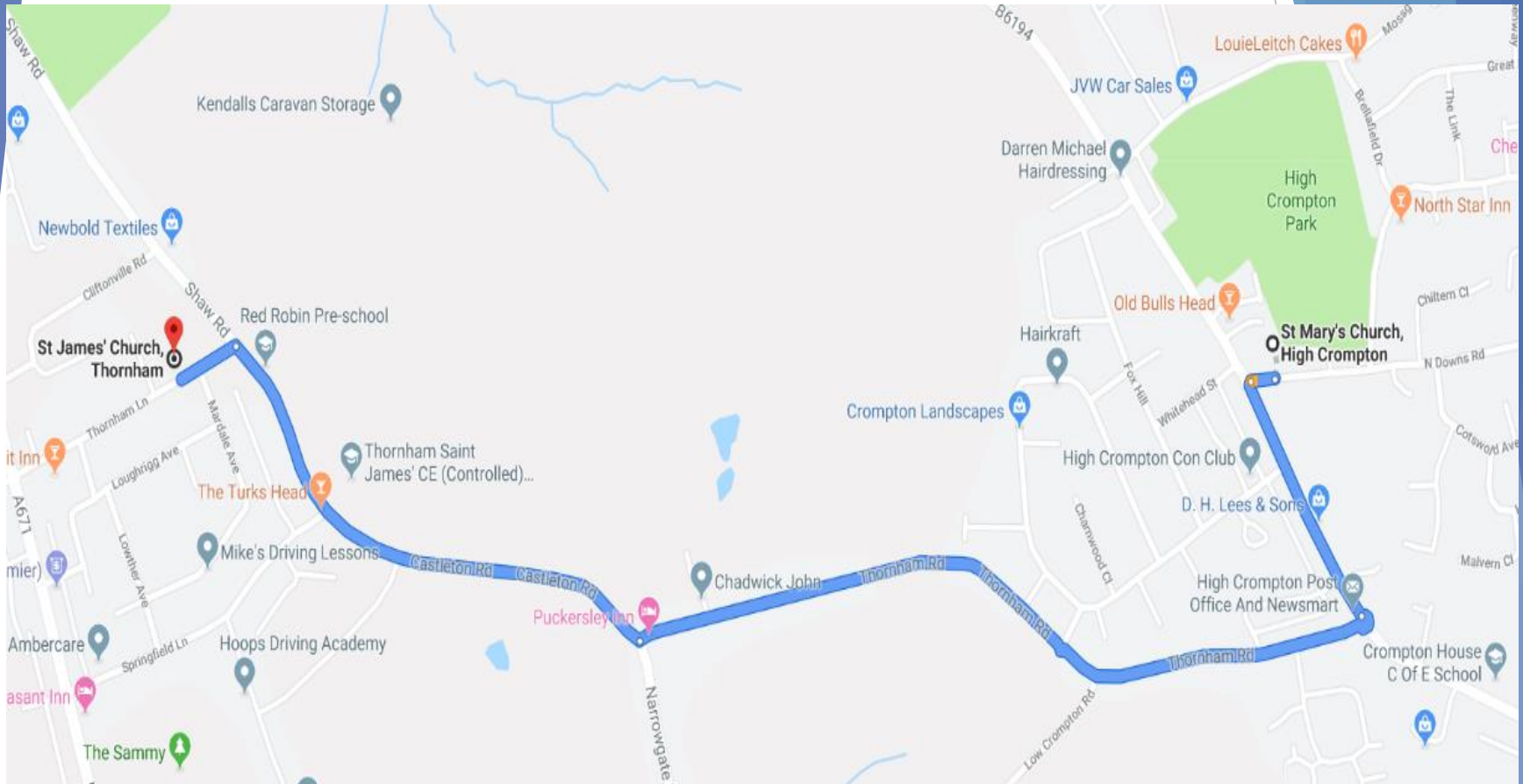
St. James', Thornham:

- ✠ Sunday 9.00am - Sung Eucharist
- ✠ Wednesday 10.00am - Said Eucharist

St. Mary's, High Crompton:

- ✠ Sunday 11.00am - Sung Eucharist
- ✠ Tuesday 7.00pm - Said Eucharist
- ✠ The 2nd Sunday of each month at both churches is all an All-Age Eucharist and, in term time, there is also Parade at these services

Where are our churches?



Travelling time between both churches is approx. four minutes by car or 20 minutes on foot.

The Area

The areas of Thornham and High Crompton are nestled between at the foothills of the South Pennines. They have the beauty of a rural feel whilst also being close to the diverse towns of Rochdale, Oldham and the city of Manchester.

Our unique location means we are close to superb countryside whilst our excellent transport links means travelling and commuting is very easy to do.

We have excellent roads and public transport links with direct access to the M60 and M62 motorways. The City of Manchester is approx. a 30 minute drive away and attractions such as the Trafford Centre are approx. a 35 minute drive away. Take a two hour drive in any direction and you could find yourself in the Peak District National Park, Snowdonia National Park or the Lake District.

The Metrolink service, good bus and rail links connect us with neighbouring parts of Greater Manchester.



What we are looking for in our new priest

After much prayerful consideration, as a Benefice, we feel that the following qualities would be found in our new priest:

- † Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to engage both the youngest and the oldest members of our congregations (and those in between!)
- † A heart for young families and a passion to engage and nurture them in the Christian faith
- † A heart to support and nurture those who are new to church and encourage them to get involved in church life
- † Someone with good pastoral skills who is approachable, is able to listen and is a 'people person'



What we are looking for in our new priest

- † A strong spiritual leader who prayerfully leads the congregation and encourages them to explore and nurture their faith
- † Someone who recognises people's gifts and supports them to explore and discern their calling to ordained ministry
- † Someone who will help us to continue to develop cross-benefice opportunities and develop ways of working together
- † Someone who will support the churches' activities
- † Someone who is able to teach, lead and inspire others into taking on new and/or deeper areas of lay ministry
- † Have a heart for working in schools



What we can offer you

- † We will pray for you, that God will guide and support you as you work with us
- † We will encourage team work involving members from all the congregations
- † Both churches have a supportive church warden and PCCs who will support you in all that God has called you to achieve at our Benefice
- † Our friendship
- † The support of an OLM and two pastoral ALMs
- † Our encouragement to ensure that you have a work-life balance and support to take your entitlement to holidays and days off





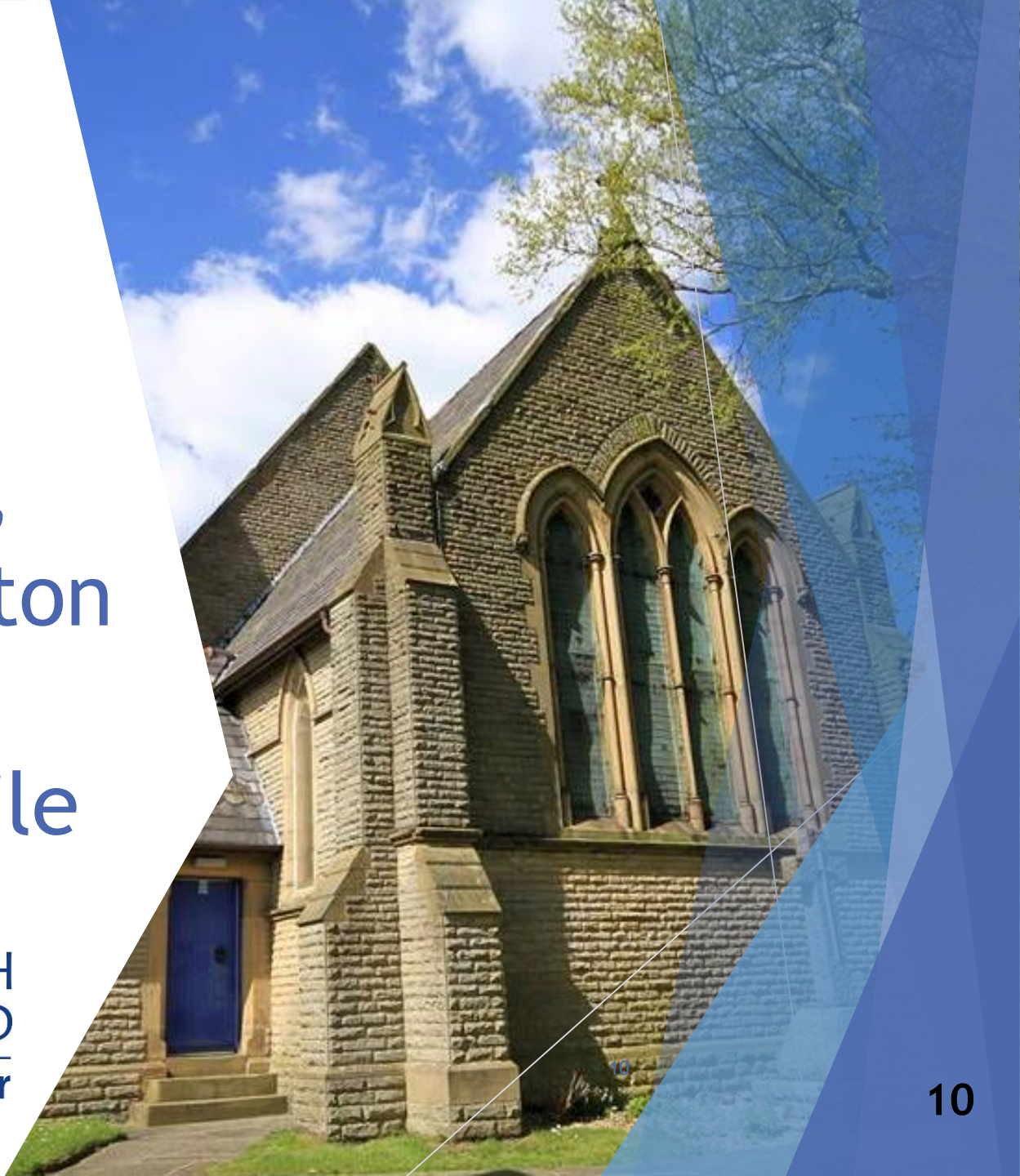
St Mary's, High Crompton

Parish Profile



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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Welcome and Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read our Parish Profile, which we hope you will find informative and which we hope will give you a brief insight into our church life.

We hope our Profile reflects who we are as a Parish and as a community.

St. Marys: Who's Who?



Church Warden
Susanne Morris
smorris238@hotmail.co.uk



@stmarysstjames



Parish Representative
Grahame Benson
Grahame.benson@gmail.com



@StMarysStJames



Parish Representative
Harry Batey
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www.stmarys-stjames.org



Bishop of Middleton
Rt. Rev'd Mark Davies
bishopmark@Manchester.Anglican.org



Archdeacon of Rochdale
Ven. Cherry Vann
archrochdale@Manchester.Anglican.org



Area Dean of Oldham East
Rev'd Lyn Woodall
Lyn.woodall@gmail.com

Parish Statistics

In 2018 we had . . .



Marriages

6



Baptisms

35



Funerals

18



Adult confirmations

2



Youth confirmations

10



Admitted to Communion

21



Easter communicants

64



Christmas communicants

42

Our Church Family

Our congregations are a mixture of: families with young, pre-school or school-aged children, families with older, secondary-school aged children and retired, older members of the church who are long-standing members of the congregation and have seen their children come through the church.

Most of our congregation come from either the local area of High Crompton or the area surrounding our border with Rochdale.

There are 161 people on our Electoral Roll and 83 of them live in the Parish.

Our Worship

Our Sunday congregation meets at 11.00am for a Sung Eucharist. The average weekly attendance in term time is 120 adults and 100 children.

Our Tuesday congregation currently meets at 7.00pm for a Said Eucharist. The average weekly attendance in term time is 55 adults and 55 children.

Both our services are Eucharistic in the liberal Catholic style.

Both services use Common Worship and the NRSV. Recently introduced service booklets for each season are used during the services. We have also recently started to use the Redemptionist Press 'Sunday Blue' sheets.



Our Worship

At both services, the priest wears alb, stole and chasuble. The church has a set of chasubles and stoles for priests and a separate set of stoles and dalmatics for deacons.

A small but committed team of Eucharistic Assistants, Intercessors, Readers, Thurifers and Acolytes assist with parts of the Sunday service.

In the recent past, we have also held special services such as: Taize services, healing services, quiet mornings, 'Remember Me' service for All Souls, the 'Big Christmas Sing' and 'Junior Praise' to name just a few. Many of these services are organised and run by the laity.



Our Music

St. Mary's has a small, robed choir drawn from members of the congregation who lead us in our singing on Sundays.

At joint services, our choir joins with our friends from St. James' choir.

At St. Mary's we use 2 hymn books: Ancient & Modern and New Hymns and Worship Songs. A number of the hymns during the service are chosen to link to the reading(s) of the day whilst the hymns during communion are chosen with our children and young people in mind when they have joined us from Sunday School.

We have 2 organists who share responsibility for playing the organ at our Sunday services.



Sunday School

We have a thriving Sunday School which meets during term time with approx. 120 children on roll.

Sunday School meet in St. Mary's School, which is just across the road from church, at 10.45am to ensure that parents/carers are in church for the start of the service.

The classes where children have been admitted to Holy Communion join the main church service from the peace so that they are in church for the Eucharistic Prayer. The rest of Sunday School join us during communion.

Before the final hymn of the service, children from Sunday School are invited to come and share what they have been learning about with the rest of the congregation.

There is a tradition of the Rose Queen and her retinue being chosen from Sunday School and church attendance registers.

The contribution that our young people make to church are celebrated through our annual 'Junior Praise' service.



Our Local Area

High Crompton is nestled in the foothills of the Pennines, close to the Yorkshire border and Pennine villages. It offers easy access to the M62 and wider motorway networks.

There is also a nearby tram stop offering easy access into Rochdale and Oldham Town Centres as well as Manchester City Centre. There are also good bus routes through High Crompton and Shaw into the surrounding areas.

The village of High Crompton has some local amenities such as a post office, a butchers, a green grocers and local pubs serving home-cooked food. There is also a local, well-maintained park with large playing fields and tennis courts. Further amenities, such as supermarkets, a local market and a variety of other small, independent shops can be found in near-by Shaw.

Most housing in the area is privately owned or rented with a small area of council owned property close to church.



Our Church Building

St. Mary's Church was built in 1872 and consecrated in 1878.

The church was re-ordered approximately 16 years ago when the area around the altar was made more open, pews were removed to create space at the back of church, the electrics were re-done, new radiators were added, the lighting was improved and the church was decorated throughout. The re-ordering ensured that church had disabled access and a disabled toilet. We can accommodate approx. 400 people seated.

In the years that followed, a projector and screen were fitted, which are connected to the church laptop, enabling films and powerpoint presentations to be easily displayed to the congregation. Church also has a sound system, including microphones for use during services, and a T Loop system.

Our Church Building

The back of church was re-organised to create a servery in 2016. It is used to serve refreshments after our services on a Sunday and also by groups who use church during the week to encourage a sense of community.

More recently, in January 2019, the entrance to church was re-developed to make our church more welcoming, brighter and appealing. The next phase of development is currently planned to build some bespoke storage and shelving units to complete the entranceway work.

Our grounds are well kept and maintained on a weekly basis. A schedule of work, based on our most recent quinquennial report in December 2018, has been drawn up to ensure that works are completed in a timely manner. Overall, our church is in good repair both internally and externally.

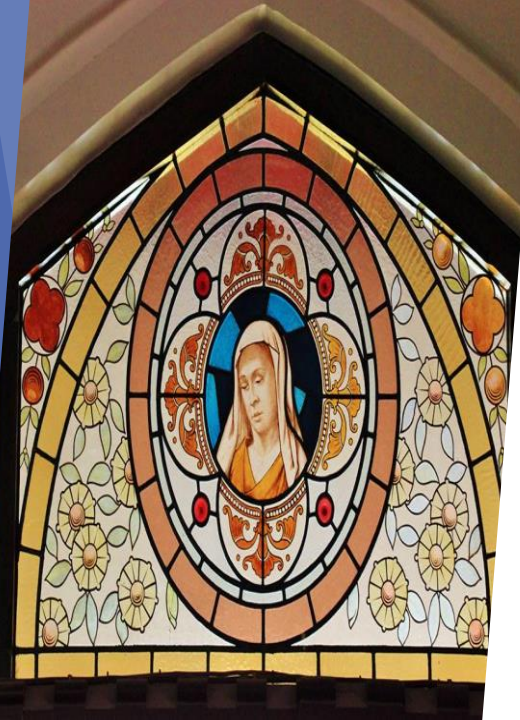


Our local primary school

Our church has very strong connections to St. Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School, which is situated across the road, and received the highest rating of 'outstanding' on their recent SIAMS inspection.

The school and church work in partnership to enable pupils to have greater opportunities to learn about their own faith and deepen their understanding whilst also developing an understanding, respect and tolerance for people who have different beliefs from themselves.

The good links between the church and the school allow pupils to experience a variety of 'Experience Days', class visits to church, school Eucharist services and end of term services.



Our local primary school

‘Circle Time’ has also been a feature of our ministry together where, through spiritual reflection, pupils are taught and experience collective and personal prayer. The clergy also undertake whole school assemblies on a regular basis.

Many of St. Mary’s School’s Governing Body are active members of St. Mary’s congregation and our priest holds an ex-officio role on the Governing body of St. Mary’s and sits on the Worship and Pastoral Committee.

School groups, such as the choir and the band, regularly support church fundraising and charity events such as the Rose Queen ‘At Home’ and the Summer and Christmas Fairs.





Our local secondary schools

The parish of St. Mary's is in very close geographical proximity to Crompton House Secondary School and many of our children go on to attend there. At Crompton House, our priest has been involved in leading and assisting with school communions.

In addition, the Blue Coat Secondary School in nearby Oldham is also a popular secondary school attended by members of our congregation.

As a result of being close to many C of E schools, St. Mary's has recently established an attendance register so that primary and secondary school application forms can be completed in a more factual based manner.

Ministry and Vocations

Ministry and vocations have been fostered and nurtured at St. Mary's with the congregation being encouraged to reflect thoughtfully on their own gifts and talents and how to use them in the service of the Church. Courses such as the 'Open Door Retreat' have further allowed people to explore their calling and vocation.

St. Mary's currently has one OLM and two ALMs. In addition to this, we have fostered and nurtured the vocations of three congregation members who have progressed to ordained ministry in other parishes.

We currently have one ordinand in training, who is about to start his final year of training in September 2019.

There are also two people within the congregation currently wishing to investigate and discern a calling into some form of ordained ministry.



Clergy Accommodation

St. Mary's vicarage is a detached 4 bedroomed house situated approx. 300 yards from St. Mary's Church and School at 18 Rushcroft Road.

Leading off from the entranceway, there is a study and WC, which are separate from the family living area and this, therefore, offers privacy for families whilst priestly duties take place at the same time.

Downstairs there are 2 good sized reception rooms, overlooking a large and well-maintained rear lawn, patio and garden which overlooks the playing field of St. Mary's School. There is also a spacious kitchen and separate utility room.

Upstairs there are 4 double bedrooms and a new wet room was added in December 2018.

There is also an integral garage and ample parking space on the drive for 3 cars.

The vicarage was re-roofed in the summer of 2018.



Local Area Map



Mission Action Plan



MAP priorities are kept on the PCC Agenda each meeting

Church Organisations: uniformed groups

**Mondays in term time
from 6.00 - 7.00pm.**

**Tuesdays in term time
from 6.15 - 7.30pm.**

**Tuesdays in term time
from 7.30 - 9.00pm.**

**Thursdays in term time
from 6.30 - 7.30pm.**

**Mondays in term time
from 7.15 - 8.30pm.**

**Thursdays in term time
from 7.45 - 9.30pm.**



Church Organisations: Adults

Mother's Union

Meets on the first
Wednesday of every month



Ladies' Society

Meets on the second
Wednesday of every month



CLaSP

Meets monthly at members'
homes

Mens' Society

Meets regularly in local
hostelries

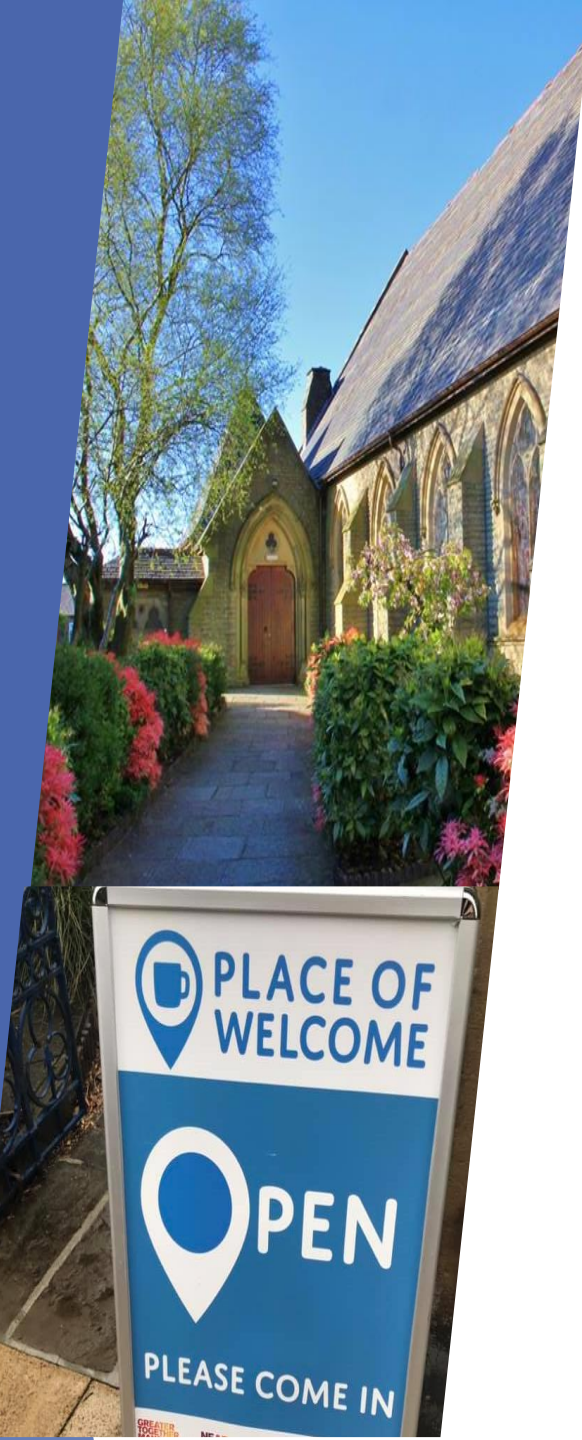


Place of Welcome

In March 2019, St. Mary's established a 'Place of Welcome' as part of our Mission Action Plan priorities.

Church is opened by a team of volunteers every Thursday between 9.00am and 11.00am.

Our Place of Welcome offers free refreshments such as tea, coffee, toast and crumpets. It also offers free social activities (bingo is fast becoming a firm favourite!), local signposting and a listening ear to anyone in our community who feels isolated.



Social

St. Mary's has a varied and thriving social life and regularly organises social functions such as Parish Dinner Dances, themed events such as Murder Mystery evenings, 'snail races' and afternoon teas.

St. Mary's Church and the Parent Support Group at school also host film nights in church for families with children. Church is also used to host musical evenings.

Various organisations also use High Crompton Conservative Club, which is just around the corner from church, for quiz nights, band nights and other social and fundraising events.



Fundraising

St. Mary's Church organises fundraising events that are held in St. Mary's School such as Christmas Fairs and Summer Fairs with Donkey Derby. In 2018, the Christmas Fair and the Summer Fair with Donkey Derby raised approx. £4,000 - £5,000 each. Some of this money was given to school and the remainder was given to church.

CLaSP (Charity links at St Mary's Parish) was formed in 2014 and, since then, have raised over £17,000 for various charities, near and far. Some are close to the hearts of our parish congregation such as Dr Kershaw's and Springhill Hospices, Maggie's Oldham, Oldham Stroke Association, Manchester's Booth Centre for the Homeless; whilst others are national charities such as Cancer Research and Christian Aid.

As a church we have also been pivotal in the organisation and support of two HOPEWalks, raising over £25,000 for PAPYRUS, an organisation which work to prevent young suicide.

HOPEWALK



Fundraising

Through our services at Christmas, we also support the work of 'The Children's Society' in Oldham.

For example, at our Christingle service, which is usually held on the first Sunday in December, we collect monetary donations for the work of 'The Children's Society'. Then, at our Toy Service, which is usually the third Sunday of December, we ask that people bring new toys, games and children's bath sets to be given to 'The Children's Society' to distribute to children in need in Oldham over the Christmas period.



**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

Finance and Stewardship

At St. Mary's, Christian stewardship is encouraged. We currently have approx. 100 people giving by standing order and around 25 people giving by envelopes in the weekly collection plate.

Our last stewardship campaign was in 2014.

We have now agreed a three year realistic target for our Parish Share. In 2018, which was the first year of this, we paid our revised parish share in full.

All expenses are paid timely and in full every year.

Links with other churches

In addition to our close relationship with St. James', Thornham, we also hold joint events with nearby St. Andrew's Methodist church: for example, we share invites to Lent and Advent courses at each church. In September of each year, we hold a joint service at St. Andrew's Methodist Church. At Pentecost, St. Andrew's worship with us and then we join together for the 'Whit Walk' around our Parish.

We are part of Shaw and Crompton Churches Together and hold 'Soup and Prayer' lunches at St. Mary's.

We are currently exploring links with Holy Trinity, Shaw and Rev'd Katy Cunliffe, particularly in relation to how we can adapt our Tuesday evening service to make it more accessible to the young families who attend.





St James', Thornham

Parish Profile



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OF ENGLAND

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Welcome and Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read our parish profile, which we hope will guide you through our values, parish statistics and provide an overview of our style of worship and sense of mission.

We have done our best to reflect who we are as a parish and community and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Churchwarden, Roy Evans.

Our Church Family

Whoever has a sense of calling to join us at St James' will be welcomed by everyone.

Our Churchwarden, Roy Evans, is dedicated to St James' and his warm welcoming personality is a wonderful gift.

Roy is further supported by our Assistant Wardens and 18 PCC members. We come together to provide an eclectic mix of skills and experience. We have a Standing Committee and are represented on the Deanery Synod and Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group.

We are working with Rev'd Katy Cunliffe, Children and Young Families Missioner for Oldham East Deanery, to achieve our child friendly status.

**Our
Churchwarden**
Roy Evans



Our Church Family

There are a number of lay leaders, including Eucharistic Assistants, Welcome Teams and Sunday School leaders.

Many other members of the church are involved in church services, church groups and organisations and charities. A number of volunteers and Assistant Wardens have landscaped the church grounds.

Our weekly congregation varies between 70 and 120 communicants, dependent on the time of year and type of service. On average we welcome 90 a week, though at Easter and Christmas we welcome far more people to our worship.

Electoral Roll: 122 of whom 78 are resident in the parish, 44 are non-resident.

Our History

St James' Church was built in 1927/28 and was consecrated on 4th February 1928. The church has seating capacity in the pews for approximately 200 people, with additional chairs available if required.

A vestry and toilet extension was added in 1980 and an attached Parish Hall was built in 1985. The hall has accessible toilet facilities and the church has a ramp for disabled access.

The hall is a real hive of activity, which enables the community to come together. It is used by numerous different groups throughout the week and is a vital source of revenue. We recently added a projector and sound system.

Our History

In 2015 St James' joined with St Mary's to create a united benefice.

In 2018 we established a baby and toddler area near the front of church to allow small children and their parents to enjoy and participate in worship in a more relaxed setting.



Our Choir

Our traditional robed choir brings together parishioners aged 9 to 90. The collection of beautiful voices is led by Mark J Johnson and supported by Alan Mellor on the organ.

Our choir provides an uplifting and unifying part of our main Sunday Eucharist, enhancing our spiritual and worship experience each week.

A range of music is embraced from beautiful early music and psalms right through to contemporary works by living composers such as John Rutter and Bernadette Farrell.

Our members have the opportunity to study for the Voice for Life series within the Royal School of Church Music of which we are full members.

Our Choir

Our choir family practises every Sunday after the service and we hold a regular 'Choir Club' aimed at engaging our younger members with a fun morning of singing, voice exercises and quizzes etc. finishing with a lunch at McDonalds.

The choir regularly joins St Mary's High Crompton for special services and events.

In the past we have also had Choir Outings to Liverpool Cathedral, York Minster and The Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

Children and Families

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14).

In our parish we have a number of schools that have admission criteria linked to church attendance. This provides us with an opportunity to welcome families from church and non-church backgrounds.

We believe passionately that we, as adult Christians, not only have something precious to share with our children, but also that children have so much that they can teach us about the love of God, faith in Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Children and Families

A child's approach to worship is coloured by their level of development. Children respond to visual elements more than to verbal ones. They are active, and so they want and need to be actively involved. They learn by watching and imitating adults.

We have a dedicated children's area in church aimed at encouraging children and families to stay together in the service. In addition there is a creche for toddlers.

The second Sunday of each month we hold an all age service. Our uniformed groups join us in parade and the service is more interactive.



Sunday School

To encourage active learning, we have a thriving Sunday School, held in our church hall, which teaches around 80 children aged 4 (reception) to 9 (year 4).

We have 10 Sunday School Teachers and 2 adult helpers who teach a range of lessons in line with the gospel.

We are currently working from 'Pebbles and Rocks' books, which is a complete 3 year common worship programme.

"We learn about faith and worship in fun ways. My favourite activity is when we go outside and colouring. I have lots for friends at church"

"I like all age services because I can wear my Brownie uniform and carry the Brownie flag. Sometimes I am picked to give out the hymn books and we can have biscuit at the end"

Mission Action Plan





‘Our Vision’

To be a church that helps individuals to grow into who they truly are in Christ through our welcoming community; to walk alongside them and nurture their spiritual journey in a deepening relationship with God; and to encourage and enable them to share God’s love in serving others, as a Christian presence in Thornham.



Basic Information and Statistics

In the last 12 months

	Marriages	5
	Baptisms	18
	Funerals	9
	Adult Confirmations	4
	Admitted to Communion	20
	Easter communicants	173
	Christmas communicants	129



Basic Information and Statistics

- † Sunday 9am Sung Eucharist
- † Wednesday 10am Said Eucharist

Church services are in accordance with Common Worship (order 1, modern language) with readings from the NRSV Bible.

The style of worship is liturgical but is also quite relaxed. The priest wears vestments and services are followed on printed booklets. Hymns are from Ancient & Modern: Hymns & Songs for Refreshing Worship 2013 and the choir often sing anthems.

All members of the congregation are encouraged to approach the altar to receive Communion or a blessing.

Basic Information and Statistics

An All-Age Service is held on the 2nd Sunday of the month. This service is more interactive and our young people are encouraged to participate.

Healing Services and Songs of Praise take place periodically. Courses with themed teaching, prayer and lunch are held for five weeks during Lent.

During Whit Walks we join together with Gravel Hole Methodist Church.

A loop system is installed, and microphones are used throughout services.



Basic Information and Statistics



Churchwarden
Roy Evans
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Representative
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Archdeacon of Rochdale
Cherry Vann
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Area Dean
Oldham East
Lyn Woodall



Bishop of Middleton
Mark Davies



@StMarysStJames



@stmarysstjames



www.stmarys-stjames.org

Church Based Organisations & Groups



Brownies



Weekly on Mondays in term time



Weekly on Wednesdays in term time



Luncheon:
Weekly on Thursdays



Weekly on Sundays
(apart from all age services)



Coffee Morning:
Monthly - 2nd Saturday



Choir:
Weekly on Sundays



Meet weekly on
Wednesdays in term
time



Weekly in term
time (apart
from all age
services)



Monthly - 1st Tuesday

In addition to all of the above, there are annual courses held for adults and children to prepare for Holy Communion and many social events throughout the year such as quizzes, musical events, quiet days in church and Summer and Christmas Fairs.

Finances and Fundraising

We usually have enough income to meet our general needs and pay full expenses. We have paid our Parish Share in full and on time.

We hold a restricted fund for any restoration work to be carried out on the church in the future.

Our congregation has always given generously whenever we have held fund raising events e.g. for purchase of new hymn books, restoring the organ and installation of new railings and fencing in the church grounds.

We give to a variety of local charities annually and support Oldham Food Bank with regular donations of food.





Thornham Area

Thornham is a close community with a village feel. The population of the area is of mixed ages, genders and social groups.

Continuing development means that there is an increase in young families.

There are also a significant number of people aged 65 and over.

The Vicarage

The vicarage is a modern 4 bedroom detached house. It is located next door to St James' Church and is a 5 minute walk to Thornham St James' School.

The ground floor comprises of 3 reception rooms: one used as a study, a family lounge, a family kitchen and downstairs toilet.

On the first floor are 4 good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Externally there is a garage, large driveway with enough room for 3 cars. Gardens are on three sides. The rear garden has a large lawn area.

Local Schools



St James' Church maintains strong links with Thornham St James' (VC) School. The church appoints two governors.

Our previous incumbent held regular services at the school and enjoyed 'circle time' teaching the children the beauty of prayer and the many ways in which we can pray.

The church and school join together to support both Church and School Fairs.

Children from Fir Bank Primary School are also active members of our church and uniformed groups.





Thank you
for taking the
time to read
about our
Benefice



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Manchester

*Photographs used with kind permission from
Peter Fitchett of Fitchett's Photography*